

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 2, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. asked everyone to stand for moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Item 16 and add Item 1a-Major Shawn Wood had a weather update.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1a. Shawn Wood, Gadsden County Sheriff Department**, appeared before the Board to give a Winter Weather update. He said there was a good chance of snow and the County was making preparations for same. He said the Schools would be closed tomorrow; they were making preparations for emergency services, and Public Works had dump trucks of sand to put out on County roads. He further stated they were worried about the timeframe between 2:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. He said concerned citizens could call 850-627-9233 or they could call 911.

**1. Status and Progress of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Guardian Ad Litem Program**

**Ms. Deborah Moore, Director of Guardian Ad Litem program**, appeared before the Board.

She said one of the ongoing challenges in the County was the struggle to recruit advocates that resided in the County and felt they needed to do a better job with awareness and they had developed a goal for the County for recruitment. She said there was a need for individuals that resided in this community and that was the best way to serve the children. She said they were working to figure out a way to increase the number of Guardians in this county, Franklin and Wakulla. She added that the volunteers needed to be willing to give 200% and they only had approximately 315 volunteers circuit-wide.

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for coming and knew they worked with limited resources; he asked where the most successful advocates were located and she said the majority of their efforts

had been in Leon County and felt that had been more successful, with civic organizations and Churches getting involved. Commissioner Morgan asked what most of the advocates looked like and she responded mostly women; have approximately 315 advocates circuit wide and only 20% were men in six counties.

## **2. Barriers on Development**

Mr. Lex Thompson appeared before the Board. He said he was asked at the workshop to give some background on the development order in the County. He said it was a State requirement that each County have a Comprehensive Plan and Gadsden County chose not to and was told if not done, the State would do it for the County. He said there was a meeting of property owners that wanted to come and they let every property owner fill a form out on what they wanted their property zoned and was why the map was so crazy. He said there were no targets as was in other areas. He said over 70% of the County was zoned Agricultural and the reason was they were told if zoned Ag and the larger the lot size requirement, the lower the property taxes would be. He said the reality was, and he verified it with the Property Appraiser's Office, it made no difference with the taxes. He said they were also told they could change the lot size at any time and made it sound simple, but it was not; it was an eight month process to do that. He said that was the problem with getting businesses and people to come into the County. He said they needed to get property "shovel-ready" and had heard that term for years and no-one had gotten the problem solved. He said after talking to a people in Planning, one of the biggest problems was there was no Zoning, they had a Land Use Map. He said other areas had zoning within the Land Use and he explained. He said if they wanted to change a Zoning, the Board could do that. If they had to change Land Use, the State had to do that and that was where the eight months came in. He said by putting zoning effects in place would help cut time and he further explained that.

Chair Holt said if property was zoned 1-5, it meant there could be 1 house on 5 acres, etc.; and everyone needed to know the terminology.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he appreciated his enlightening information and said they needed a plan to accomplish the goal of economic development.

Gay Steffen appeared before the Board and reiterated the need to make changes to the Comp Plan, and said as it stood right now, they were not "shovel-ready".

Chair Holt said if they could not get the companies here, they could not get the jobs for the people.

## **CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

## **CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND  
COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson had questions regarding Item 9 and said the Board had never voted on this before, was never placed on the Agenda before and had never had names before placed on the Agenda. Chair Holt asked if they had to have names on there in order to approve.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were approving the rest of the Agenda and pulling Item 9 and Commissioner Hinson said yes, he would like to pull it.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM NINE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**3. Ratification Memo**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- a. January 3, 2017-Special Meeting
- b. January 17, 2017-BOCC Workshop
- c. April 11, 2017-BOCC/GCDC Joint Workshop
- d. October 3, 2017-Regular Meeting
- e. October 17, 2017-Regular Meeting

**5. Approval of Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Mike and Vicki Knox for Tindell Road**

**6. Approval of Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Mike and Vicki Knox for Reynolds Road**

**7. Approval of the Resolution for the New Chairperson Facsimile Stamp**

**8. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP (Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program)**

**~~9. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract SHIP~~**  
Pulled for discussion

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

9. Commissioner Hinson said he had a problem with Item 9, in the past they never had showed names on the County Emergency Repair Program and had an elderly woman that had done so much for the community but when trying to help her put, she didn't want people in her business and Commissioner Hinson told her no-one would ever know, there would be records of course, but over years had never showed names.

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

He continued that he did not think they had done thin in the past and they had never voted on it. He said according to the County Attorney, everything was legal and as long as met the requirements, did not have to bring back to the Board. Chair Holt told the County Attorney they needed to know his opinion regarding this item. He said he did not entirely understand the question, was not sure why this was on the Agenda and was not his call. He said the Board currently had a policy that was in place and as long as followed the policy, think are entitled to the funds as set forth in the policy.

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

He said as far as why on the Agenda and historically, if had been on the Agenda, not sure he was

the right person to answer that question. Chair Holt asked how they could approve a lien if they did not approve who was getting the lien. Mr. Weiss said this particular subject had been the topic of confusion and discussion lately. He said he had talked with the Administrator about potentially trying to work on the policies a little to address issues that may not be entirely clear and was his intent to work on that. Chair Holt asked if they should approve this item tonight because she did not want to hold up anything. Commissioner Hinson said his thing was, he was unsure why it was on the Agenda because “her stuff” had already been paid for and done with last year’s budget and his heartburn was why her name was on the list was because “her stuff” was done in September or October. He said he had told his constituents not to worry, would never be shown and now the information out there and the name was on the list without the Board putting it on the list and now they have embarrassed a lady in Midway. Chair Holt said for them to look at the policy and she felt they were following what they do with State and Federal money. Commissioner Hinson said this had never been done before and the last meeting they had, the Board did not make a move and there was one Commissioner that had heartburn about it but did not mean that one Commissioner trumped the others. Chair Holt said because of the State and Federal, they had always put it on the Agenda, SHIP money had always come before the Board, giving the liens, addresses, etc. She said for them to let the Attorney look into this. Commissioner Hinson said she was right with Assessment liens and Rehabilitation liens with State Housing-SHIP, she was correct, it did come before the Board because it was dealing with Federal dollars, but the Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program had nothing to do with Federal dollars and he said he was trying to be fair about the process to the people.

Commissioner Viegbesie said since this was a State requirement for SHIP programs to be handled in certain ways and Gadsden County Emergency Program was different from SHIP, why not come up with policies to keep them separate and operate under different standards. Chair Holt said for them to let the Attorney look into this matter. Chair Holt said they needed to approve this; the lien had to be approved. Commissioner Hinson said they could approve what they normally approve and exclude this because this had never happened before. Chair Holt said the Attorney needed to look at this and she needed to know what he wanted to do. Commissioner Hinson asked what the minimum requirements were to be accepted to be a part of the SHIP program. Mrs. Jackson said the SHIP program had guidelines that the individual had to meet, depending on the individual and there were a lot of factors, i.e., income, number of people in household, etc. Commissioner Taylor said the work was already done and some people in the past had the work done and then sold their house. She said the lien was placed there for 7 years to prevent that. Commissioner Hinson said he did not have a problem with that and again asked the minimum requirements because people had questions. Commissioner Taylor said they needed to approve this item because what he was asking was a non-agendaed item and Commissioner Hinson said it could be if he wanted it to be. Chair Holt said they hadn’t added it.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ITEM EXCLUDING GADSDEN COUNTY EMERGENCY REPAIR PROGRAM. THERE WAS DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Hinson said once they sign a contract, they know there will be a lien placed on the property. Chair Holt said she would not take that out because they may have gotten money from either one and Commissioner Hinson said she was 100% right. Chair Holt suggested they go ahead and approve this and have the Attorney look into the matter.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE**

**THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

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

**Berta Kemp, Lawson and Associates**, appeared before the Board. She informed them that Gadsden County Day at the Florida Capitol will be held January 17, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and she was waiting on directions. Chair Holt asked if she could meet with the County Administrator the next day.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**10. Howell Road CIGP-Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the bid of Howell Road CIGP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction, the low bidder, in the amount of \$264,895.58.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH ASSURANCE AND GUARANTEE OF NO FUTURE CHANGE ORDER AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with approving it but did not think the contractor would be able to guarantee no change orders and he could end up saving money and would require a change order. He recommended he amend his motion.

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

**11. Approval of the Geographical Information System (GIS) Services Agreement with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a professional services agreement with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council for Geographical Information System services and for authorization for the Chair to execute the agreement.

Commissioner Viegbesie said outsourcing could be very efficient and asked why there was a problem in filling the Planning position.

Mrs. Jackson said the biggest problem was salary.

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

**12. Ratification of Clark Tractor Company Invoice**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board ratification of a Clark Tractor Company invoice #14502 for \$5,092.82 for repairs to the Massy Ferguson Tractor #471.

Chair Holt said she would like to see a rotation program in place for the equipment.

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

**13. Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction Parcel ID No. 3-26-2N-5W-1191-0000A-0010**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and informed them that items 13, 14 & 15 was paid by the same person because that person purchased all three pieces of property.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the issue that led to the violation had been satisfied.

**Roosevelt Morris** appeared before the Board to answer questions the Board had regarding the lien and informed them that the property been sold and the lien was paid.

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

**14. Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction Parcel ID No. 3-26-2N-5W-1191-0000B-0020**

Mrs. Jackson introduced above item and said it was the same as the above item.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction Parcel ID No. 3-26-2N-5W-1191-0000B-0030**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and stated it was the same as the two above.

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

**16. ~~Approval of Resolution 2018-001 Revising the Gadsden County Travel Policy~~**

Item pulled

**17. Approval and Award of RFQ No. 17-18 for County Web Redesign**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to enter into a contractual agreement for professional services with ReviZe to redesign and host the County's website.

Chair Holt said she had several questions and she and the Administrator had spoken about it. She said if she saw three sections on the website she would be happy and wanted to see Economic Development, Permits and Zoning Issues and Tourism.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious and knew this was discussed and pulled in July and felt they should probably wait until they knew what they wanted first; and why not create the website themselves-they should have someone on staff that understood and could do this type of work. He also said once they have a permanent County Administrator, they may have a different view and they just created the website last year and what was the rush.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson addressed his key concern and the other

concern was if a person would be administering the website or would that involve more administrative fees. Mrs. Jackson said the one-time fee would redesign the website and train staff and would provide 24/7 day services. She said there was a monthly maintenance fee to be on their server and for maintaining the services.

Ulysses Jenkins said the current contract expired and the website was outsourced and the reason was there was a less risk of being hacked and said he was trained to administer the website. He said the IT department preferred it to be hosted off-site to not worry about people trying to hack their web pages and get into the server, it was a less risk.

Commissioner Morgan said he took a different look at this and was not sure why it was before them. He said the issue he had, they have an IT Department they fund \$400,000 a year and if the funds were within that budget, and the item said the funds were identified but did not state from where was coming from, but if coming from the IT Department and was a need and would work, do it.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **18. Update on Various Board Requests** **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

She said this Board had met twice and both times did not have quorum and is to sunset this month. She asked for Board direction on if they wanted to continue. She said there was a cost that was associated with it because they have to publically advertise the meetings.

Commissioner Hinson said on his side of the County they hunger for a recreation center or a community center and some areas have two or three already.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he felt the Commissioners should meet with their constituents and get a team together and then report back to the Board. Mrs. Jackson said the Board was comprised of eight members that each Commissioner recommended.

Commissioner Morgan asked where the response was coming from and Mrs. Jackson said from Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Viegbesie's district but there was not enough for a quorum.

Chair Holt said they may not be giving them information to look at and could be why they were not coming.

Commissioner Morgan asked if an effort was made to contact the people from each district and Mrs. Jackson said yes, and she had heard from some Commissioners of their choice and not from others and was still waiting on nominees from some commissioners.

**Redistricting**

She said at the last meeting she was asked about re-districting and staff reached out to Shirley Knight, Supervisor of Elections, and she said there had been an influx of new voters but she could not determine if there was a 5% population growth. She told Mrs. Jackson that four years ago a study was done by Deborah Minnis and they may want to reach out to her again for another independent study.

Mr. Weiss said Deborah Minnis did not do an independent study and her recommendation was to hire a consultant to run the numbers and he did not think that ever happened.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they have met their obligation as far as re-districting and Mr. Weiss said no, he did not think so. Chair Holt asked what their obligation was and he said to look at it. He said Mrs. Minnis' recommendation at that time was to hire someone to run the numbers to see if they needed to redistrict.

Chair Holt said they had to decide if they were going to pay someone to do this.

Commissioner Viegbesie said one bullet point was: should the Commission proceed with a plan of action for redistricting, an outside firm should be acquired by the Commission to also aid the process.

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

Commissioner Morgan said this was an update and the Attorney was telling them they had not met what they were obligated to do.

Chair Holt asked the Attorney if he could bring back information on this and he said yes and it could only be done in odd-numbered years, and what he recommended several years ago was to reach out to a firm.

Chair Holt said before there was a committee with one person from each District and the company they hired started collecting data. She said the Commissioners would need to know where their districts were.

Commissioner Morgan said what the important thing was people received fair representation.

Mrs. Jackson said January 17<sup>th</sup> would be Gadsden County Day at the Capitol and there would be a bus that would leave there that staff will be riding in and the public was welcome to join. Commissioner Morgan asked who had ownership of that project and Mrs. Jackson said it was the BOCC and as well as the municipalities, but the lead was the County.

She told them on January 24<sup>th</sup> there would be a Staff Economic Development Supervisor training and Dr. Allen Jackson would be coming for ½ day and then they will be meeting with City Managers regarding the Highway 90 corridor as well as Economic Growth.

She said on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. would be the BOCC Economic Development workshop to be held at Tri-Eagle Sales.



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

She informed them on February 5<sup>th</sup> there would be an Emergency Management Workshop at the IFAS Center from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

She said Major Woods spoke earlier and gave a weather update and the possibility there may be snow overnight in certain areas. She said people here were not used to driving in snow and dump trucks would be dumping sand on bridges to prevent problems. She said she was thinking it to be best if they asked staff to not come in tomorrow.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he did not want to close down the County when people may need services themselves.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was unsure of the policy or procedure but the Chair speaks on behalf of the Board and if the Administrator determined it to be detrimental to citizens and was an emergency, it was a judgement call between the Administrator and the Chair.

Commissioner Taylor said he was correct it was a judgment call however, the Board gives the Chair direction to speak and in this case, the School Board also took that direction that all persons, students and personnel that schools would be closed tomorrow.

Chair Holt said if someone called the County, what would happen with the call and Mrs. Jackson said some phones were routed so if there were a call it would go to her cell phone and Clyde Collins, Brad Johnson, and the Executive Assistant was also routed to their phones.

Chair Holt asked what the Board thought. She asked about Public Works and Mrs. Jackson said they were currently working now and would be working around the clock.

Commissioner Hinson said there should be compensation for Public Works showing up; it was not fair for them to show up and everyone else to be off. Mrs. Jackson said they would be given overtime.

Mrs. Jackson thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator that in an earlier meeting, Commissioner Taylor mentioned the possibility of using the balance of the road project money for striping and asked for an update and how much he had left in his budget. Mrs. Jackson said she sent out an email a little over a month ago that had the balance in each district and also was waiting on the Clerk's office for the most accurate list based on change orders.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

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

Chair Holt said she had inquiries regarding the Commissioners having to stay in the Chambers and she explained to them they could leave for emergencies. She said the inquiries were from some young ladies doing research. Mr. Weiss read a portion from the Ordinance covering this.

Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney to look at the income levels for Emergency Repairs Assistance Program and Mr. Weiss explained it a little further. He said their policy said in regards to the Emergency Repair Program, the income guidelines that applied was based upon the number of persons residing in the home and could not exceed 30% of the area median income as published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He said the policy was dated but listed from a one person household up to an eight person household and the range in the policy was \$13,500 per one person household to \$25,450 for an eight person household and the levels may have increased. Commissioner Hinson wanted the record to reflect he wanted to withdraw his vote for Agenda Item 9 and was told he could not do it that way and he said he wanted to rescind his vote. Mr. Weiss said once a vote was taken, they could not change their vote. He further explained he could as a Board, if he wanted to make a motion to rescind or reconsider something, it could be handled that way. Commissioner Hinson said he wanted the record to reflect he wanted to rescind his vote on Agenda Item 9 based on the information just received.

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone for their work and hoped everyone had a great holiday.

##### **Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan expressed appreciation to the Interim County Administrator, Mr. Southerland, and City of Chattahoochee among others for working on the issue of the commissioner meetings not being aired in Chattahoochee area and that has now been resolved.

He asked the Interim County Administrator about the live-stream option and livestream on Facebook and asked her to bring them up to speed. She said the IT department was working on an Agenda item regarding that and said there were a number of options that could be used for live streaming.

He asked where they were at with the current County Administrator position and Mrs. Jackson said she had not been directed to do anything.

Commissioner Morgan then said a very unique thing happened at the Clerk's Office last week and said Mr. Stanley Burns, at 92 years old, retired and knew he was a very valuable asset to the Clerk's Office for many, many years and wished him well.

##### **Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked the Administrator if she would look into people paying their 2018 taxes in 2017. Mrs. Jackson said the Tax Collector gave a press release and said most people here were not affected by the new tax laws.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was with Florida law, it did not allow residents to prepay because the Tax Roll would not be certified until later in 2018.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie wished all of Gadsden County a Happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said she had two young ladies ask about the housing program and inquired why it was not set up that people could pay monies back to help in the future.

**Industrial Board**

She said they have one person appointed by each commissioner and they meet once a year and she was told that no-one ever comes up with industry ideas and she said it was because they only meet once a year. She said they need the Industrial Board at the Economic Development workshops.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Tourist Development Council needed to be an intricate part of this Board as well.

Chair Holt asked for clarity on the Clerk’s process on Policy and Procedures. She said the Clerk served as ex-officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor of Records, Recorder and Custodian of all of County funds. She said they needed clarity on Policies and Procedures so when it went across the street it was not sent back, sent over to come back over again. She said they needed to sit down and get the policy down-pat because what they were telling people to do was to do what they had on paper and it could not be opinionated. She said if by law they could buy something to beautify, even a road or intersection, they should be able to do so and the Clerk pay for it. She said she wanted to make sure if there was anything they needed to vote on or anything they needed to do to make sure things moved smoothly between “us over here” and across over there and did not mean getting along; she meant what the law said and to stop the nonsense. She said it was not professional and not what Government does. She said once they bought a teddy bear for Toys for Tots and was told they could not pay for the teddy bear even though it was going to kids. She said she wanted to go by what the law said they could do and then they (across the street) could do what they were supposed to and take the opinions out.

**RECEIPT AND FILE**

**21. DEO Letter-December 7, 2017**

**22. Death Resolutions**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**January 16, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
January 2, 2018 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:33 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 JANUARY 16, 2018 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-arrived late  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5-arrived late  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked everyone to mute their phones, welcomed everyone and said they were waiting on a quorum. After a quorum was present, she called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for a silent prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said there were no amendments to the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution Honoring Mr. Terrence Roberts**

Mrs. Jackson said they had a Resolution honoring Mr. Terrence Roberts and he was not present at this time.

**2. Resolution Honoring Mr. Shannon Faison**

Mrs. Jackson said they had a Resolution to honor Mr. Shannon Faison.

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

Commissioner Hinson said a few words to say, then read the Resolution and presented it to Mr. Faison.

**3. Update on New County-Wide Radio System**

**Debbie Giles, Mobil Communications**, appeared before the Board. She was before the Board to give a brief overview of the status of the communications system. She said the equipment had been ordered and they started receiving it on December 18<sup>th</sup> and additional equipment was coming in daily. She said County staff was working with the other tower sites that had to be leased and they were assisting as needed. She also said the FCC application had been submitted, was being reviewed and approval was pending.

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for the update. He said he had been told a good completion date they were shooting for was May and she said more likely it would be June or July.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked her for the update and said his understanding with the sites they already had, they were going forward right away and would be sooner than the other sites and she said yes.

Chair Holt asked if they noticed any conditions regarding the current towers and Mrs. Giles said there would probably be shelter issues and concerns and they were working with County Staff regarding that matter and would be discussed at the meeting the next week.

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was present and said they would soon see written confirmation that the County has fulfilled their financial obligation with the Havana Library. He reminded them the County had a 20 year lease with the Town of Havana and the first 15 years required they pay \$2,300 a month and then they would apply to the debt service.

He apologized he missed when they had a discussion last month where they amended the Sales Tax Ordinance. He said he wanted to go on record saying when it came to the Public Works Department and any work done outside of Transportation needed to be fully reimbursed. He said  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their budget was made up from Sales tax and  $\frac{3}{4}$  was from Gas Tax. He informed them if they did work and was "in-kind" for another Department, it could be easily perceived that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that was Gas Tax money and whatever Public Works did outside of transportation needed to be fully reimbursed and mentioned there was extra Sales Tax funds in the Fire Fund if they chose to do that so they could fully reimburse transportation or have someone else do the work.

Chair Holt asked if they could be reimbursed when he mentioned "in-kind", if they did something minor and he said he did not think they wanted to get into any issue where there was a question as to whether any amount, fuel or gas tax money was used. He said for example, in the past, the parking lot behind their building, the transportation department did some work there and the Board fully reimbursed them from the General Fund so there was no question that any Gas Tax money was used. He said they wanted to always make sure that of Transportation was used anywhere else, they were fully reimbursed.

Chair Holt asked if the Town of Havana provided Staff and services for the library and Mr. Thomas said the County received money from the State to operate all three libraries, the Town just provided the building.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the property had been deeded to the Town of Havana, could they put restrictions as to what the County could do with the building and who was responsible for maintenance and upkeep of it. Mr. Thomas said there was still 5 years left on the lease and there was plenty of time for them to review the arrangement for the future.

#### **CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDS. COMMISSIONER HINSON**

**OPPOSED.**

4. Ratification Memo
5. Approval of Minutes
  - a. November 7, 2017
6. Public Officials Bond Reviews

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. Approval of the Contract with I.F.W. Security, LLC to Provide Security Services at the Edward J. Butler Building**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for approval of the contract with I.F.W. Security, LLC to provide security services at the Edward J. Butler Building during regular hours of operation.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mrs. Jackson to explain how this would be justified. She said it would come from the Building Maintenance Fund and was being done to make the employees in the building feel safe.

Chair Holt said she knew this was a needed contract.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. MR. WEISS HAD COMMENTS BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

Mr. Weiss said option 1 was for authorization for the Chair to execute the documents and conversation was for the contract to come back before the Board for approval and with option 1, it would not necessarily come back before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not going to approve without having the contract before them to approve.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION AND MOVED OPTION 1 BE CONSIDERED AND THE CONTRACT BE BROUGHT BACK BEFORE THEM FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**8. Dissolution of Gadsden Hospital, Inc. or Appointment/Reappointment of Members to the Board of Directors**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for dissolution of the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. or appointment/reappointment of members to the Board of Directors.

**Craig McMillan, Chair of GHI**, appeared before the Board. He said he was contacted about reforming or appointing new members and said he was deferring to the BOCC to make the decision on who they wished to appoint and he had no suggestions. He said they started Gadsden Hospital, Inc. around 2000 in an emergency situation where the person in charge of the hospital was not doing their job and eventually led to the closing of the hospital. He added since they had leased a large part of the hospital to CRMC, their Board had no function and rarely met and it was discussed if there was a reason to have a hospital board anymore. He said they were here to do what the Board wanted them to do.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a need for Gadsden County to have a presence on the existing Board with Capital Regional that they do not have.

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

Mr. McMillan said they had no contact with their Board of Directors. Commissioner Morgan asked if it were his opinion they needed to continue GHI and Mr. McMillan said no. Commissioner Morgan then recognized Mr. McMillan for his service on the Board and his countless hours and extended his appreciation to the Board for their service.

Commissioner Viegbesie piggy-backed on Commissioner Morgan's expressions of gratitude for all he has done for Gadsden County.

**Arrie Battle, 919 Hardin Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said she was appointed to serve on the hospital Board and at their last meeting in Havana they decided they would meet twice a year and Mr. McMillan said if there was a need to and she said no, they decided they would meet twice a year and it be advertised. She said she was Vice-Chair and felt this was a slap in the face it being handled in the way it was.

**Arriane Graham** appeared before the Board and said her term expired at the end of last year. She said she was contacted to see if she wanted to remain on the Board and she told them yes. She said she had a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from FAMU and an Advanced degree in Nursing from the University of Florida and she had a great concern with the disbandment because they would not have a voice and said they do not meet because they do not meet and she was disappointed. She added if the board disbanded, CRMC could do whatever they wanted to do and they would have no voice.

**Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said he was one of the new persons on the Board and felt the Board was important and was supposed to be an advisory board to the Commissioners. He said he felt the Board served a purpose and felt it should remain a Board and remain as a consultant to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he heard there were Board members interested in serving in the capacity and advising the BOCC and felt the Board needed to continue. He added he did not hear they were no longer willing to serve and was against abolishing the Board.

Mr. McMillan re-appeared before the Board and said he wanted to address Ms. Battles' concerns. He said his first position was the BOCC probably did not need GHI and said no-one has brought any



hospital concerns to GHI. He added when they had the meeting in Havana, it was decided they would have quarterly meetings if there was something to discuss and nothing had been brought to them. He said he was willing for GHI to continue but they were not a marketing company. He said he and they were willing to do what the Board wanted them to do.

Chair Holt said it looked like some of the Board wanted regular meetings scheduled.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt it imperative to go back and have a full Board meeting and let them decide if they wanted to dissolve or move forward.

**Carolyn Ford, 526 South Key Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. She said the Gadsden Community Hospital had been a sore spot in the community. She said she wanted them to work on getting beds opened up and having a full hospital. She said a lady went to the Emergency Room, could not breathe, ended up being transferred to Tallahassee and eventually died. She asked the BOCC to advise the hospital Board to work toward that.

Chair Holt asked Mr. McMillan to meet if the three people were willing serve, if not recommendations would be made.

Mr. Weiss said there were three current Board members whose terms expired at the end of last year. Chair Holt said she was willing to re-appoint them tonight. Mr. McMillan suggested they have a meeting and get acknowledgement from them if they were willing to continue.

Mr. Morgan said he thought Mr. McMillan was suggesting contacting the expired Board members to see if they were willing to serve.

Commissioner Viegbesie said from the tone of the conversation this had been resolved and did not understand why option one was recommended by staff knowing the importance of this Advisory Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was trying to gather all information before making a decision and wondered why they would take action to dissolve GHI.

Mrs. Jackson said staff took that perspective because they did not hear anything different and was their belief the Board wished to dissolve and she recommended option 2.

Mr. McMillan said they were looking for direction from BOCC on what they wanted them to do.

Clerk Thomas wanted to offer information. He said a few years ago the contract was amended so the County could keep the dividends and interest of the Trust and currently there was \$768,000 that could be used for hospital only and one thing that might could be considered as they went forward was to look at expansion that CRMC was doing at other facilities and possibility at this facility in the future.

Mr. McMillan said the Clerk had been a great steward of the funds of the Trust and it was at

almost \$9.5 Million and was truly because of actions this Board had taken and the Clerk overseeing.

Chair Holt said they needed the Board to continue and while the Trust was not something they could grab, but it was something that they could think about what they wanted in the future.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were talking about re-appointing two of the three Board members.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO REAPPOINT THE MEMBERS AND THE BOARD CONTINUE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Clerk for bringing this to their attention and said it confirmed the need for an Advisory Board.

Clerk Thomas said \$768,000 that was mentioned was what they had in their account that they could make their decisions on as it related to the Hospital.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Advisory Board was needed and was the ears to the public that would listen to the communities' concerns and bring them back before the Board.

Commissioner Taylor asked Craig if the Bylaws adopted had been exhausted to where there was no additional work to be done and Mr. McMillan said he could not say there was no more work to be done, no work has come before them in the last few years for them to do. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to make sure there was room for the Board to continue or if they had exhausted what they were doing. Mr. McMillan said the Chair of their Board sits on the Trust committee that identified the investments and the vehicles for the Trust money. He said that was being handled by the Bank and the Clerks' Office. He said there were a lot of things that could be happening if there was something to do.

Commissioner Taylor said for point of clarity, the reason she voted against reappointing members at this time was because they did not know if they would be here tomorrow. She added that she hoped the Board would uphold what the hospital Board came back with and they had a great group that had done some phenomenal things and was willing to see what the GHI Board came back with.

Mr. McMillan said he was here tonight just to discuss options of what the BOCC wanted them to do and not to take action tonight.

Commissioner Hinson said with that vote, they did not have to vote on that at all and now felt bad he voted for it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood where he was coming from but there were some provisions in the Article and By-laws that those currently on the board, even if their term had expired, were still on the Board until they were replaced.

Commissioner Hinson said when he looked at this, if they don't show up, don't have to worry

about writing letter and for the peace of everyone, they were not talking about dissolution of the Hospital Board, they were talking about the board members and if they have heartburn about coming back, they did not have to come back.

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

**9. Appointment/Reappointment to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for approval to appoint or reappoint two representatives from the BOCC to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors and identify a County staff person to serve as the County Liaison.

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

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT THE TWO CURRENT COMMISSIONERS, COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON, BE REAPPOINTED AND CURRENT INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR BE STAFF APPOINTMENT UNTIL HAVE PERMANENT ADMINISTRATOR AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROV THIS ITEM.**

**10. Selection and Appointment of Members to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was to appoint members to the Gadsden County Development Council. She said there was one vacant position that must be filled by an elected official and one member in the tourism industry has had several consecutive absences and his term expired on December 31, 2017.

Chair Holt asked the Attorney if they should take the positions one at a time and he said it was good for up to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said felt the current persons did a super job but felt it was good for new people to give a taste of what was going on in the County. Chair Holt said she was asking if they should take the vote on the positions separately.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt they needed to take the positions one at time to avoid confusion.

It was noted that the elected officials were Keith Dowdell with the City of Quincy and Kathy Johnson with the Town of Havana.

Commissioner Hinson said he selected Kathy Johnson.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no heartburn either way and knew Mr. Dowdell was qualified.

Commissioner Taylor felt new talent was needed.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO APPOINT KATHY JOHNSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

The next position to be filled was a Qualifying Bed Tax Collector or Person involved in tourism

industry.

Commissioner Morgan recommended Mr. Richard McFarlin.

Chair Holt voted for Ms. Linda Dixon and did so because new blood was needed.

Commissioner Hinson asked for insight on both nominees.

Chair Holt said Mr. McFarlin had served in the past and Ms. Dixon moved back here from Atlanta and felt she might have new ideas.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Attorney about the composition of the board and Mr. Weiss said the way the Board was composed, they had to have either three or four bed tax collectors and there were two elected officials, 3 or 4 bed tax collectors and the remaining were people that had an interest with this industry.

Commissioner Hinson asked if everyone met the deadline and was told yes.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT MR. MCFARLIN AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER HINSON AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT LINDA DIXON AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval of Web Streaming Service for Public Meetings**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of web streaming the regular meetings of the BOCC and Option 1 was recommended because it would be a free service.

Chair Holt said she was in favor of Facebook Live.

Commissioner Morgan said he was in favor of increasing the visibility of the Board and was a no brainer to have one at no cost.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FACEBOOK LIVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was the most transparent person and felt transparency was very important, but as a person that was on Boards, there were certain things that they did not want people from Brazil, Iowa, or Philadelphia to hear. He said he was very aware Staff had done a great job of getting them information but for every choice there was a consequence. He said he believed in professionalism and was why he was 100% against Facebook Live. He said he did not need someone from Jamaica telling him what they should be doing in Gadsden County. He said that was why he shot it down last time because Gadsden County was different from New York City or California and this was a professional Board. He added this was a decision that would affect people's lives on Gadsden County. He said if they wanted to campaign, go to peoples' houses, churches and be a part of the community, but don't use Facebook so people from Iowa could tell them what to do. He said the only people that needed to know there business was ones in

Gadsden County, it was not for everybody and what they did in Gadsden County was different from what was done in Tallahassee. He said he was the one that brought cameras back because he was big on transparency. He also said he understood some people wanted this because they refused to go into their communities and visit with their constituents and this was the easy way out. He said that was why he was tired tonight because people saw him.

Commissioner Morgan said for the record, this was about transparency for people who were unable to see the meeting or attend the meetings. He further stated the reason the cameras were voted on by the majority of the Commission and the reason it was discontinued was because of the financial position the County was in at that time.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**12. Approval of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 17-34 Administrator to Utilize Oral Accounts**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to award RFQ 17-34-Administrator to Utilize Oral Accounts to Browns Consult, LLC, the lowest, most qualified response.

Commissioner Morgan said he would make a motion to approve Option 1 at the appropriate time but would like to give final approval on this before it was published.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the grant had specifications that the product must meet in order for the Grant to be used and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely. He said they should be looking mostly at the restrictions the grant has for the money to be spent for the project.

Commissioner Morgan asked, point of order, if there was a second to his motion for discussion of the item. Commissioner Hinson made the second.

Commissioner Hinson asked how they determined who was picked, why and what were some of the qualifications they looked at.

Mrs. Jackson said each proposal was to include experience of personnel of the proposer in the producing and directing movies and short films; identify the management and staffing of the proposer including resumes; describe the work and identify all persons to be assigned to the project and outline the nature of their responsibilities, including a description of their work experience for each person assigned to the project; describe the work experience of personnel in creating films that document historical events or documentation of interviews and should include a project schedule showing estimated start and completion dates of major tasks; provide five client references who would be contacted with examples of video services completed for each; indicate whether the firm was certified MBE or WBE business; and describe the associated costs of each service necessary to fulfill the scope of work.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious how the decision was made and they had a person that attends their functions, films them and then they were not the one that was decided on.

Mrs. Jackson said there was a committee and their decision was Jon Brown Consult.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad they were finally at a point and he felt the need to

document the elderly. He said there were a lot of people and they needed to have a committee that could identify the individuals that would have a wealth of knowledge of the County to interview and hoped there were a committee in place that was diverse that could identify the ones to interview.

Commissioner Taylor called the question

**Carolyn Ford** appeared before the Board and said when they applied, her and Mr. Southerland, they had just finished a documentary from the Summer until now and when she turned in the proposal, there were only three names on the list and now there were four and they needed to make sure their bidding process was correct. She also said this was very important.

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

**13. Appointment to the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to appoint Gay Steffen to the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in an at-large position.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said the reason why they heard this board had not had a quorum, only two had come, was 1) there were Commissioners that had not appointed members to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he gave his name about one year ago to the former Administrator-Jeff Dikeman (sp) and he had never received a call about the meetings.

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

**14. Discussion of Implementing Workshops Prior to Each County Commission Meeting**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board discussion and action to implement a 4:30 workshop prior to each County Commission meeting. She said Staff was directed by Commissioner Holt to draft an agenda item requesting Board direction as to whether workshops should be held prior to regularly scheduled Commission meetings and would be informational, publicly advertised and attendance would not be mandatory.

Commissioner Holt said she visited Escambia County and some medium-sized counties (Leon County and Orange County) were doing this and she noticed they get all their information and was able to ask questions. Their aides sat behind them and the aides were able to get questions answered before the meetings. It gave them the opportunity to move smoothly in regular meetings.

Commissioner Hinson said he had no problem with it, but a lot of folk's schedules were different and hated to see it be mandatory.

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

Commissioner Hinson said it could make the meetings shorter.

**CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Viegbesie thought was for discussion, not implementation and Chair Holt said this was for discussion and action and was not mandatory for Commissioners to attend. Commissioner Viegbesie said he had also seen in other Counties, even Leon, staff members were present during the meetings and if there were any questions, they could call staff forward to address questions.

Commissioner Hinson said he mentioned this two months ago, there was a situation and they were was calling a person up, had a full house, the person was sitting in the back and decided not to get up and was embarrassing to the County they did this. He said Staff should be in front so they could see what was going on and be able to address questions.

Commissioner Viegbesie said before making the motion, asked they consider one of the alternatives, either come in early or have the Administrator ask the opinion of staff at their meeting tomorrow.

Chair Holt said this was a suggestion, it would be up to the Manager how it was set up but all the Directors should be there and felt it would be a good dry run.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem if this would be a productive environment and if there were no increase of costs to the County and one hesitation he always heard from the staff and public, they had genuine concerns on how they would be treated when asked a question and did not have the answer a Commissioner wanted.

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**15. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson thanked everyone for attending Gadsden County Day at the Capitol today and felt it was very successful. She also thanked Ulysses Jenkins for his efforts in the Agenda and coordinating the meetings with the lobbyists and said he did a yeoman's job.

Commissioner Viegbesie apologized for arriving late because he had classes and said what he saw was very impressive and while staff had left, there were some Legislators and workers who were coming around and had wonderful things to say about Gadsden County and seconded her commendations to Staff for a job well done.

Mrs. Jackson said Arnett Chapel AME has asked for a Proclamation for their 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary and asked if the Board would like to support.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR ARNETT CHAPEL AME**

**CHURCH FOR THEIR 151<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY.**

Mrs. Jackson said Major Wood had a weather advisory for snow and it was expected tonight and advised everyone to buckle up and said Public Works were out putting sand on roads and bridges.

Major Wood appeared before the Board and said snow flurries were showing to be in the Chattahoochee, Mt. Pleasant area and should be arriving around 4:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m.

*Commissioner Taylor left at this juncture of the meeting.*

He said Road and Bridge and the City of Chattahoochee was working together and FDOT was on stand-by. He advised School would be open tomorrow and he concurred they should be in school. Commissioner Hinson asked if they would have heat and Major Wood said there should be.

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

There was discussion concerning adequate heat in the schools.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said with regards to the situation that happened in Gadsden County at the Magnet School with the heating problem was not restricted to Gadsden County, it happened in other counties as well.

Mrs. Jackson informed the Commissioners there would be a January 24<sup>th</sup> Economic Development workshop for Directors at the Arsenal in Chattahoochee and that afternoon there would be a meeting with City officers.

She informed them there would be a January 29<sup>th</sup> Board Economic Development meeting at Tri-Eagle Sales.

She said there would be a February 1<sup>st</sup> informational workshop regarding Land Use. She said they should have received their Comp Plan and Land Development Code binders by now and they should be used as a working bible.

She said on February 5<sup>th</sup> would be the Emergency Management Workshop at the IFAS Center from 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.

She said on February 12<sup>th</sup> there would be a Stevens School community meeting at the Kelly-Campbell Center from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Chair Holt said at the Economic Development workshop they needed to invite the Industrial Board members and they needed to know who those members were and said they needed to pair some of the Boards up that had a common interest.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested the Tourist Development Council attend every Economic Development workshop.



Commissioner Morgan said they had talked about several different workshops and one thing he had tried in recent months for them to consider and talk about were the issues they were facing with EMS and the dollars they were losing. He said he would like to have a workshop scheduled for 1 ½ hours to address problems before budget talks come up. He recommended they reach out to FAC, who could put the word out a small county was looking at options and gather some information.

Chair Holt said she also would like to look at the Medicaid reimbursement and see what the numbers were now, what was being sent out and said it did not have to be a workshop, but would need a little bit of time to look at that.

Chair Holt then brought up a Juvenile facility and said they needed to look at a facility for juvenile delinquents at the jail and they had to be in compliance and needed a location where they were neither in sight nor sound of the inmates. She said she would like for the Manager to schedule a meeting with each Commissioner to discuss their interests and there was no-one better than the Judicial delegation to meet with.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but did want to reiterate what the Manager said and said Gadsden County Day went very well.

Chair Holt said they had two employees, the Administrator and the Attorney and the employees of County are employees of the Manager and when something comes up with the County, they expect the Manager to pick up the phone and call the Chair and the same with the Attorney. She said no other Constitutional Officer tells them what to do and they do not work for anyone else and she wanted to reiterate that. She said she spoke with a Constitutional Officer and they were saying "I think we should do this or should do that and I told them you could call them all you want to, I'm not going to raise any sand until they do what you say because they work for this Board. They don't work for other people, so any issue comes up, bring it to this Board."

Commissioner Hinson said she was 100% right because there were five people he (looking at Mr. Weiss) had to be loyal to and if he lost focus, it was best to resign and said he did not work for the people of Gadsden County, he worked for the Board of County Commissioners and they represented the people of the County.

Commissioner Morgan said he was sure he had missed something and was unsure of what they were discussing. Chair Holt said it was something that happened with a Constitutional Officer and Commissioner Morgan asked if that was something for them to discuss here and she said no and he said just have the conversation with whoever you had to have it with and not have it up there. Chair Holt said in the last Court case, one of the things brought up that the employees worked for the Manager and then the Judge said whatever any employee did, the Board was responsible for, even though they worked for the Manager.

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

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to recognize Mrs. McGriff; she was 101 years old and as “still dancing her way to the table”.

He said Dr. King did some amazing things and he attended an event in Quincy, a breakfast event hosted by the Gadsden County Hook-up of Black Women and there was a nice turn-out.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated Mr. Jenkins efforts at the Gadsden County event at the Capitol.

He said Chattahoochee put on a Martin Luther King celebration and hats off to them for their efforts.

He then said he knew the Chair was trying hard, but the meeting was lasting too long and they needed to stick to agenda.

Chair Holt said there was a timer and the previous Board had used the timer. Commissioner Morgan said they were approving items and then continues discussing them for 30-45 minutes after. Chair Holt said they could go to two minute comments and a minute rebuttal if that would work.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was actually thinking by now they should be home with only eight items on the Agenda.

He said at the CRTPA meeting today, he requested that FDOT seriously consider putting lights along Highway 267 and Highway 12. He said CRTPA asked FDOT to look into the request as immediate future projects and he will keep the Board informed with the developments. He said during the discussion, FDOT suggested they contact the engineering firm and let them conduct a study on the area of the roads where there was a population concentration. He asked they contact the engineering firm to do the study and he could take the information back to CRTPA. He said since he was the Vice Chair and to become the Chair, they were able to put on the Agenda a lot of the items that would go where they represent. He asked the Commissioners to bring State roads to his attention that needed work and he would begin to place them on future projects. Chair Holt asked if they would bear the costs and Commissioner Viegbesie said it was a State road and they would bear the costs, the only thing the County would bear would be the electric bill. He said they could consider solar lights and knew they were retrofitting old lights now with solar for State roads.

He said the next item was the issue of Gadsden County counting on Municipalities representation and the voting power of Gadsden County on the CRTPA Board. He said Gadsden County had two votes, one was his and the other came from the Municipalities. He said all of last year, Daniel McMillan was diligently at the meetings and he did not show at today’s meeting. He said he was asked today to suggest that the Interim County Administrator schedule a meeting between the six

municipalities and CRTPA leadership to ensure the second vote of Gadsden County was duly represented at the meetings.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said hopefully the Advisory boards were doing research on items that were coming before them but it was up to them to do research also.

She said she thought it was great they wanted to shorten the meeting but when they have land development issues come before them, it could take all night. She asked they give their opinion to the Manager if they were interested in a five minute presentation by any Commissioner and come back with a one minute rebuttal but to please give the information to the Manager so they would know.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**18.** February 6, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 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 WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 1, 2018 AT 4:00 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-Absent  
Gene Morgan, District 3-Absent  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5-Absent  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked for a roll call vote. Commissioner Viegbesie and Chair Holt were present.

Chair Holt asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. She informed everyone they would be on Facebook Live.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Overview**

Mrs. Jackson introduced Allara Mills Gutcher. Ms. Gutcher appeared before the Board and gave a brief overview. She said they would discuss why they plan and the importance of it; discuss the Comprehensive Plan, what the elements were, what the State required, and Future Land Use and Zoning.

*Mr. Weiss appeared at this juncture of the meeting.*

**2. Why do we Plan?**

**Comprehensive Plan**

She said this was the guiding document and listed below were the different issues that should be addressed in the Plan.

- **Zoning Subdivision Land Use Code** She said this was the one thing the State said had to be done in the Land Development Regulations and how to subdivide property.
- **Economic & Community Development** She said the County was doing a great job as far as economic development with Gadsden Development Council. She said the Community Development had to do with housing and there was a Community Development Department with the County.
- **Code Enforcement** She said there was a Code Enforcement Department and they were really important and were the eyes on the ground and was really important for the Planners and Code Enforcement officials to work together to help rectify and understand what was going on in the Community.
- **Capital Improvements Programming** She said this was part of the budget every year and they have a Capital Improvements Program and in this County it was a little less because there was no water and sewer system.
- **Historic Preservation** She said it was important to preserve culture and make sure certain historic structures were kept in the manner to help keep the charm of the community.

- **Annexation** She said this was popular in some communities where they had multiple jurisdictions within the County.
- **Environmental Protection** She said it was important and was important to the State Legislature because it was a required element in the Comprehensive Plan and was called the Conservation Element. She said environmental issues could be wetlands and waterways and Gadsden County has something rare with seepage slopes. She said some communities had pristine lakes or springs and Lake Talquin. She said they would want to create protection measures in their Comprehensive Plan.
- **Complete Community Design** She said it was not required but a lot of jurisdictions would create architectural guidelines or strategies or would create complete streets programs that would require not just vehicular traffic but also other modes of transportation in the right-of-ways for the mode of transportation.

### **3. Comprehensive Plan Elements**

She said Florida Statutes 163 has dictated a minimum number of Comprehensive Plan Elements that they have to have:

- Future Land Use
- Transportation
- Intergovernmental Coordination
- Capital Improvements
- Infrastructure
- Recreation Open Space
- Conservation
- Coastal Management-but because Gadsden County is not a coastal community, there is not one here
- Housing
- Also have but not mandatory element, Concurrency Management Element; and
- Public Schools Element and Interlocal Agreement for Public School Concurrency

Mrs. Jackson mentioned she also asked Allara to add an Economic Development Element to the Comprehensive Plan.

She added not only does the community change, the Legislature policy and statutes change as well.

### **4. Future Land Use and Zoning**

She said the Future Land Use was usually the first element in most plans throughout the State and was the most regulated plan by the Florida Statutes and Florida Legislature and had the largest amount of requirements listed in F.S. 163. She said there were certain categories that were required by Statute.

Land uses required by Statute include:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Agriculture
- Recreation
- Conservation

- Education
- Public Facilities
- “and other categories of the public and private uses of land”

### **What is Zoning?**

She said Zoning was an implementation of Future Land Use categories.

- It provides more detailed/specific regulations than land use.
- Zoning districts can divide allowable uses in Future Land Use categories more specifically.
- Although mentioned heavily in Florida Statutes, zoning is not state mandated.
- Zoning has no state oversight.

## **5. Basic Discussion Regarding Land Use Planning**

### **a. Use of Preparation Questions Worksheet**

Why is land use planning important to you?

Commissioner Viegbesie wanted to have a land use plan that went along with the Mission Statement of the County Commission that addressed each area of the statement.

Chair Holt asked the Talquin Representatives that were present; they have to go out, run the wires for electricity, run water, etc. and asked their concerns. They said they with the way the land was broken down, there are issues where there was not proper access and have to go through the easement process. He appeared before the Board and said if it was difficult to get into the land, having to cut through someone else's land were issues they had to deal with, with both electric and water. He said another issue was, they were interested in developing solar sites but under the current land use map, it was not possible. He said he they wanted to get involved in the discussion and was hoping that could be modified or an exemption given for utilities. Chair Holt asked that they put this in writing so when they start work on the Plan, they would have this before them.

Mrs. Gutcher said this would come up later but one of the steps she wanted to do was to meet with the development community to get input like this so they could be ironed out. She also said why land use planning was so important was because they wanted to try to allow a mixture of uses in close proximity to each other but at the same time, wanted to try to prevent nuisance activities from occurring in close proximity to each other and this was where the Land Development Code would come in with buffering requirements and landscaping requirements, setbacks, etc.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there were some specific Ordinances that current exist that impede the land development code that would enhance economic growth and development and needed to be visited to improve. She said she could go through the Land Development Regulations and made a list of some of the things they had adopted that were not required by the State that were a local preference that she felt might hinder the process. Mrs. Gutcher asked if they wanted to address any other modes of transportation, pedestrian or off-road trails. Chair Holt said something they had done with the project in the Chattahoochee, Marianna area (Chattahoochee to Bristol trail) and was not a bad idea to think about. Chair Holt said a planned community for seniors was discussed. Mrs. Gutcher said that would be a new category they would need to discuss and there was further discussion regarding that. Chair Holt said she had always thought Lake Talquin was used but had never been looked at doing anything on the Economic Development side and could have little better planning for the waterways and it could be an

economic engine-kayaking, boating, dinner cruises, etc.

**6. Summarize**

She told them on February 15<sup>th</sup> she would be meeting with the Planning Commission regarding opportunities for amendment to the planning documents.

Chair Holt said they needed to make the Code easy to read and be understood by everybody.

**7. Next Steps**

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

**Marian Laslie** appeared before the Board and said her big concern was water and sewer. She said she knew in 2010 the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan were reduced and a lot of protections were taken away from homeowners and she would be interested to see what was proposed. She also said she was very concerned about the "yellow" property on the map (rural residential) where there was one house per 1 acre and said a lot of the "yellow" properties had no water or sewer and meant each lot would have to have a well and septic tank on it.67t

Chair Holt said now was the time that they needed things in writing.

**Michael Jackson, Director of Veteran Affairs**, appeared before the Board. He said he was awarded for Veterans Black History Month at TCC.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLR DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:20 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
BRENDA HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018  
AT 4:30 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS  
HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4-arrived late  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2-arrived late  
Eric Hinson, District 2-absent  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Jackson asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Kembrew Jackson gave the Invocation.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Mrs. Jackson said there were no Department updates.

**2. AGENDA DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Jackson explained there would be three presentations tonight at the meeting.

**Public Hearing**

**Item 6-Approval to Transfer Insurance Proceeds for Stevens School from General Fund to Capital Project Fund**

She said there will be a public hearing to discuss transfer insurance funds regarding Stevens School from General Funds to the Capital Project Fund and said there had been community meetings at Stevens School to discuss development of the project. She said the committee had decided for the time to restore the current building but that would not be voted on tonight. They will only discuss if the funds should be placed in the General Operating budget for Stevens School and the plans for the building would be brought back at a later time.

Commissioner Morgan asked if she was recommending that the insurance dollars be placed in a specific Capital Projects Fund for Stevens School and she said yes. He asked the amount of money left and she said money left from the proceeds they would stay within those compounds. She said the Committee was asking to change out the floors, lights, etc. and the Building Official could expound on it. She reiterated that was not being discussed tonight, only placing the funds in the Capital Projects Fund.

Mr. Collins explained the committee wanted to use money to renovate the cafeteria. He said they would do a preliminary budget and bring it before the Board for approval.



**Item 7-Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County**

She explained this item would be pulled.

**Item 8-Approval of Contract with IFW Security LLC to Provide Security Services at Edward J. Butler Building**

She said at a previous meeting the Board approved for them to have security at the entrance door and have placed signs to instruct the public to enter at the door by the elevator by the stairs and a Security person would be stationed at that deck. She said while the Board approved the Security, the contract was to come back before them for approval. She said in the contract, if they were closed they would not get paid or if not satisfied with the company at any time, they could discontinue the contract.

**Item 9-Approval of Purchasing A New Fire Truck**

Andre Walker explained about the new fire truck they wished to purchase for the Havana Volunteer Fire Department being purchased for \$299,487 via the Florida Sheriff Association-Fire Rescue Vehicles Bid #FSA16-VEF12.0. Mrs. Jackson said \$300,000 was budgeted for this item. Commissioner Morgan asked what research and information was done to determine this was the route to go.. Mr. Walker said they went by which department had the oldest fire truck. Commissioner Morgan asked how they came up with The Sheriff Association to get the truck. Mr. Walker said he got with Allen Meeks and vehicles were usually purchased through the Sheriff Association.

**Item 10-2016 Paving Project Phase III-Change Order #3**

Curtis Young said this item was reducing the amount by \$99,915.49 and the money would be going back into the paving budget.

**Item 11-CR 65B (Old Federal Road) Professional Services**

Pulled

**Item 12-Bell Road (SCRAP) Professional Services**

Justin Ford said this was previously approved in the Agreement with FOT and they have since given the Notice to Proceed so they could begin the design process for the widening and resurfacing of that road.

**Item 13-Cooks Landing Road (SCOP)**

Mr. Ford said this was the same deal as Bell Road but a different funding source.

**Item 14-Amendment to the Contract for the Resurfacing and Reconstruction of Howell Road**

Pulled

**Item 15-FDOT Grant Cycle**

Mr. Ford explained that in years past when they had brought the applications before the Board for consideration, normally there were five: two SCRAP, two SCOP and a CIGP. HE said this year they have gone to one of each. He added if there were any roads the Commissioners wished to add, there was time; the list was not due until the end of March. He said he would like direction by the first meeting in March. Mrs. Jackson said there had been a request to add Dogtown Road and she planned on doing that for the Board to consider tonight. Commissioner Holt asked for a flowchart

and a map. Commissioner Viegbesie said Dogtown Road was now being used as a connector road by the big trucks and there were quite a bit of potholes. He said he traveled that road and counted 41 newly patched holes and were still several that had not been patched.

**Item 16-Approval of Resolution No. 2018-002 Amending State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan (Technical Revision) for FY(s) 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017**

Sonya Burns explained this proposed Resolution would adopt a technical revision to the LHAP for fiscal years 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 to include moderate income households as eligible for owner occupied rehabilitation funds. Commissioner Morgan asked how this would be explained to the public. Mrs. Jackson this this would put them in line with what the State standards were for the SHIP money and currently they had been approved with moving forward for 2017 and beyond but was trying to retroactively correct their files so they would coincide with the funding source. Commissioner Morgan asked why they were doing that and Ms. Burns said to correct the technical error, the LHAP that was approved in 2014 did not include moderate income applicants. Commissioner Morgan asked if that meant there were homes funded that should not have been and she said that was correct. He asked if they were changing the standards for that and Mrs. Jackson said the LHAP was their local SHIP policy and previously the County's standards did not fit the State's standards. When they did their audit this year, they recommended that the County fix errors in the local policy that the Board approved so it fit their standards. Commissioner Morgan asked what would happen if this was not approved and Ms. Burns explained there could be a possible repayment because the County's LHAP was not current with Florida Housing Finance requirement. Commissioner Morgan asked why the County's requirements did not mirror the State and Mrs. Jackson said that was a Board decision. Commissioner Morgan said he did not think so, he did not think they would approve anything that did not mirror...Mrs. Jackson said their LHAP had not been updated in a while and was something Staff should have brought before the Board as standards changed at the State level and she took full responsibility for Staff, but those changes in State standards happened some years ago and the County was trying to update theirs so they were in compliance with what the State requested of them. Commissioner Morgan asked how many were affected and was told two houses. He asked the total dollar amount and Ms. Burns said she did not have that information but would get it for him by the meeting. Commissioner Holt asked if everything was in line now and was told yes.

**Item 17-Appointment of Commissioner and Alternate to Canvassing Board**

Mrs. Jackson said this was for appointment of a Commissioner and an alternate to the County Canvassing Board. Chair Holt said it had to be a Commissioners not running. Commissioner Morgan said if the Chair was up for re-election but had no opposition, she should be the one that did that. Mrs. Jackson said she was not certain if it was a preference or a Statute but the Supervisor of Elections said it was their preference that it be two persons who was not up for re-election this year. Mr. Weiss said it was by Statute it was the Chair unless the Chair was disqualified from them running or support was somehow involved. Commissioner Morgan said if the Chair did not have opposition, it was automatically her. Mr. Weiss said if she was unopposed, she was automatically on the Board. He said if she did have opposition or was somehow involved, they had an Alternate to serve.

**Item 18-Software License Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson said this was for approval of a software license agreement purchase. Andre Walker said this was for renewal for the software license for EMS for their billing, collection, etc. He said

this was for a one year contract and the fiscal impact was \$2,250.00. Mrs. Jackson asked him to speak to how it would save time and money. He said this was software that was downloaded, they key in the information and it was automatically sent to insurance companies and Medicare for collection and sends information to the State EMS where they keep information as to the types of calls, etc.

### **3. FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

Mrs. Jackson thanked everyone and said she felt this was a benefit to her and to Staff and felt they were better prepared for the 6:00 p.m. meeting. She said the Follow-up Items piece was where the Commissioners could give them work orders, roads or concerns that her Staff could take care of.

Chair Holt said they were trying to get funds from the Legislation for Item 6 and they wanted the property to follow County standards and not below. She asked Mr. Young how things were going on the road across from the Highway Patrol Station and he said he had talked to one of the land owners and was told they were moving along pretty good. He said there were three land owners they were still trying to get in contact with and getting things worked out with.

Chair Holt asked if there was a way that people that would be presenting on the items could be near the front to report.

Chair Holt said wanted to see some perfection on the Policy and Procedures in different areas.

Mrs. Jackson said Staff was currently working on updating certain policies and procedures and they would be making recommendations that would be coming before the Board. She said the next meeting they would have the Travel Policy and there would be others for updates and concerns. She said within the next two weeks the Commissioners would be receiving a survey for feed-back and priorities as far as the Strategic Plan. She said Staff was working on a Comprehensive Strategic Plan that would include goals and was working on years out.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought they would be get updates from different departments and asked about that.

Mr. Collins the Building Department was trying to streamline their permits. He said the Building Permits were pretty much already cloud-based permitting. He added they were getting it to where each contractor would have a log-on and could see their inspections, permitting on-line and even paying on-line for small projects. He said big projects would have to come in and do some hands on work.

He said for an update on the USDA Building- the City has the plans for review and the USDA in Gainesville was reviewing the plans. He said they expected them back any time so they could put them out for bid and was hoping to do that the second week in the month but the plans had not come back yet. Commissioner Morgan asked if they were on schedule and he said yes, they were currently spending money on it. He said he knew it would not be built by June, it would be into their budget year before they were going on that. Commissioner Morgan asked when it was supposed to be completed by and Shep Eubanks said June 30<sup>th</sup> was the drop-dead date by Department of Ag. He said the guy he had been dealing with, thinks his feeling was once they do have a contract with someone to build it and they see the County was serious and moving forward,

that they knew they were spending money on it and that was good. Mr. Collins said they held the Architect's contract for 364 days and gave it to the County the last day. Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any concerns that they would not receive (inaudible). He was told no, they did not think so. Mrs. Jackson said they do know that sometimes they would hold plans at USDA and she had the privilege to meet the person that was over the Gainesville office and she sent an email to them in hopes they would expedite getting the plans back to get started with it. She said at the last Economic Development retreat, Dr. Perry said the uptick in this County was they had created 315 jobs in the last twelve months and was excited to say they had seen a large increase in permits for housing. Mr. Collins said there had been an uptick in single family homes, which were mostly custom homes, \$200,000-\$500,000 homes. Mrs. Jackson said there were six new businesses that would be moving, she could not say yet who, but one was coming from Jacksonville.

Kembrew said they were trying to streamline the way they were using technology and in the Boardroom they added ports on the floor to make the podium mobile and added an additional screen for Ulysses Jenkins so he could prep materials and information on one side before presenting on the second screen. They had rewired and cleaned up the wires that were on the floor and would be planning on mounting the camera to reclaim more of the floor space and incorporating use of the timer more to be more efficient. He said they also increased the capacity of the equipment they were using since more of the public was using it during the meetings. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the IT Department was working with the Supervisor of Elections to explore eminent cyber-security to their election system. He said at the last Legislative Day, the Secretary of State sounded an alarm to all Counties about the eminent threat of cyber interference in their elections and he said every County should be prepared against any threats to their elections system. He said it was recommended that the County IT Department work closely with the Supervisor of Elections to explore resources to deal with that. Kembrew said speaking to that aspect, there were certain services in place that no-one could not give 100% guarantee that they could not be hacked, but they had processes in place in services that would allow them to identify if there was intrusion and also had a service that gives them a back-up in the event they were attacked by something such as ransomware. He said with the Supervisor of Elections, they had not had any direction as far as to involve themselves with their network, they were explicitly separate from them.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any initiatives going on in the County that the Board should be aware of and Mrs. Jackson said there was a project called Hoover Wood Treatment Products in Havana. Commissioner Morgan said they had received an email regarding that. She said other than that she had no knowledge of. She said she had been working with Commissioner Viegbesie looking for a permanent site for the Veterans' Memorial Monument the Board voted on last year at the Capital Outlay project. She said they were looking at a piece of property that the CRA currently owned and they did not feel that was the best place for that and the original place that was approved by the Board was the Courthouse and would be where the monument would go. She said she had requested quotes from two companies with designs for the monument and plaque and will come before Board prior to purchase for approval. She said even though it was under the threshold that was given to her, she still felt it should come before the Board for approval or modification. Commissioner Morgan asked if the monument would go on Courthouse grounds and she said yes. Commissioner Morgan said no matter the costs, it had to come before the Board. Chair Holt said she was present at the meeting to speak against CRA's and not in favor at the Legislature last year and was not passed and the reason was misuse of funds throughout the State. She said she said those dollars were captured from the County and should be used in that

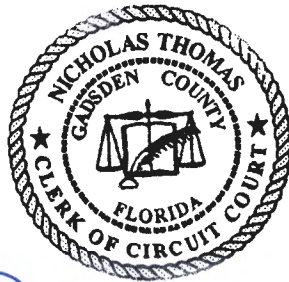
area. She added if it was County funds, the County should have some representation with CRA and she would be fighting right or wrong. She said there was ½ Million in the CRA now.

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


**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE WORKSHOP WAS  
ADJOURNED AT 5:33 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**



**ATTEST:**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**BRENDA HOLT, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for moment of silence and led in Pledge of Allegiance to U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Morgan asked to add discussion of the County Administrator's position. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if it had to be added to the Agenda for approval or should it be discussed during Commissioners comments. Chair Holt said it had to be approved

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION TO THE AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR DISCUSSION. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, CHAIR HOLT AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Items 7, 11, 14 and Commissioner Morgan asked why they were being pulled and Mrs. Jackson said it was being done by a recommendation of the Attorney.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were facing a timeline and was told no.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Terrence and Natalie Roberts**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and asked Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Roberts to step forward.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Proclamation and it was then presented to Mr. and Mrs. Roberts.

**2. Proclamation Honoring Delshauna Jackson**

Commissioner Taylor asked Delshauna Jackson to step forward, introduced Steve Scott, Audrey Lewis, and Dr. Jackson and then read the Proclamation aloud. It was then presented to Mrs. Jackson.

**3. Proclamation Honoring Havana Magnet School**

A Proclamation was then presented to Mrs. Jackson in honor of Havana Magnet School.

**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 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- a. May 2, 2017 Workshop
- b. May 18, 2017 Emergency Meeting
- c. August 29, 2017 Budget Meeting
- d. November 21, 2017 Regular Meeting

**5. Ratification Memo**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Joe Crozier, Environmental Planner, Apalachee Regional Planning Council**, appeared before the Board. He told them they were hosting conference in Tallahassee on March 14-16 in Tallahassee at Doak Campbell Stadium and invited anyone who would like to attend.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he could give brief synopsis of what they do for Gadsden County. He said they had a Revolving loan fund that was available for people that were in-between to give them an opportunity to create a small business. He added maybe they were denied a traditional loan and they were able to review them and give them another opportunity to get them started. Chair Holt further explained it was a pay-back loan and not a grant.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. PUBLIC HEARING: Approval to Transfer Insurance Proceeds for Stevens School from General Fund to Capital Project Fund**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said an insurance check in the amount of \$502,175 was received in June; \$35,200 had been expended on making the site safe by cleaning and clearing the area. She said a small building remained the cafeteria/auditorium. She said there was a remaining amount of \$466,975 that was placed into the General Funds and this hearing was to seek approval to move the remaining funds into the Capital Project Fund.

Commissioner Taylor said there had been a group of citizens the past four to six months that have met to discuss this project and they have put together a mission and a vision for the site.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this money was going to be in a restricted fund specifically for the rebuilding and reconstruction of the site or was it being moved into a capital project account that would become general for all capital projects. He added he would like to see it restricted to be used for what was received for. Commissioner Morgan asked with the amount of money they have, if there had been specific discussions for uses of the money. Commissioner Taylor said every Clyde Collins had been there and plans have been drawn.

Chair Holt said the Board approved in their Legislative Agenda to go to Senator Montford and Representative Alexander's office looking for matching money from the Legislature. She also brought up that she was speaking on behalf of TDC, they asked for a caveat. She said they were getting ready for a photo shoot for the Florida Association of Counties and there was very few places they could come up with that were African-American places and this was the only County in the State that was a predominately African-American County.

Chair Holt then asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak or if they wanted to waive in support.

**Carolyn Ford** appeared before the board and said they supported Commissioner Taylor.

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

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 7. Approval of the Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County**  
Item Pulled

- 8. Approval of Contract with I.F.W. Security, LLC to Provide Security Services at the Edward J. Butler Building**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was brought before the Board in January and Board approved the item but asked that the contract come back for approval.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting and in doing so said 'aye'*

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

Chair Holt said the vote was 3-1 because Commissioner Taylor left and Commissioner Morgan said she had to vote and asked the attorney for point of order.

Mr. Weiss started to explain and Commissioner Taylor returned and voted yes making the count 4-



1.

**9. Approval of Purchasing a New Fire Truck**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to purchase a new County-owned fire truck for the Havana Volunteer Fire Department.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked how they came to this decision. Mrs. Jackson said according to the Interim EMS Director, this was the oldest truck in fleet purchased in 1998 and had extensive miles on it.

**Andre Walker** appeared before Board. He said they did an inventory of all the trucks and that truck was the oldest and Havana runs over half of the calls in the County. He added that the truck was slowly becoming unreliable. Commissioner Morgan asked if they had looked at pre-owned truck and Mr. Walker said they did not, they felt a new truck would be more reliable than a used truck.

Mrs. Jackson said there was more money put in the budget for this but it will not all be used.

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

**10. 2016 Paving Project Phase III-Change Order #3**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was before the Board to approve Change Order #3 to CW Roberts Construction and this was a reduction of \$99,915.49.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was some money was going to districts that have projects in the Phase III that were not now being used.

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

Commissioner Taylor asked to make a statement before they moved further concerning the Stevens School item. She said Commissioner Viegbesie made mention of the funds being restricted and wanted to make sure it was part of the motion. Chair Holt said it was already approved. Chair Holt said they would have to go back to that item and they could discuss that at the end of the night. Commissioner Taylor said she just wanted to make sure the money was in place. Chair Holt said they could talk about this at the end of the night after the other items were discussed.

**11. ~~CR-65B (Old Federal Road) Professional Services~~**

Item Pulled

**12. Bell Road (SCRAP) Professional Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Task Order with Dewberry-Preble Rish for the survey, design and contractor procurement of the Bell Road SCRAP

Paving Project located in District 1.

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

**13. Cooks Landing Road (SCOP) Professional Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval of a Task Order with Dewberry-Preble Rish for the survey, design and contractor procurement of the Cooks Landing Road Paving Project located in District 5.

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

**14. ~~Amendment to the Contract for the Resurfacing and Reconstruction of Howell Road~~**

Item Pulled

**15. FDOT Grant Application Cycles**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to submit grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation under the SCOP, SCRAP and CIGP programs and said they would like to add Dogtown Road. Commissioner Viegbesie said there was some concern and he had a recommendation for addition of Dogtown Road. He said that road has seen a lot of activity and there were a lot of potholes and he recently drove it and counted 41 newly covered potholes and there were still a number of potholes there. Chair Holt asked if there were any comments and said she was going with the recommendation of Preble-Rish.

Commissioner Morgan said he had mentioned in the pre-meeting, they have enjoyed Preble Rish's ability of being able to identify roads with the most likelihood of receiving the funding.

**Justin Ford, Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board. He said this list was not inclusive, it was a working list and he did not have to have the list tonight.

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

Lester Beach, Havana Fire Department, appeared before the Board to address striping on Joe Adams Road. He said one concern he had, when it was raining on Joe Adams Road, it was hard to differentiate whose lane you were in. Commissioner Taylor assured him there would be striping on that road before the end of April.

**16. Approval of Resolution No. 2018-002 Amending the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan (Technical Revision) for FY(s) 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval of Resolution Number 2018-002 to amend the SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 and for authorization for the Chair to sign documents.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION AND SAID THE PUBLIC NEEDED TO**

**UNDERSTAND WHY THIS WAS COMING BEFORE THE BOARD.**

Mrs. Jackson said an audit was done recently and their recommendation was to amend the LHAP to reflect the SHIP program (State Housing Initiative Partnership) and make it retroactive for years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 to include moderate income.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there were no issues during that timeframe with applicants that may have not received funding with their application and no concerns from a liability standpoint with the County. Mr. Weiss said his understanding was that in order to insure there were no issues with and potentially having to return funds that they needed to make the technical amendment. Mrs. Jackson said from her Interim Administrator there were two persons during that timeframe from 2014-2017 that was a moderate income and was consistent with the funding source so there was nothing done wrong but the local standards not been updated or brought before the Board to be updated during that time period. She added that according to County standards, those persons did not qualify but according to the funding source, they were. She added if they did not change the LHAP, they would have to return \$44,400 to the funding source.

Mr. Weiss said his understanding was as long as they made the technical revisions, this would be retroactive.

Commissioner Hinson asked if everything done was legal from 2014 until now.

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

Mr. Weiss said what he understood; their LHAP plan did not permit moderate income households to be eligible for the owner occupied rehab program. He said while under SHIP standards they would be, but under the County's LHAP they were not.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if they went against their own plan and Mr. Weiss said yes, he believed they approved something that was not in their plan. Commissioner Hinson asked what where the repercussions did nothing happen after that point or they just slapped each other on the wrist and called it a day. Mr. Weiss said this was what they were doing to fix the issue. Commissioner Hinson said he knew a lot of senior citizens that died waiting to get this and they were able to do something for someone else that was not qualified to get it. He said it was sad that they were moving this along without repercussions; it was not fair to the seniors or citizens of Gadsden County that this happened. He added he was not sure what happened but they were giving someone something that did not fit the qualifications and probably made more money than everyone else. He continued and said a senior citizen that was receiving \$25.00 food stamps a month, probably saw a minimum of \$600.00 fixed income but they were told they had to wait for 12 years, and still waiting; but someone else making \$50-60,000 a year gets it. He added to him, someone should remove the Board if the Board decided to continue this foolishness. He said two people died waiting on assistance.

Chair Holt said in their plan they were approving for low income housing but the funding they were getting the money from said moderate to low so they were not following what they were saying. She added there were more people in the moderate area that would have qualified if they had

followed the Federal Government. She said they really kicked out more people in the moderate area than low income area. Commissioner Hinson said so it was ok to approve someone making \$50-60,000 year with one kid or maybe no kid eligible it was OK to give that person the money and not giving a person who was 80ish who worked in tobacco fields all their life and that person was supposed to wait for 12 years before they get housing? He said that was far-fetched. Chair Holt said the money came from the Federal Government and this was not what they approved. Chair Holt said what they did; their process helped more low income people so they were not following the Federal guidelines. She added that more low income people were helped because they did not include the moderate income. She said his point was being made because that was what they were doing; they were just not doing it by their criteria.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**17. Appointment of Commissioner and Alternate to the Canvassing Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint a Commissioner and an alternate to the County Canvassing Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said during the pre-meeting workshop he understood that the process was for whoever was Chair was automatically appointed but if the Chair was up for re-election and has no opposition then the Chair would be the one that governed the Canvassing Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS ALTERNATE TO THE CANVASSING BOARD AND IF THE CHAIR HAD OPPOSITION, HE WOULD BECOME CHAIR AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**18. Software License Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of renewal of the software license agreement with EMS Consultants.

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**11. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson said on Feb 9, 2018, she sent a memo out and asked that they let her know if they planned to attend the FAC and NACo conferences so they could begin to make travel arrangements and make sure it did not conflict with a BOCC meeting.

She said they were in the process of updating security in the building and asked the Commissioners if they preferred a fob or a number pad for the rear door and that door would be locked during all meetings and the only entrance will be from the front.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he has had personal concerns as to how anyone and everyone would be able to come in through the door with their backs turned and walk in behind the County Commissioners and he was amendable to securing the door like other commission buildings do so

only the County Commissioners and staff have access to the door and let everyone else enter through the front door. He said he was in support of this. Chair Holt said they had the number system before and the Commissioners used to lock themselves out but she was for whatever process was the easiest and most secure. Mrs. Jackson said either way they were already set up to use either a fob or the key. Commissioner Viegbesie said from what he heard the easiest and less complex way would be the method to use.

Mrs. Jackson said also to increase security, they were in the process of moving all staff to the second floor and all five offices will be empty and they will become Commissioners Offices where the commissioners will be able to meet with constituents if they wish. Commissioner Morgan said he understood what they were trying to accomplish but felt the main door (facing Highway 90) should be open during the day and asked that the idea be reconsidered. He said there are several times when someone has been to the Courthouse and then had to step over to conduct business in that building. He asked if there had been security issues in the past and she said yes. Commissioner Morgan expressed his displeasure in the front door being locked and logistically he did not think it was a good move and people having to walk around to the back to enter. Mrs. Jackson said she understood his concerns but the Courthouse staff fobs work there (Deputy Clerk shook her head no) and Commissioner Morgan said he was speaking about the general public. Commissioner Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly, he had been there a number of times and had attempted to come in the front door and it was locked and has only been open during meetings for citizens to enter.

Mrs. Jackson requested a Proclamation for Four Star Freightliner for their grand opening on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

V/Holt 5-0

She reminded everyone there would be a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 for the Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department.

She said Staff was working on a strategic plan and in a couple of weeks each commissioner will receive a strategic plan survey and asked it be returned to them so they could compile the information.

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

Commissioner Morgan had comments regarding the Code Enforcement Department and the budget. He asked what the overall annual budget was for that Department. Mrs. Jackson said she was not exactly sure and Clyde Collins appeared before the Board.

Mr. Collins gave a budget amount of \$62,561 for the 2017-18 year and said it paid for a Code Enforcement Officer, the truck he uses, filing fees for the Clerk, etc. Commissioner Morgan asked him what his assessment of the Code Enforcement Department regarding how effective it was. Mrs. Jackson said they recently hired a new Code Enforcement Officer and in the future if she was still interim she would be asking for another position to be funded.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked her plans as Administrator to address that and move forward in the next 30 days. She said they would have to work within the compounds of what they have. She said they had a Code Enforcement Officer who worked diligently on the list that he has and there are people in the community who look for code enforcement violations. He said she had mentioned twice the need for another person and asked how long she recognized the need for another person and she said since she started working there but based on the current budget, no funds were there right now and she was an advocate on being conservative and not coming before the Board asking for more money. He asked if she was comfortable having raises for specific positions under her control that take priority over a code enforcement position. She responded she could not think of any raises for a specific person and he said her position alone took a significant raise and she said absolutely. He asked if that was a higher priority than Code Enforcement that affected the entire County. Chair Holt started to speak and Commissioner Morgan said he still had the floor. He said he respected her as Interim Administrator, but they have had several conversations about his feelings regarding that because of specifically code enforcement issues that they have and it needed to be addressed. He said they were spending money on other salaries when, in his opinion, look at reprioritizing that. He said they just spent \$24,000 for a "security officer" priority wise he hoped moving forward they look at taxpayers and look into prioritizing and address to meet the needs they need to do as a Board. He said Code Enforcement has been an issue for several months and they knew for six months they had a code enforcement officer leaving that position and this was an issue that they needed to respond to right away. He added he was just one seat of five and he was certain that was not how the whole Board felt, he was expressing the calls he receives from his seat about addressing Code Enforcement issues. He said to the entire Board that this was an issue they needed to respond to.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Mrs. Jackson how long she had been interim and she responded since October 31, 2017-almost 4 months. He then asked how long the Code Enforcement Officer knew he was going to retire. Mrs. Jackson said he was in the DROP for five years. Chair Holt said she thought the point of this conversation was that Commissioner Morgan was interested in getting Code Enforcement Officer an assistant in that Department. He said he was interested in getting the needs met across the County and code violations addressed. Chair Holt said Commissioner Viegbesie's point was this had "been going on for a minute" and Commissioner Morgan said for a long time. Chair Holt told Mrs. Jackson that they agreed on that part and asked her to look at those items and have it ready for the next meeting so they would not have to have this discussion. She asked her to at least look into it and give a report back.

Commissioner Taylor said her first inquiry sounded like something they needed to respond to-the FAC/NACo conference and asked if they could respond to her. Commissioner Taylor said she felt they should do that because it took the Board to cancel a meeting. Chair Holt said she would be here so they would have a quorum and will have the meeting.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

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

Commissioner Morgan asked about a specific email the Board received yesterday that had to do

with a specific consideration going before their Planning & Zoning Board-because received packet that was already public record-will it impact if it comes before them. He said he wanted clarification on record and asked because they received the packet (that he knew was already public record) but because that was forwarded to them asking that they respond, if that would impact that issue when and if it came before them. Chair Holt asked that he explain the email so there would not be any problems. Mr. Weiss said the email was from the Administrator and he commented on it. He said the attachments to the email was the Planning Commission packets from the prior meeting and site plan for the Hoover Treated Wood products project that was to be considered at the prior meeting and will be considered at the upcoming Planning and Zoning meeting and would subsequently come before them. He said he did not think it was a request to respond, it was just for their information. He also said because of Sunshine law violation, they could not respond to those types of emails and not to be discussed outside a public meeting. He said as far as quasi-judicial proceedings and how that worked, all is public record and is published on the website and any citizen could access those items to there is no reason they could not read them. He said in terms of disclosure, the issue with quasi-judicial proceedings, if they have any type of ex-parte communication, which was anything outside of a public hearing at which they consider the item before them, the best practice was they were not supposed to have any ex-parte communications because they are supposed to consider what was before them at the public hearing and give both sides an opportunity to present their position without having already made up your mind. He said if they have had phone calls, meetings or any type of communication with someone prior to the public hearing, there was a presumption they have been prejudiced by it. He added that all communication must be disclosed prior to the public hearing on record. He went on to explain it gives rise to a presumption that they have been prejudiced. He said it was rebuttable by facts by them being able to say "Here's the conversation that I had, here's what happened and here's why I'm making my decision based on what is in front of me and I'm giving everybody a fair opportunity. He said he did not think there was any reason why they could not see the item especially since it was available to the general public.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson asked the Interim County Administrator if he had ever encouraged her to hire someone and there was no response. Chair Holt said if she did not answer to not force it. He said it was yes or no, if he did, he did and with her being quiet, apparently her answer was yes. Chair Holt said for them to move on and he said personally he never did and he said that for a reason. He said there was a situation, he had questions from some employees and told them he could not encourage her or tell her who to hire and by saying that, they had issues. He said he told them the only time they could address something was dealing with policies and procedures and when they came to him they had issues. He said a week or two later he talked with the County Administrator, as he told them he would, and told her his job was not to encourage her or suggest to her who to hire and fire, but to look over policy and procedures. He said they had a lot of issues that he had to ask and bring up and what was told was there were several guys that did not get an interview and he wanted to make sure things were done decent and in order. He went on to say the problem they had was a lot of folks felt like they were left out of the conversation and he was speaking in general and the only reason he spoke with the County Administrator was a few days prior to that she told him everything was fine, they interviewed that Friday and on Monday she

said they interviewed one batch and would interview the other batch. He then said a few employees called him up three or four weeks later after the conversation and told him they just got interviewed. He said the issue was why was there a month gap between the interviewing process. Chair Holt said that could be discussed when they discuss policy and procedures in the workshop. He said he was one of the guys that did not get involved with the County Administrator business and daily operations and actually she could tell he's never even called her or contacted her and that was why he was surprised by the quietness. He said he thought they needed to go over the policy and procedure of hiring and firing so they would know that at the end of the day they were the ones being held responsible of what was going on. He further stated he thought the BOCC needed to know where they needed to go first before they started creating positions and hiring because that may not be a direction they wanted to go into.

He asked for a Proclamation for Mt. Zion AME Church for their 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said they come here and talk about the business of the County and how to best represent the citizens' concerns and so often they forget about major events of every day. He said certainly with the events of the past week that happened in the school in South Florida brings forth the importance of understanding and blessings they have and they want to keep those folks in their prayers.

He said he wanted to thank the Interim Administrator and Staff for meeting with Talquin Electric to discuss how they could better partner together regarding storms, etc.

He commended the Interim Administrator for initiatives she has taken since being on board. He said they need to decide who their next Administrator would be, if it was going to be her, so be it or if they were going to look for another. He said he had listened to and was opposed to the "Succession Plan" and said it has failed miserably and they needed to reattack that effort to solve the problem.

Commissioner Hinson said he was the one that nominated her and his intent was to go through the process and did not want to rush the situation. He said his intent was for three – six months and it had been 3 months.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked about the Milling from the Pat Thomas Highway paving and said she has had quite a few calls regarding that and was it available if they paid for hauling. Justin Ford reappeared before the Board and said this was a DOT project but he reached out to CW Roberts. He said he assumed it was for the County and they offered to deliver for \$200/load. He said he would ask for citizens and get back with them.

She said there was another issue in Midway and she was getting information from the community about that Council deciding to restrict some activities from a business owner as far as construction. She said she contacted the Interim Administrator to make sure they were not facing any liability with regards to civil rights and after talking with the Attorney, she found out because they have an



Interlocal Agreement with the City of Midway, they could fall under their restriction and not provide services because of the Agreement. She said she wanted to take it a step further when they have employees that were dealing directly with the business owner, it may have compromised the County with their dealings with the building official and she was concerned. She said they may want to look into it further. She said there was an employee involved that has made recommendations and they may need to look into.

**High Bridge Road**

She said she keeps hearing it is on the list. Justin Ford reappeared before the Board and said it was in DOT's hands and was on DOT's 5 year work plan. He said he thought it was scheduled to move this Fall and will confirm it. Mr. Jenkins pulled it up on the screen and Mr. Ford said the construction will be for the 2020 year and would start Fall 2019 and design was underway now.

**Interim County Administrator**

She said they said it was best that that person gain as much experience, insight, etc. so in the event they did hire someone else, they could share and help the person get acclimated to the position. She said she had not seen anyone else working hard trying to get it right. She said "what goes around comes back around. You have to be careful how you do people." She added that she has had numerous conversations with the Interim and respect her that she's trying hard to do a good job.

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Interim and Public Works for job well done on safety on placing reflectors on stop signs to highlight them.

**Crappie Masters fishing tournament**

He said it was a blast and an experience for him and this was the second year here. He said it generated an economic boost to the County to the tune of approximately \$600,000. He commended Clyde Collins and his staff for their hard work and dedication towards this event. He suggested events such as this should be recorded and uploaded to the website.

He said there was a discussion recommended by the CFO of Florida, Jimmy Patronis and he stated that there were some Counties that have monies that did not realize it and said to check out FLTreasureHunt.com. He suggested they see if there were any hidden treasures that might be there.

He asked for a Motion for Resolution from BOCC to Florida State Fire College in Ocala and said it was necessity for the Greenshade/Dogtown fire station to begin operation.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA STATE FIRE COLLEGE IN OCALA FOR GREENSHADE/DOGTOWN FIRE STATION AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said they will be using a timer at the next meeting and she wanted to make them aware of it. She said if they had any questions regarding any of the Agenda items they could meet with the Manager and they were having Workshops starting at 4:30 to make the meetings quicker. She said if it was to be a long item, the Manager could discuss it. She asked their opinion of three

minutes and one minute for rebuttal.

Commissioner Taylor said no Commissioner had any more power or authority than the other, the Chair was just "a glorified position that is used to make sure folks don't speak over each other". She said she did not agree with a 3 minute timer, that they could be mindful and stay within a reasonable timeline. Chair Holt said she was going to use the timer and if they thought they needed four minutes, they would go with that. She added they were trying to be fair and respectful of the community. She said the Community was requesting that they not do what they were doing.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if there was a limit and restriction on how long a Commissioner could speak on an item or issue. Chair Holt said it had been used on several situations, not just for citizens but for Commissioners as well. She said this may give them some structure, if it did not work they cannot do it.

She said Talquin Electric was requesting a Proclamation for their students of employees that have gone to the Legislative session with the State and were going to Washington, DC.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR THE STUDENTS.**

Chair Holt said she felt the Workshop was a success and went good. She said the Staff had an opportunity to present their items and were able to go through them and got questions answered.

#### **Policy and Procedure**

She said Commissioner Hinson brought that up, particularly on hiring. She said there were two or three things: 1) They cannot tell the Manager who to hire and fire, along with other items and they needed at least two hours to discuss that, 2) There were problems with funding items even for the Crappie Tournament, the request for those proceeds were denied and the employee should not pay for items out of their pocket. She said this was items they needed to clean up because it causes hard feelings when employees have to do things that was for a County event and should not be permitted by this Board; 3) CRA-She said she had concerns about CRA in Quincy. She said she went before the Board and asked them about it because she would have spoken in favor of disbanding the CRA's in the State of Florida at the Legislature last year but she was speaking before the Subcommittee in favor of gaming for the Gretna facility. She said she would like to see if there was anything they could look at as far as the operation of CRA's, not that they would have any say-so but she wanted clarity. She added there was one bill currently before the subcommittees to not create any other CRA's in the State and the large counties were totally against the CRA because there are County funds captured inside of a group and the County has no say-so over the funds. She said concerns from the citizens were there and they want to know where those dollars are being used and they could not see it; and 4) Emergency Housing Issue-She said they put dollars aside for emergency housing and she wanted to look at that item again because she was not in favor of her or any other commissioner choosing which house should be emergency housing and it was a mess. She said she was tired of people calling her to ask why the commissioner picked that person over them to get a house fixed. She said she did not mind taking the money and putting it in Housing and use the same stipulations they use for SHIP for low income housing. She said Commissioner Hinson brought up the housing issue and there was a complaint for low income and she suggested they promote better who qualified for it.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
February 20, 2018-Regular Meeting

**Receipt and File**

- a. Letter from the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority
- b. Florida Department of Health-Gadsden Quarterly Progress Report for ½ cent Sales Tax Prevention and Education Program
- c. Letter from the Florida Department of Transportation
- d. Resolution Honoring Mr. Shannon Faison

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

March 6, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

March 20, 2018-Regular Meeting-6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:21 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

  
BRENDA HOLT, Chair

ATTEST:

  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A PRE-MEETING WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD INAND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 6, 2018 AT 4:30 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Jackson said they would start with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Agenda Discussion**

Mrs. Jackson said there were several items on the Consent Agenda and listed the Minutes along with the Ratification Memo and there were no questions.

**Item #3-Public Hearing-Approval to Recognize \$200,000 from Discretionary Sales Surtax to the Capital Project Fund**

Jeff Price gave a brief update of the Discretionary tax and explained the item. He said the Board approved amending the Ordinance regarding the Discretionary Sales Surtax and Parks. He said the Budget Amendments on the Agenda would move the approved funds into the proper fund so they could meet the Grant requirement and was done by Accounting standards and had a Flow Chart to better explain. He said the Discretionary tax would come in, part would go to Public Works averaging about \$76,000 per month and part goes to the Fire Fund; they will divert money to Parks and Grants Fund (\$200,000) and would take approximately three months. He said when they receive the money from DEP; it would go back to Public Works. He said after the work was done, Public Works will bill the Park fund and the money would be paid back. Mrs. Jackson explained the Grant would reimburse after the work was done.

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

**4. Sheriff's Deputy Training Request-SWAT Association 2018 Basic Sniper Course**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item. She said no-one was present from the Sheriff's Office to discuss this but they were requesting money for a Basic Sniper course.

Mrs. Jackson said the amount decreased from \$2,401.70 to \$2,182.65 and was seeking funding to pay for training, boarding and per diem costs to a Deputy Investigator to attend the Florida SWAT Association Basic Sniper Course in Orlando.

**5. Amendment to the Contract for the Resurfacing and Reconstruction of Howell Road**

Mr. Young introduced the above the item. He said it was originally budgeted at \$704,028 and the

bids came in under budget and the new agreement amount was \$379,885.

**6. 2017 Striping Project Phase II-Change Order**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a Change Order and noted that the fiscal impact was \$38,446.40. She said originally the road did not require turn arrows and one road, Joe Adams, required there be turn arrows. She said the amount was coming from Commissioner Taylor's paving fund.

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

Mr. Price explained the above item and said originally this was approved to extend the lease until January 2019. He said they did not sign the eighteen month lease and changed the date to reflect twelve months and this was to correct that. Chair Holt asked the rationale for making it twelve months instead of eighteen. Shep Eubanks appeared before the Board and said they were hoping the new Ag building would be built and the contract would be updated after completion. He said they received notice that USDA did not sign the eighteen month contract but changed the dates to reflect the lease ending June 2018 and this was to correct that. Mrs. Jackson said they were not currently in the building and hoped to go into the new building.

Chair Taylor asked that they go back to the Sheriff's item.

**2. Department Updates**

Mrs. Jackson provided everyone with a Bi-Weekly Update and said she planned to go over it. She said she wanted to yield to Beth Kirkland and they were going to start at the workshops that the first one of the month would be the Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC) and the second workshop would be for the Chamber to give updates.

**3. Gadsden County Development Council Update**

Beth Kirkland, GCDC, appeared before the Board and gave their Mission Statement of the GCDC, which was "Sound Policy, Prepared Product and Effective Marketing". She said under the Policy element, the Development Council attended the Comp Plan Open House that the Consultant held the past Friday. She said some of the feedback provided with regard to having a time certain for companies that were looking to locate in the County as far as going through the permitting process. She said with regard to the Citizens' Bill of Rights to better clarify that because there were several engineering firms that came and provided comment found it to be confusing and not easy to follow. She said they would be doing some Economic Impact analysis relating to a draft Alcohol Ordinance to support restaurants that serve food and meet the State Standards with regard to non-smoking, etc., to be allowed as part of the exemptions in the Alcohol policy. She said there were several restaurants that tried to locate and find that they were either near an active Church or in some cases near a piece of property that was owned by a house of Worship that had yet to be developed and was a deterrent and they did not move forward. She said they had three local companies that would like to apply for the local grant program that was approved a few years ago and would be the first to make the application and go through the process.

**Product Development**

She said they have keys for a physical presence for the GCDC that the County has donated. She said they have donated the building at the intersection of Madison and King Street and they were in the process of moving in and hoped to be there in time for their April Board meeting.

**Florida Job Growth Grant Fund**

She said they had a grant proposal in to the State since last September on Infrastructure at the Greensboro/Gretna Interchange related to the proposed Intermodal Logistics Center within the Freight Logistics Zone. She said they met with DEO and they have asked for additional information in November, more in February and they sat down the day before and went over all the information. She said they were looking at the USEDA as an avenue for building out the infrastructure.

She said they had another Grant to be turned in soon to the State under talent for Florida Job Growth Grant Fund which was approximately \$275,000 of funding to stand out the diesel mechanic training program at Gadsden Technical Institute and details were being finalized of the equipment that needed to be purchased to outfit to teach.

She said they had also met with FDOT District 3 and they have identified \$400,000 in mitigation funding that could be applied for to do Interchange/highway beautification projects. She said Commissioner Viegbesie had met with all of them to help broker the first conversation and they have had follow-up meetings and were ready to write the sample letter and have it brought before the Board for consideration as an Agenda Item.

**Marketing**

She said they were working with Ulysses Jenkins and his team and they were working with GTI and the National Association of Counties for TDC, Economic Development, General County three or four second videos. She said someone would be in the community the next couple of weeks that would be talking to businesses about participating from an advertisement standpoint and would be in the County in April to do the videos. She said **850 Magazine** would be doing a profile of Gadsden County and would appear in their fall issue.

**Expansion solutions Magazine**

She said the County will appear in a two page spread in the March/April Transportation issue and it was an advertorial where they would write their own article but they sponsor it on the Freight Logistics Zone and how important it was and would be an advertisement about the transportation assets. She said in the May/June issue they would do some things related to freight and rail and in a later issue would be work force development and talent.

Mrs. Jackson said she did not speak much about businesses that were coming and she knew they were working on some. She asked her to speak about the confidentiality law since this was on Facebook Live. Ms. Kirkland said Florida had a statute and she believed it was F.S. 288.075 that said companies could seek confidentiality within the State of Florida during the time they were evaluating their options, whether it was here or another State and during that time, they were bound as practitioners to refer to those projects according to the code name that was applied or assigned to them. She also said at some point during that process if the company chose to introduce themselves in a public setting from that point on it was publically known. She said currently they were working with someone that was in the distribution and transportation sector and working with someone using the energy sector.

Chair Holt asked with regard to the marketing items, they were looking at doing the marketing of the companies that were hopefully coming; have they shown any interest or concerns about being

in the County as opposed to in a city because of the Citizens Bill of Rights. Ms. Kirkland said going back to what she said on the policy side, the way their policy was currently written, there was no time certain and companies a fine amount of time that they could make a decision and either expand in that location or locate there, build a building, get up to speed because at some time certain they have to deliver product to market or they could not recoup the investment made in a community.

Chair Holt said that was the hold-up and why the Comp plan was so important and was very important that they be told what needed improvement. She said some of the problems could be cut out at the County level.

Chair Holt asked what made the County sellable and Ms. Kirkland said the transportation assets were huge and the available land. She said there was still available space at Gadsden 10/90. She also said the Freight Logistics line was continuing to see opportunities that would make it very viable. Chair Holt said this was the difference in the Chamber and an Economic Development Group-with the Chamber you were a member (and they were not a member, just give them money) and with an Economic Development Group, they come in and state what business they want where, help get land ready, help pull property owners and buyers together and was the difference and had never had that before.

Mrs. Jackson gave some updates:

**Building Inspection Department**

Total of 154 permits have been issued since January totaling \$40,853.48 and the permitted structures value was \$4,109,043.00.

She said the Supervisor of Elections building was slated to be painted and were currently pressure washing and scraping.

She said quotes for the Greenshade/Dogtown Fire Station were received and a Notice to Proceed would be issued this week.

**Code Enforcement**

She said the new Code Enforcement Office started in February and he has closed 40% of the active cases and 100% of inherited code enforcement cases were closed. She said however, two have been reopened for new offenses.

**Emergency Management**

She advised that CRMC had a new CEO, Alan Keesee, FACHE and he would be meeting with staff on March 21, 2018.

She said the Resolution has been filed to acknowledge Greenshade Fire Station as a Gadsden County functioning body.

**Human Resources**

She said the 2018 Summer Youth Employment Program advertisement would post March 29<sup>th</sup> thru April 27 and applications would be made available to the local high schools, the three libraries and on the County website.

**Library Services**

She said the library was partnering with Mu Mu Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. on a Youth Symposium on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

She informed them the library would be conducting their five year plan on April 21<sup>st</sup> and a formal letter would be forthcoming.

She also said Library Week would be held the week of April 9<sup>th</sup> thru April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Management Services**

The US Census will be done differently this year and they have requested information about new housing permits and they were complying.

She said there was an update at the dais on the Election Cybersecurity.

**Public Information**

She said the website design was underway and were expecting the website to go live in few months.

**Public Works**

She said the Cooks Landing striping project would be completed this week.

The Chattahoochee Landfill was scheduled for close-out by DOE and was the last landfill.

Speed limit for Dogtown Road has been reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph.

Mowing season has started and they have increased from 4 mowing crews to 5 and have new mowers with the exception of one and are faster and cut lower.

To cut costs, staff was looking into purchasing a paint machine for smaller road jobs.

**4. Follow-up Items**

**Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THEM, THE WORKSHOP WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:36 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 MARCH 6, 2018 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-Absent  
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 called the meeting to Order at 6:00, asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

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

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. October 23, 2017-Old Stevens School Meeting
  - b. November 20, 2017-Old Stevens School Meeting
  - c. December 5, 2017-Regular Meeting
  - d. December 11, 2017-Old Stevens School Meeting
  - e. December 12, 2017-Regular Meeting
  - f. December 19, 2017-Regular Meeting
  - g. January 2, 2018-Regular Meeting
  - h. January 16, 2018-Regular Meeting
  - i. February 1, 2018-Land Use Workshop

- 2. Ratification Memo**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**3. PUBLIC HEARING: Approval to Recognize \$200,000 from the Discretionary Sales Surtax to the Capital Project Fund**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Budget Amendment \$18009, 180010 and for authorization for the Interim County Administrator and the Finance Director to complete and execute the budget amendments. Mrs. Jackson explained they were requesting to move \$200,000 from the Public Works budget to the Grants Fund budget and then revert it back to the Public Works budget once they were reimbursed by DEP.

Chair Holt asked if there were any comments from Commissioners.

Mr. Thomas said he wanted to go on record with his concern with this budget amendment. He said it was not good to use the Public Works Department for this type of work outside of transportation but if they were going to do it, it needed to be fully reimbursed from money that was not already inside the Transportation budget. He said they were moving \$200,000 from Transportation (Sales Tax) but then they were appropriating \$200,000 from Fund Balance (Fuel Tax) to cover that and then have the Transportation Department do work in another area, then pay them money that was taken out. He said in his mind, it was not clear that they were not using Gas Tax money in the transaction. He said if they did the budget amendment as it was, the Public Works Department should not do this work. He suggested they take the money and bid it out. He felt under that scenario, they would be colluding money and all it would take was an audit to say they have misused fuel tax money and money could be frozen. He said if they insisted the Public Works Department do this work, they needed to be reimbursed fully from money not currently going into that fund. He said that was why when he was here earlier, he suggested using the Fire Tax fund because they amended the Ordinance to use Sales Tax and that fund has \$1.3 Million fund balance and the Transportation Fund only has a \$600,000 balance. He said that was not a lot of money considering there used to be a balance of \$2 Million. He said it was his recommendation that they not allow Public Works to do the work, instead to bid it out.

**Jeff Price, Senior Management and Budget Analyst** appeared before the Board. Mr. Price said the Discretionary Sales Tax fund brought in approximately \$76,000 per month for Public Works. He said money would be diverted for 2 ½ months to the Parks and Recreation Fund and they would use those funds to pay for the engineering. He explained Public Works would do the work and be reimbursed and at the end of the day they would divert those funds back from Public Works after the \$200,000 was collected and get reimbursed by DEP Recreational Trails Program.

Mr. Thomas replied with that analysis they would be taking \$200,000 away, appropriate \$200,000, and that \$200,000 comes back. He said when Public Works does work outside of Transportation, three-quarters of the money was fuel tax money and he felt with that analysis it could not be proven there was no chance that fuel tax money were being used in that scenario. Chair Holt asked what he meant with that scenario. He explained if they took money that was already in a fund that made up the fund, using the same money to pay the work that was being done and it was not clear to him that it was being fully reimbursed by all of the fuel tax expense.

Chair Holt asked Mr. Price if he said the money would be coming from the Recreation Program and he said the money that was in the Parks Grant fund was money that was being diverted from Public Works to that fund, just as Mr. Thomas had explained. Mr. Price said it would be paid back to Public Works the \$140,000 and the \$60,000 for the engineering fees and that combined would be the \$200,000 and would be reimbursed by the DEP grant. Chair Holt said the DEP grant was the one where the \$200,000 would be taken to pay back and he said yes. She asked the Clerk if it was from the DEP grant, how was using that money to pay back for Public Works for the money taken out. Mr. Thomas said the same money being taken out was the same money that they would use to pay back.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if he took \$50.00 from someone, used it and then paid it back, there was no collusion.

Mr. Thomas said he was suggesting that Public Works be reimbursed for their costs above the money in the Transportation Fund and show that all costs were fully recovered.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was the reason this Board, on December 5<sup>th</sup>, revised the Ordinance to include Parks and Recreation so the money could be used for this project. He said Parks and Recreation has done work for other parks and recreation before this particular project came up and asked if they have been reimbursed for work done for other playgrounds across County.

Mr. Thomas' response was when he talked to them in January he suggested another fund to ensure and was simply expressing his concern. He was going on record to prevent any potential damage to the County as a result and this could be done in such a clear way that there would not be a question but this was a very convoluted way that could raise questions.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated his comments and this was why he was not in favor of this from the beginning. He said he felt they should listen to Chief Financial Officer of the County and what he was trying to tell them and did not think this was a good way to do business.

Commissioner Taylor said she was hearing \$200,000 was restricted and coming from a gas fund and should not be used for this particular project, but was also hearing there was a funding source that the Clerk was suggesting and thought it had to do with the Fire Discretionary Fund. The Clerk said it was still Sales Tax but sales tax that was not currently going in to the Transportation Fund. She said she did not like audit issues but did not want to turn money away and was why she supported this initially and did not understand at the time they had to front the money. She said she would rather see it come from a Funding source the Clerk was comfortable with and they could still get the park.

Chair Holt asked if he was saying to get it from Fire and pay back with the Recreation fund, if Public Works did the work, why could they not do the work and be paid from the Fire fund.

Mr. Thomas said under that scenario it was clearer they were being fully reimbursed from money that was not already in their fund. He said in the past when Public Works did any work, they were using fuel tax dollars and if they did work outside of Transportation they needed to be reimbursed above that to cover their costs.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when this grant was applied for, the in-kind service of Public Works was brought up for the application for this grant. He said what he was hearing from the Clerk; anything Public Works does come from the Sales tax money and has to be reimbursed. He said as he said in December, anything Public Works does in any park in the County...

Mr. Thomas said the concept of Public Works doing in-kind work was flawed because of the fuel tax. Commissioner Viegbesie said his point was this has been a tradition and practice in the County for a long time. He said the former County Administrator, who was the Director of Public Works for the longest before coming County Administrator, should have known this, so they have been doing things deemed...Mr. Thomas said when the Finance Department at the Clerk's Office heard they did anything, they insisted they be reimbursed and gave them an example of the parking lot behind the Administration Building. He said Public Works graded that and did work and they were fully reimbursed from the General Fund for said work. Chair Holt said they could get the \$200,000 from the Fire Fund, use that, Public Works does the work, and put the \$200,000 back into the Fire, Public Works still is not compensated...Mr. Thomas said they would reimburse Public Works, that money would go to the Capital Project Fund and would reimburse Public Works for any work that they did. She said they were taking \$200,000 from Fire and Mr. Thomas pointed out they did an Ordinance that allowed the use of Sales Tax and they were taking money but nothing was free. He said the concept of Public Works in-kind did not exist, they had to pay and it was more of a match than in-kind.

Chair Holt asked if there were any comments from the audience and there was none.

Commissioner Taylor asked for a point of clarity. She said at the meeting they approved this, her motion was that this be a one-time thing to allow Parks and Recreation to be entered into this and was nothing that was set until they had an opportunity to come back because there was some issue with Parks being part of this and she did not want to turn money back. She said she wanted to be clear it was voted in specifically only to receive this funding. She asked for help: \$60,000 was going for engineering; \$25,000 was already budgeted for this project; \$200,000 that was guaranteed was coming from DEP (reimbursement grant) but they wanted to get the project underway before the money came. Mrs. Jackson explained it was a reimbursement grant and once Public Works invoiced for their services for \$140,000 and DPB and Associates invoiced them for their \$60,000 engineering fee, a check would be cut from DEP for the \$200,000. Chair Taylor said with \$25,000 being budgeted, they only needed \$175,000 for this project. Mrs. Jackson said the original plan was to put in the additional \$25,000 as a match to make that project go even further but could be pulled back out if that was the will of the Board. Commissioner Taylor said at the end of the day, if things stayed as they were going forward, they were talking about \$225,000 and Mrs. Jackson said that was correct. Commissioner Taylor said if they were talking about putting a project out there so people could enjoy and appreciate it. She said she was not against it, she was only against it if they looked at doing it though a funding source that would cause an audit issue.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the total costs to Gadsden County for this project was and she said the total costs was \$20,000 because they originally matched with \$20,000 but was budgeted at \$25,000 just in case it was needed. She said the total cost was \$20,000. She said they would be getting \$200,000 from DEP for the grant. Commissioner Morgan asked about the land and she said the land was leveraged and thought it was purchased for \$50,000 several years ago in hopes of

building an East Gadsden Recreational facility which would include a lot of amenities. Commissioner Morgan said \$70,000 and she said correct.

Chair Holt said no matter which fund the money came from, it belonged to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Taylor said it was their fiscal responsibility to make good judgment in spending taxpayers' dollars and if they were being told that taking from a particular fund could create an audit issue, they needed to be mindful of not creating any issues but finding the best course so that they would spend their money in a manner that would not come back to cost them money.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Clerk if he understood there was somewhere besides the Transportation Fund this money could come from to reduce the possibility of any perception of impropriety and Mr. Thomas said yes. He said normally in the past they would have done so from the General Fund, but in this case they said they wanted to use the surtax and that goes into two places: the Transportation and the other Fire. He reiterated he felt it would cause a problem with them taking it from Transportation and use it to repay Transportation. He added he felt that if taken from Fire it would not adversely affect it because there was a \$1.3 Million fund balance in that account and only \$600,000 fund balance in Transportation. He said by making that simple change, he felt they could avoid some of the appearance that fuel tax funds were being used.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE THAT THEY CHANGE THE FUNDING SOURCE TO BE FROM FIRE AND FIRE FUNDING COSTS TO BE REIMBURSED UPON RECEIPT OF GUARANTEED MONEY FROM DEP AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**4. Sheriff's Deputy Training Request-SWAT Association 2018 Basic Sniper Course**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to seek funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training, boarding, and per diem costs for one GC Sheriff's Office Deputy Investigator to attend the upcoming Florida SWAT Association (FSA) Basic Sniper Course occurring March 5-9, 2018 in Orange County.

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

**5. Amendment to the Contract for the Resurfacing and Reconstruction of Howell Road**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the amendment to the contract for resurfacing and reconstruction of the Howell Road Project in District 4. She said it was originally awarded in the amount of \$704,028 and after the bid came in, it was around \$264,896. and the new agreement was in the amount of \$379,885.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR TAYLOR. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked for clarification on the money and Mrs. Jackson said the breakdown was attached. She said originally it was \$704,028 and when the bid came in at \$264,896, it covered everything the original funding did. Commissioner Morgan asked how it was that much of

a difference in the price and Mrs. Jackson said it was estimated at that amount. She added they never know how the companies would come in with their bids and with State work they go with the lowest bid. Commissioner Morgan asked if this road was complete and she said almost complete and it would not go over the budget amount. He said they dropped it down to \$264,896 and then raised it up \$110-115,000 and Mrs. Jackson said that was the design costs and a little contingent.

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

**6. 2017 Striping Project Phase II-Change Order**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Change Order #1 for the 2017 Striping Project Phase II to AKCA, Inc. in the amount of \$38,446.40.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBSIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked the funding source and Mrs. Jackson said it was from Commissioner Taylor's paving dollars.

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

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

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to extend the current lease with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the FSA Service Office through January 31, 2019.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBSIE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**8. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson said they were needing to take inventory of all electronic devices and asked they bring all equipment to the next meeting so that could be done.

**Building Inspection Department**

She said since January there have been 154 permits pulled that has brought in \$40,853.48 in revenue and the permanent structures valued \$4,109,043.

**Supervisor of Election Building**

She said this building was slated to be painted and they had begun pressure washing and painting would soon follow.

**Code Enforcement**

She said the new Officer started in February, has closed 40% of the active cases; 100% of the

inherited code enforcement cases had been closed but two have been reopened for new offenses.

**Emergency Management**

She said CRMC has a new CEO, Alan Keesee, and they will be meeting with the EMS staff on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

She said the Resolution they passed has been filed to acknowledge Greenshade Fire Station as a Gadsden County functioning body.

**Summer Youth**

She informed them that Human Resources will post the 2018 Summer Youth program March 29<sup>th</sup> thru April 27<sup>th</sup>. She said students could pick up applications at their local High School, all three Libraries and it will be posted on the County website.

**Library**

Library Services has partnered with Mu Mu Sigma Chapter of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am-2:00 pm at the McGill Library and the topics covered would include STEM, Financial Literacy and Healthy Lifestyles. She commented it was a free event and lunch would be provided and for students in the 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

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

She said the Library would be conducting its 5 year plan on April 21<sup>st</sup> and a formal letter would be forthcoming. She also told them Library Week would be held the week of April 9<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Management Services**

She said they were working with the Census and complying with everything asked of them but it would be done a little different. She said they will not go door to door as they have in the past.

She said the structural analysis of the Jail's communication tower will be conducted on Friday. She said it was very important that the tower be in good standing for the new radio system.

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

She said they have spoken with Talquin Electric as far as partnership as a back-up to utilize their tower. She said upgrades would still need to be made if the analysis showed as needed.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they could be looking at a budget amendment and Mrs. Jackson said TEC was OK with partnering with them but she would know more after Friday.

Commissioner Morgan recommended having the vendor come to the Board to give an update and Chair Holt said to bring them in during the workshop so they would be able to ask questions.

She said there was an update on the Election Cyber Security at the dais.

She said the Website development was underway and they expect to have it up in the next four to five months.

**Public Works**

She said the Cooks Landing Road striping would be complete this week. She said the last landfill the County had was in Chattahoochee and they were expecting DOE to close it out soon and was scheduling an appointment with them and it would be closed as soon as they received the OK from them.

She said the speed limit for Dogtown Road was reduced from 55 miles per hour to 45 mph.

She said the mowing season started on March 5<sup>th</sup> and they have increased the mowing crew to five this year; all the mowers are new except for one and should cut faster and the blades were set lower than previous years.

She said to cut costs staff has discussed purchasing a paint machine to do striping and that would make them able to stripe the smaller roads themselves and would save the County money.

Commissioner Taylor said they approved a maximum of five acres for a minor development and Mrs. Jackson asked for more details. Commissioner Taylor explained if a developer wanted to develop a portion of land and place houses there and has 10 acres, that would make him go through the full process because it was considered a full development and if he wanted to develop five acres, would that be considered a minor development.

Clyde Collins, Building and Planning Director, appeared before Board to explain. He said that was a minor subdivision and was five lots or less. He further explained if there were ten acres, they could do 2 five acre lots or five one-acre lots this year and 5 more the next year. Commissioner Taylor asked why 5 and he responded that was what the Land Development Code said. He further said it was seven and there were the extra two if did site builds, mobile home park, mobile home minor subdivisions were five and it was said they could not discriminate against mobile homes or manufactured homes so they went back to five. Commissioner Taylor said that was not thoroughly explained. She said when some of the developers in the County appeared before them, the goal was to get them in and be able to start building but there was still competition in Wakulla and surrounding Counties because they were still restricting themselves by not completely understanding some of the things they agreed on.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was a question for the Administrator because they were now discussing something that was not on the Agenda. Commissioner Taylor said she did not understand the concern and Commissioner Morgan said his concern was...Chair Holt interrupted and asked that they stop talking to each other, address the Chair so they could figure out who was speaking on what. She asked Commissioner Taylor, if she wanted to have this agendaed and Commissioner Taylor said she was after clarity on this situation and felt they should look at increasing if they wanted to stay in the market of bringing developers in. Chair Holt said when Ms. Gutcher comes back for the Comp Plan meeting that would be the time to address that. Commissioner Taylor asked if it could be agendaed and brought back to amend. Commissioner Taylor asked other questions regarding acreage and set-backs. Chair Holt said they needed to do this in a workshop and that case is not the only one. She said they have to read the Comp Plan and the Land Development Code and have a workshop.

Mr. Collins said they were addressing this in their Land Development Code and would be coming



before them.

Chair Holt said they needed to move on with the Agenda. Commissioner Taylor said she was trying to do that by asking intelligent questions at a pace she was comfortable with. She asked if the concerns that she just addressed would be coming before them and was told yes.

Chair Holt said they had seen the report on the Supervisor of Elections but they needed information that would satisfy the citizens regarding the census.

Chair Holt said with regard to the students, they needed ambassadors for the County and instead of sending them so far out, they needed to pull back where they were being sent to.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions and there was none.

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

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

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

###### **Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan asked to have the County Administrator position placed on the Agenda for discussion and action and made a motion to do so at the next meeting.

He said the second item was to ask the Board to review the current lease with TCC where the Sheriff's Office and Department of Public Safety was located. He asked that the Board direct the Administrator to begin new or refreshed discussions about a new Administrator Building being constructed in front of the Jail and then subleasing their lease to the City of Quincy if they wished to remain in that building. He said they needed to reduce their costs at that building.

Chair Holt said the money they were supposed to get for that building, the \$23 Million, they lost the proposal on the Federal level. Commissioner Morgan said this was strictly regarding a new, smaller Administration building and was nowhere near \$23 Million. He said he was asking they open up discussion again, this was in the works a few years ago and was pulled at the last minute. He said he wanted the conversation opened again.

Chair Holt said she was fully engaged in the lease; but she was not there yet for the Administrator's position; Commissioner Morgan said his request was to have it placed on the Agenda for discussion and action and she responded she was not there yet and asked if there was anything else.

Mrs. Jackson asked for clarification with regard to the lease with TCC. Commissioner Morgan said his request was to contact the Sheriff for discussion and bring back to the Board at the appropriate time. He asked her to look at options for costs savings, how long would it take to recoup money and felt they would find it would be less than three years.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she only had one concern and it had to do with what happened a few minutes ago when the Administrator had the floor. She said they were asked if there were any questions and she had comments to make. She was concerned with not being able to talk with her and have her questions addressed, did not want to be uncomfortable when she wanted clarity on issues moving forward, did not want her rights taken away and did not want to be out of line.

Chair Holt said on the items, they could ask questions or make comments at any time during the presentation of the Administrator or the Attorney but they had to stay on track. She said once they had the idea of her zoning concerns, they could get the research done and then bring that back.. She said that was why she kept asking what she wanted them to do. She said they had a workshop and had to stop it because Commissioners were saying they were unfamiliar with the Comp Plan and Land Development Code. She added they were paying an expert to come in and if she was making a comment about what she wanted, once the comment was made, Mr. Collins appeared and addressed her questions, the Manager made comments and Chair Holt said everything was done in the Land Development Code and Comp Plan and they had to let the Manager and Attorney know what to do and stay on the Agenda. Commissioner Taylor agreed with staying on the Agenda and said she did not quite understand and was why she had several questions. She explained this was a weak area for her and why she had several questions and going forward stated she needed to understand and felt it was out of order to her and did not want that to happen in the future. Chair Holt said she had been on this Board for almost sixteen years and they had to read the book; they could not pay experts to come in and talk to them about Planning and Zoning issues and Land Development Code when they were not prepared. She added that her concerns could be fixed but they had to have workshops.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked Public Works and said they have done a wonderful job with Dogtown Road and said they had decided, within the power of the County, to reduce the speed limit from 55 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour and no trucks will be allowed on that road.

**Lighting on State Road 12**

He said he has asked for lighting and CRTPA wanted them to do some engineering studies to determine what parts of the road need the lighting on so they could begin to consider that.

**Pedestrian Crossing on Pat Thomas Parkway**

He said this road was being resurfaced and CRTPA said they were going to put Pedestrian markings in front of Wal-Mart and have bike lanes from I-10 to Wal-Mart. He said when it came to the pedestrian crossing; it was not on their engineering plan to have it across Pat Thomas Parkway so pedestrians could cross safely.

**Attapulugus Highway (County Road 65)**

He said it was already in the CRTPA/FDOT budget in 2020 for \$305,000 to be used for planning and engineering; in the 2021-2022 budget \$2.507 Million would be used to resurface and widen that road. He said they were working on Gadsden County road projects and there were quite a number of roads that would be in the future Gadsden County project across the County. Chair Holt asked if he would like the Commissioners to turn in a list of roads they were interested in and he said let him make the current list with Public Works available to the Commissioners to see what roads

were on the list and if there were some they wanted to add, he would advocate for that in the CRTPA meetings before it was locked in.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said she would like the Architect continuing contract be brought back because he was on a continuing contract and it cut out other architects for bidding on projects.

*Commissioner Taylor left at this juncture of the meeting.*

She said she felt it was very discriminatory for it to be in place and prevented others from having the opportunity to bid and wanted it re-addressed.

She said she did not have a problem with the streamlining in permitting and thanked the Staff and Manager and said the workshops on the afternoons were going well. She said if they were not able to make it and had concerns they wanted the Manager to bring, call her early and they could straighten out whatever it was in the Workshop and if they were unable to be there, they could have it ready when they came at 6:00 p.m. She said she was not trying to cut short and said she hated Commissioner Taylor left; she was just trying to stay on task.

**Receipt and File**

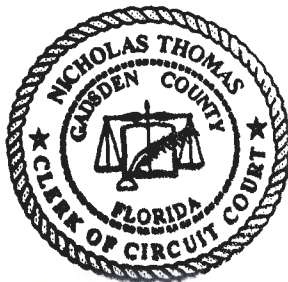
11. FDLE Letter dated February 1, 2018  
FDLE Letter dated February 1, 2018

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

March 20, 2018-4:30 Pre-BOCC Workshop  
March 20, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:08 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 MARCH 20, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2  
Eric Hinson, District 2  
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 welcomed everyone to the Commission Meeting and asked that phones be silenced or placed on vibrate. She asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and 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 an amendment to the Agenda to add an Agenda Item for a lease agreement for buildings located at 15 and 17 East Jefferson Street for additional temporary space for County employees as Item 14a and at the Pre-Meeting Workshop it was brought up by a Commissioner to move the Travel Policy to the end or to pull the item to workshop it.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what the Item number would be for the item being added to the Agenda and Mrs. Jackson responded it would be 14a. He said he was the one that suggested they table the Travel Policy item and workshop it first. Chair Holt asked for clarification on the procedure and Mr. Weiss said if they wished to pull it, they could do so at this point.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO PULL THE TRAVEL POLICY ITEM AND A WORKSHOP BE SCHEDULED AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were voting on the Agenda as a whole or what they were doing. Chair Holt said they were voting on the Agenda as a whole and would then vote to pull the item. Mr. Weiss said at this point, if they wanted to make an amendment to the Agenda, the motion would be to amend the Agenda and then move for approval of the Agenda as amended. Commissioner Morgan said there may be other items that they may want to amend or pull and would they be voting on that as well or one particular item. Mr. Weiss said the cleanest way was to do the one item and then they could address other potential amendments.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE ITEM BEING PULLED.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION AS 14b AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION**

**FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADD AGENDA ITEM 14a TO THE AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF ITEM 14a.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Malina Murray who was selected to represent Talquin Electric Cooperative at the NRECA National Youth Tour in Washington, DC**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and Chair Holt asked Ms. Murray to step forward and the Commissioners met her in front of the dais and the Chair read the Proclamation aloud and it was presented to Ms. Murray.

**2. Historic Courthouse Restoration Update**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item.

**James Lewis, Clemons, Rutherford and Associates**, appeared before the Board. He said they were awarded the contract last year; they have spent 6-8 months dealing with the State to get the contract approved, and modifying the grant to get the scope and budgets coordinated that the State would approve. He said at the beginning of this year they did get the contract and was ready to go. He said he had hoped to get some documents that would show what the existing conditions around the Courthouse was and initially would be working on a water issue where water was getting into the building at the basement level. He said that scope of work may be costly and might require some hand digging. He said they then would go to work on the cupola and windows. He said the process would likely require an extension and was uncertain as to where they were in getting that from the State.

Chair Holt asked once the foundation was taken care of with the water issue, would it look any different. He said they should not see more than a subtle difference, with the water issue and that would mainly be with landscaping but with the cupola and windows, they would see a difference after it was cleaned, joints resealed, and windows replaced or restored.

Commissioner Morgan asked if he knew the extent of the water damage and the potential of more or unknown problems. He said there was always a possibility of finding something and when digging on the outside they never know what would be uncovered. He said on the inside there may be mold that would need to be dealt with and there was always a possibility of uncovering asbestos. He said water getting in the building would be the first priority and when it came to construction; they would take care of the basement first. Commissioner Morgan asked if it concerned him that this would be the second extension requested and he replied no. He asked if things lined up correctly, when did he see to be a final date and Mr. Lewis said the substantial date was September 29, 2018 and the final date was October 29, 2018.

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was present and said he had no report.

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **February 20, 2018 Pre-Meeting Workshop**
  - b. **February 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes**
4. **Ratification Memo-March 6, 2018**
5. **Ratification Memo-February 20, 2018**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. PUBLIC HEARING: (Quasi-Judicial)-Perkins Ridge Preliminary Plat (SD 2018-01)-Consideration to Request a Replat of a Lot in a Recorded, Platted Subdivision**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Perkins Ridge Preliminary Plat to replat Tract 5 of the Bert Ridge East Recorded Subdivision, Tax Parcel ID #3-23-2N-2W-1519-00000-0050, an 18.92 acre parcel into two parcels.

Deputy Clerk Blocker swore in Ms. Jeglie and she gave a description of the subject parcel and said the parcel was located in a Rural Residential subdivision and was before them because it was located in a platted, recorded subdivision. She said that prevented it from being handled administratively and required them to go through a quasi-judicial action. She informed the Board that the Planning Commission recommendation was 7-0 to approve this item and found it compliant with the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan. A Citizens Bill of Rights meeting was held on November 16, 2018 and had no attendance and met the Public Notice Requirement of the Land Development Code including advertising in the three local papers and to the property owners within 1000' and a sign was posted on the property.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was only an observation; why was Option 3 recommended if members of the PC Board recommended this and why not Option 1. Ms. Jeglie said that was in the event they wanted to add any additional conditions.

Commissioner Morgan said his question was to Commissioner Viegbesie's point. He said if they had gone through the process and everyone was comfortable with it, he felt this would be something that the Administrator or appropriate party to recommend something to the Board.

He said they relied on the Administrator to make recommendations to the Board. Mrs. Jackson said she was still learning and staff was very comfortable with moving forward with this item and there was an option for the Board to amend the item and was unsure how to go about doing it. She said she agreed with Option 1.

Commissioner Hinson said in all fairness, he had been on the Board for almost five years and his only concern was he thought there was a policy in place for sidewalks and Chair Holt said years ago they were trying to connect businesses and communities' together.

Ms. Jeglie said there was some criteria for sidewalks in major subdivisions but isolated, large parcels were not required to provide sidewalks.

Commissioner Taylor said she had two questions. She said in looking at Option 1, would they be able to sell this lot and Ms. Jeglie responded yes, it would create a legal lot. Commissioner Taylor asked if this area would now be now restricted to who could purchase the property. Ms. Jeglie explained this particular piece of land allowed 1 unit per acre and if they wanted to put a single family home there, they could, but if they wanted to create additional lots they would have to come back before the board. Commissioner Taylor asked if the Perkins' had expressed what their intentions were with the lot and Ms. Jeglie said he was present and she would let him answer that question.

**David Perkins** appeared before the Board and said they were giving the lot to their son to build a house on it. He said he had gone through all the steps and had done what was necessary to do things the right way to give one lot for one single family home.

Commissioner Hinson said if not mistaken the policy was changed a couple of years ago to allow families to be able to give to families and if that was the case, he did not have to come here and go through that process. Chair Holt explained in this case, the property was already platted and in order for that to happen, it had to be replatted. There was further discussion regarding the replatting.

Chair Holt asked if there were any comments from the audience and there were none.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH THE CONDITIONS AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**7. PUBLIC HEARING: (Quasi-Judicial)-Perkins Ridge Final Plat (SD 2018-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Perkins Ridge Final Plat, the replat Tract 5 of the Bert Ridge East Recorded Subdivision, Tax Parcel ID #3-23-2N-2W-1519-00000-0050 to be filed and recorded with the Clerk.

Chair Holt explained the previous item was the preliminary and this was for final approval and asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak and there was none.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, THE COUNTY ATTORNEY WISHED TO SPEAK.**

Mr. Weiss recommended a brief presentation since this item was quasi-judicial.

Mrs. Jeglie gave a brief presentation of the item.

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

**8. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-002, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL amending Chapter 2, Article V, Division 5 of the GC Code of Ordinances regarding the GC Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, to delete the automatic sunset provision in Section 2-244, providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the GC Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at a "Public Hearing", and correction of Scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date; and adoption of revised Bylaws for the GC Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, deleting the automatic sunset provision.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article V, Division 5 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances regarding the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to delete the automatic sunset provision.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was a public hearing and Chair Holt said she had announced it and there were no comments.

Commissioner Morgan asked the original reason for having a sunset provision. Mrs. Jackson said she was not here when this was originally discussed but her understanding was it was not a Board that the County traditionally had and the Board decided to do a sunset provision to see if it was still needed in the future. She said there had been some interest from community members and it had gotten some follow-up from persons that were on the Board who would like to see it continue and help to make decisions for all parks in Gadsden County. Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a current full Advisory board in place and she said yes. He asked how many members were on the Board and she said they just added an at-large member and there were 6 with each Commissioner appointing a member and the at-large member. Mr. Weiss and the Chair corrected her that there were currently 7 members to not have an even number.

Chair Holt announced again it was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none. She asked the will of the Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. PUBLIC HEARING: Adoption of Ordinance 2018-003, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL adopting Chapter 66,, Article III of the GC Code of Ordinances, the Gadsden County**



**Emergency Repair Program; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at a “Public Hearing” and correction of Scrivener’s Errors; and providing an effective date**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of adoption of an Ordinance codifying the Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program.

Mr. Weiss said in 2007 the Board started budgeting funds for the purpose of providing citizens that resided in home that were in need of immediate repair or improvement due to substandard living conditions or insufficient accessibility and did not have means or ability to make those repairs or improvements. He further explained the criteria for the distribution of budgeted funds were set forth in the Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program policy, as amended and the procedure and criteria in the policy were unclear in some respects, which led to some questions and confusion regarding the application. He said this proposed Ordinance would codify the Ordinance to make clarification to what currently existed in the policy. He said he wanted to point out when the Ordinance was drafted, there was a current limitation of \$2,000 per household for improvements and was since informed the limit had been \$5,000 per household and needed to be made a part of the motion.

Chair Holt said this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

She then asked if this program would follow the guidelines of the SHIP program. Mr. Weiss said it was similar but did not completely mirror the SHIP program and one thing that was different, SHIP had a rolling application process but because of the nature of repairs involved with this Ordinance, the idea was this was for emergencies and had no waiting list. He further explained it would not roll-over and everyone would have to reapply every budget season.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to keep things simple and felt the way it was now was on point; the Board had put in more funding for this program. He said he would hate for the older citizens that worked in tobacco fields for a long period of time and had no Social Security, should not go through the stress and pain of the conversation they were holding. His recommendation was to let this go and move forward on what they had here. He added he did not think anyone abused the program.

Commissioner Viegbesie said it was his understanding that anyone that needed help had to apply and no Commissioner could ask for help for any citizen. He said the reason he asked this, he visited an elderly person whose accommodations were deplorable. He then forwarded their information to the County Administrator so they could tell the citizen what process to follow to possibly get assistance with what the County could do within the limitations of the resources to help this particular citizen. Mrs. Jackson said typically a citizen would reach out to the County, not the County reaching out to them.

Mr. Weiss said the Commissioners could notify citizens of the availability of the program, his recommendation was instead to have the citizen contact the Administrator to avoid any appearance of the Administrator being prejudicial or biased.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Attorney regarding this ordinance, he had no problem supporting an Ordinance they could enforce and understood the reason for the Ordinance to be

in place for this program. He said they just heard a lengthy discussion about a specific part of the program and asked where in the Ordinance it addressed that concern.

Mr. Weiss directed him to page 5 (7 of 9) Section 66-53-Funding; Procedure, and explained the procedures that were to be followed.

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to see in the Ordinance where it stated who had the say-so who received the money, if it was specifically spelled out who had the authority to grant funding.

Mr. Weiss said it was ok if they wanted to include that expressly in there and did not think it was an issue to do so.

Chair Holt stated she had no problem with that and they could add “J” stating that a BOCC Board Member or Members would not be involved in Emergency Housing Repair Program.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Hinson and with Commissioner Viegbesie in what he did reaching out and sharing with Staff. She said the individual would still have to complete an application, submit required documents, plus other documents before they could be approved and making a phone call did not give approval or tell the Administrator to put that person through. She said they were representatives and could or should be able to make a phone call but not coercing her, she should not be mandated to do anything outside the law for any of them.

Commissioner Morgan said he never indicated that a Commissioner could not call; he said they did not have any say-so on how the dollars were spent or who received assistance.

Commissioner Hinson said someone had to fight for the senior citizens and if they go against the policy, it was saying a lot to the citizens. He said they had control as of today to make the decision and once they changed the policy, it could stop the relationship of helping the seniors. He said he never called her (SHIP Director) much; she would call him if someone was there from his District.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if he understood that every Commissioner had an allotment for emergency home repairs and it should not be at the discretion of the Commissioner as to how much went to help a homeowner.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not talking about not helping a citizen that needed help. He said they had to remember they were using taxpayer dollars to do this and owed it to the public, the folks receiving the money and to the Board to make it as clear and spelled out as it needed to be. He said each district had the same amount of dollars and did so to make sure the dollars would not be un-proportionately spent in one area of the County because there were needs all over the County. He said he would not support an ordinance that did not have a purpose that they could not enforce.

Chair Holt said the problem has been traditionally that a Commissioner would call and say they wanted someone’s house fixed and the public thinks it was done because that person campaigned for them. Commissioner Hinson asked if there had been complaints and Chair Holt

said there has been many complaints.

Commissioner Taylor said she would receive calls from all over the County and would direct them to the proper Commissioner. She said if it were an emergency, they did not want to make people wait 30 days for assistance. She said the Commissioners better open their eyes because it could be “political sabotage” for them. She continued and said there was nothing wrong with way it was, had been here for 10 years and no-one has complained to her about it.

There was more discussion around the dais.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if what was in place now would continue until a workshop was done and Commissioner Viegbesie said yes.

Mr. Weiss said in terms of the advertisement, it was a one-time thing for the application period to be opened.

Commissioner Morgan asked how the Ordinance would affect the timing of any application process and he responded it would not. Commissioner Morgan said this could potentially impact in positive way of the process and procedure was clearly outlined, it was only codifying the process.

Commissioner Hinson said sometimes funding was allocated to Commissioners throughout the State so they could use the money accordingly. He said no-one ever questioned this, this was his first time hearing anything mentioned, but no-one ever did anything illegal and felt as long as no-one went their over budget and did what they were supposed to do, they were making it too difficult for the seniors.

Chair Holt asked if any applications had been received and Mrs. Jackson said she felt it was a good time for the Clerk to speak about his concerns with no Ordinance.

Mr. Thomas said this program goes back a while and was separate from the SHIP program. He said it was a designated revenue source and this program was a stand-alone program. He pointed out they were using general dollars on private property. He said when they took a second look, they questioned the use of the dollars without an Ordinance and stated there needed to be one declaring that this was a public purpose to use general dollars on private property. He said the money was from a dedicated source from tax on recording of documents, it is collected, sent to the State, goes into a State Trust Fund; the State then would appropriate to the Counties. He said it started out with \$10,000 and thought it would be incorporated into the SHIP Program and never was. He felt there should be an Ordinance if they planned on continuing this type of program.

Chair Holt said there was a motion and second out there and was going to call for the vote in a second. She said they had to have a policy in place; it was not slowing anything down.

Commissioner Viegbesie called the question.

Commissioner Morgan asked to restate the motion.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND WORKSHOPPED AND MEANWHILE THE CURRENT PROCEDURE WOULD STAY IN PLACE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was an Ordinance in place already, the Clerk interjected and said there was no Emergency Repair Ordinance in place. Commissioner Taylor asked why the bills were being paid the last few years. Mr. Thomas said they thought the program would be incorporated into SHIP and was \$10,000 and it never happened. Commissioner Taylor asked if he was making rules as he went along and the Clerk said they felt it was to the County's advantage to have an Ordinance to reconcile all of this as they went forward with that amount of expenditures in the future that should have been done initially.

Commissioner Taylor said they approved this in October and no-one ever raised an issue with the amount of money and if there was an issue they should have been told. She said no-one ever said the Clerk was uncomfortable with the new threshold and now people were not getting services. She asked what they do now with submitted applications.

Chair Holt said she very seldom agreed with the Clerk but this was one time she definitely agreed with him because they were the policy body, it was not for him to say "you need a policy for this", it was for the Board and the Attorney to say it. She said she would rather have the Ordinance in place and they could then do the workshop because they could always pass another workshop Ordinance.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**10. Consideration of Resolution 2018-001, Revising Gadsden County's Travel Policy**

Item Pulled

**11. Sheriff's Office Duty Firearms Acquisition**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to seek funding from the confiscated funds account for the purchase of 45 duty rifles, 25 duty pistols and necessary accessories to be used by the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department. She also pointed out that all Sheriff's Deputies had to purchase their own fire arms.

**Bobby Collins, Gadsden County Sheriff's Department**, appeared before the Board.

Chair Holt asked Captain Collins about the process and asked how long they had been working on it. He responded for a year. The Chair asked what the hold-up was. He said they met with Connie McLendon in the Finance Department, asked what process they needed to use and several things were outlined. He said the packet was sent over for review and they never heard anything. He said at the time Ms. Pondexter was working directly with the Clerk's office and in July last year the Sheriff asked him to take over the task. He said he asked via email for a meeting and at some point the meeting was granted and they met in July last year. He said they did everything, but by the time they were prepared to come before the Board, the quotes had

expired and was told by her they needed to refresh their quotes. He said there had been minimum contact with her with some other issues. He said on February 19<sup>th</sup> he received an email outlining everything needed to come before the Board again; they prepared an Agenda item for March 6<sup>th</sup>, but missed the deadline because they were tardy in getting quotes from one of the companies and they were now here today. He said he had an email where she said they could move forward with the purchase by use of the forfeiture funds if it was granted by the Board. He said it was always a battle and felt it was totally unnecessary.

The Clerk wanted to respond. He said there was money in reserve for Law Education Trust Fund money and confiscated property money and there was State oversight to it and there was one form that the Sheriff's Department and Ms. Pondexter was aware of that was necessary and there would be no problem and they had refused to attach that to the documents. Chair Holt asked what the document was and the Clerk said a State form that goes to FDLE that had to be signed.

Captain Collins said "let me educate him because I'm not an idiot. I know what form he's referring to. We've sent that form over there. We do it on every LEEF request". Mr. Thomas started to speak. Captain Collins continued, "To help you out, it's the CJA Form 24, that's the same form we use for LEEF payments, which you all hadn't fulfilled those, \$68,000 over two years. But you say that's the hold-up. You can go on Connie's desk right now and they are stacked up neatly on her desk, I saw it with my own eyes. Don't sit here and say that's the hold-up."

Mr. Thomas said anything that was owed to the Sheriff was booked and easily disbursed based on that form and the whole audit process was being held up because their Finance Department was in an absolute mess right now and was why the audit was being held up for everyone.

Chair Holt said the reason she brought this to the Board's attention, when they voted on things, they were under the impression that they would go. She asked what the issue was, there were other items that were questioned and they needed to workshop this so they would know what was going on, not just with that but with other departments.

Mr. Thomas said everything that was owed to the Sheriff's Department could easily be disbursed with proper documentation.

Chair Holt said she spoke with the Sheriff for over an hour and he was "livid" and she spoke with two other Constitutional Officers and asked that they tell her what was going on. She said there had been instances with them and was told later that they would be paid. She said sometime Staff does not know what to do and the instances started happening, it means there needs to be a workshop. She added, "If this Board in particular, if we are going to be the governing body, policy makers, Connie's going to be the policy maker, you're going to be the policy maker, we just need some clarity and I told the Attorney this today. We need to have something because I don't have any problems with sitting down and workshoping it, I don't have any problem with taking legal action. I don't have a problem with any of this. But what I do have a problem with is the wheels not turning like it should."

The Clerk said every year they (the Board) had gotten a good audit and the Clerk kept their books. He said one of the main reasons was they insisted on having the proper documentation. He

added when they did not have the proper documentation, it caused a problem and they were written up. He said they were simply doing their job and if they wanted to make a political issue, fine. He said they would continue to do their job the way they always had.

Chair Holt said that was a good point, if it were a political issue, they needed to take care of that too. She said they needed to workshop this and maybe there were things going on with the Clerk's office.

Mr. Thomas brought up with the documentation and said for example, there were travel receipts. He said there was something called "personal responsibility" and when receipts were required, they must be had.

Chair Holt said she did not disagree, but they needed clarity and when Connie would say she was not paying for something for the TDC after they had approved it and then said she thought it was coming from General Revenue and on form stated it was coming from TDC, which was where there was a problem. She said that was things that really happened, employees took money from their own pocket and felt those were some things that had the Sheriff's Department feeling the same way.

Clerk Thomas said he thought she was talking about some cookies, Chair Holt said if they could get together, get with the Manager and see if they could workshop some things.

The Clerk said he would do a report and would outline how certain revenues could be spent because that seemed to be the problem.

Chair Holt said they just needed clarity because some of the other Constitutionals wanted clarity as well.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT THEY APPROVE THE REQUESTED PURCHASE WITH THE FORM SUBMITTED BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE CHECK CUT WITHIN 24 HOURS OF SUBMISSION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Captain Collins stated the form had been already submitted and he would resubmit it and hand deliver it.

Commissioner Morgan had questions.

Commissioner Morgan said he hoped they would reflect on the entire discussion and told the Clerk he appreciated the Clerk's effort as Chief Financial Officer to give them input and to do things the right way. He said to Captain Collins, he knew the Board, individually and collectively, wanted to do what they needed to do so they could do their business. He said the fact was, there was a right way to do things and a wrong way and sometimes there was communication that needed to be had and a time and place to have it. He added that "up here" was not the place to have it. He said they were "starving for leadership in that area and hoped the Board would reflect on that". He said his question was, were the funds coming from the Confiscated Funds account and asked for the balance in that line item.

Mr. Thomas said he did not have that with him but could provide that.

Captain Collins said he could tell what he was told a year ago. He said they had not spent anything from the account and there was \$92,000. Commissioner Morgan said they were talking about essentially depleting the fund and asked what the funds were used for outside of this type of expense.

He said normally to purchase law enforcement equipment and there was another set of funds that they were purging through their evidence process and FDLE and would be coming over and was in excess of \$6,500 so the fund would not be completely depleted.

Commissioner Morgan said this was a pretty significant change in their policy. He asked if some of the rifles would be AR-15's and Captain Collins said they all would be. Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any reason why they decided to do this now. Captain Collins said he suggested to the Sheriff in 2016 that this was a deficiency he noticed; they recently had a hostage situation in Havana and had to ask for assistance from Leon County and they were able to bring it to a peaceful resolve.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was supported by the Sheriff and Captain Collins responded yes. Commissioner Morgan then said he knew he had indicated such, but he was going to walk over the form again to make sure the packet was complete and Captain Collins responded yes.

Chair Holt reminded them that the deputies were buying their own guns and have had no consistency there. She said the need was more important than the process if they could sit and work it out. She said this had been over a year and that was her point.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ACTION.**

Chair Holt said she understood his frustration and did not like the implication of a right way and wrong way and that he did anything wrong, he did nothing wrong. He said he did not like that either. He said he documented everything.

Commissioner Taylor said like with the \$100,000 "over there now, you can't get your rifles, we can't get the citizens' houses fixed and I'm frustrated. That's all I've got to say."

Chair Holt said to Captain Collins, if they were moving slow in some areas, she felt it could be fixed by the Board sitting down with any of the Constitutionals and the Clerk and she believed in fixing things and that was too long, whatever the reason.

**12. Approval of Mosquito Control Contract Amendment with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said the Public Works Department just applied to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) for matching funds according to Florida Statutes, Chapter 388 and there was a contract amendment attached.

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

**13. 2018 Striping Project Phase III-Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced this item and said it was for Board approval to award the bid of the 2018 Striping Project Phase III to Emerald Coast Striping, LLC, the apparent low bidder in the amount of \$41,565.20.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Morgan said regarding the last two items, the public had no idea what they were voting on.

**Justin Ford, Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board and read a list of the roads that were scheduled to be striped.

**Curtis Young, Public Works**, appeared before the Board. He said they asked for each Commissioner to submit a list for striping and the only Commissioner that submitted a list was Commissioner Viegbesie. Commissioner Morgan asked if this was coming from existing paving dollars and he said yes. He said there was also an existing list of roads across the County to be striped and he said yes. Commissioner Morgan said it was not that they did not respond for roads that needed to be striped, they were just using Commissioner Viegbesie's paving money that he indicated he wanted to do because he had some leftover dollars.

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

**14. Peck Betts Road-Change Order 1**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Change Order #1 in the amount of \$74,345.47 to Peavy and Son Construction and referred this to Justin Ford.

**Justin Ford, Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board and said a portion of the road crossed an earthen dike and an existing dirt road that they had DOT funding to pave. He explained there were a series of pipes that crossed the road and were concrete pipes and thought to be in good shape, but after the lake was lowered to do work on the road, the pipes were more thoroughly inspected and it was determined there were issues and wanted to correct while paving the road. He said DOT looked at it and were agreeable to cover the cost of the project and it came in well under budget and the change order was being totally funded by DOT and this would allow them to close the project out.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if they were asking for more money to do this project. Mr. Ford explained there was additional work outside the original scope that needed to be done.

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

**14a. Lease Agreement for buildings located at 15 & 17 East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL for additional temporary space for County Employees**



Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of a lease agreement located at 15 and 17 East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL for additional space for County employees.

Commissioner Hinson said he received a phone call regarding this and asked if it was \$12,000 per building or \$24,000 for each.

Mrs. Jackson explained it was one building located between H&R Block and Padgett's Jewelers and they have utilized the building in the past. She said it had been brought to her attention that employees were getting sick and they were trying to be proactive and had the building inspected previously for mold and mildew and there was none but there was a lot of pigeon poop in the building and because the windows were broken, the County was unable to contain that. She added they thought they would be proactive and relocate the employees immediately and have it inspected when the inspector would be able to go there.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he asked was because the description was given as 15 and 17 East Jefferson. He asked how many employees were at the Extension Office.

Mrs. Jackson said there were eight employees and she said it had been brought up if they could utilize the Commissioners' Offices. She said it was a safety issue because there was only one security officer during the day, but also by law, each employee had to have at least 100 square feet of space. She said the offices would not allow them to provide that. She said they also needed an educational space to teach classes.

Commissioner Hinson said there were 7 full-time employees and Mrs. Jackson clarified they were looking to hire a full-time Conservationist also. He asked if they planned on refurbishing the building and Mrs. Jackson said this was a temporary solution until the new building was built. She said it would be going out for bid in April for the construction of the building and this would be a month-to-month lease. Commissioner Hinson asked what her projection was on renovating the building and Chair Holt explained they were building a new building. He said he understood that, but he wanted to know the projection so he would know how much they planned on paying.

Mrs. Jackson said they would like to have Staff in a brand new office by the end of August. She also said she knew the question was, was there any other building the County had that Staff could go into and said there was a building in Chattahoochee that was utilized as a health department and was set up as a medical facility and a lot of work would have to be done to use it. She stated it would also be an inconvenience to the Community who was used to going to the Ag Center to send them to Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned they could use the Commissioners' offices and the Break Room was there and he was trying to figure out a way to conserve money and it could be used on his Summer Youth Program or other areas.

Commissioner Morgan said he could not agree more with Commissioner Hinson and felt there were too many available options so they would not have to waste taxpayer dollars for an indefinite period of time and the options he mentioned were just some. He said he felt they needed to look at this as a temporary inconvenience and would support moving forward with those types of options and felt the other was a complete waste of money when there were other options.

Chair Holt said she was in favor of it and felt they needed to be together.

Commissioner Taylor asked what was the funding source and Mrs. Jackson said it would come from the Building Inspection budget and they hoped to be out within 5-6 months. Commissioner Taylor asked how soon they needed to move and Mrs. Jackson said almost everyone in that department has had respiratory issues.

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

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

Mrs. Jackson announced that the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility has invited Commissioner Hinson to participate in a focus group discussion on the coordination of transportation services to people with disabilities, older adults and individuals of low income.

She said the Board had called out several times to have performance measures for their economic development engines, the GCDC and the Chamber. She said Staff has put together a performance measure that would be used to determine quarterly reports and it was before them. She said they have spoken with both groups and they were comfortable with the form.

She said she wanted to clarify something that was brought up earlier regarding the Courthouse and they have not gotten an extension previously on the Courthouse and this would be the first one requested and the extension has been approved.

##### **Building Inspection Department**

Parts have been ordered for the Greenshade/Dogtown Fire Station and construction of trusses was underway. She said the new Ag Center RFP would be advertised the first week in April.

She said the Commissioner offices were ready and the keys were before them.

##### **Human Resources Department**

2018 Summer Youth Employment Program advertisement will post March 29<sup>th</sup> and end April 27<sup>th</sup>.

She reminded them about the Groundbreaking ceremony for Stevens School scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 and there would be light refreshments there.

She said the Bridge inspection schedule was before them.

Commissioner Morgan commended her on the bi-weekly updates and the updates regarding Public Works. He said he had also noticed changes where staff was located and if that would make things run more effectively, he applauded her for that as well. He asked her about his request for her to speak with the Sheriff in regard to moving forward with looking at a possibly

new Administration Building and asked what discussions had taken place regarding that. She referred that to Clyde Collins.

**Clyde Collins, Building and Planning Director**, appeared before the Board and said he had a conversation with the Sheriff and had the plans that were drawn two years ago. He said they would resubmit them and if the Board wanted to entertain building a new building, they would do it. He said the Sheriff was on board with it.

Chair Holt asked who was doing maintenance on the jail and he said his staff was doing it.

Commissioner Taylor said the Administrator had asked questions at the last Board meeting regarding the Comp Plan and changes with the minor subdivision and increasing the acreage with it and asked when it would come back before them. Mrs. Jackson said she spoke with Allara Gutchner, the planning consultant and she was preparing an Agenda item for the second meeting in April.

Mr. Weiss said that had to go to the Planning Commissioner first and probably would not be on that meeting, more than likely in May.

Commissioner Hinson asked her to expound on the mosquito spraying issue so people would know how the process worked.

**Curtis Young** reappeared before Board. He said normally citizens would call the office, leave a message and he would look at the property in the daytime to see what he would need to do to spray at night. He said if it was in a “no spray zone”, it was on that list until they called back and asked to be taken off that list.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the information could be emailed to the Commissioners so he would have it with him and he would like to make it available to his constituents.

Mrs. Jackson said yes and also it was in the paper annually and was on the County’s website.

Commissioner Hinson asked about bulk items and read off dates for bulk item pick-up in the districts and also said it would be only on County roads. Mrs. Jackson informed them the Bulk Items List was also on the website. Commissioner Hinson said he was riding on Iron Bridge Road and asked if the toll road has affected the bridge. Mr. Young said the bridges were inspected by the State and they get reports every six months.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss said he wanted to make sure everyone was aware that there was approximately two years left on the hospital lease and it provided for an automatic renewal for a five year term unless one party elected to terminate. He said if the County wanted to terminate, they had to give twelve months’ notice and would need to be brought up a year in advance. Chair Holt asked how long did they have to give the County notice and he said it was 180 days. She asked why their time was shorter and Mr. Weiss said he was unsure as to why, maybe because of the need to remove their equipment.

Chair Holt said they needed to make sure if they look at another lease, there were other issues to look at as well. She asked if the Hospital Board needed to look at it before it came to them and Mr. Weiss said they did not have to but the process could be for it to go to them first. Chair Holt said she felt it would be good to have two parties look at it.

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

##### **Summer Youth Employment**

He said Havana was split into two districts; each Commissioner/District was to have twenty-five students and would be 125 jobs for the County. He said he had to go back and look at it last year because the City of Havana only had maybe 10 kids at the most. He said District 1 was the largest district in the County, had the fewest kids when he looked at the list and thought there were some from Tallahassee on the list. He said that meant some kids from Gadsden County did not get a job because kids outside the area had gotten the job and it was frustrating.

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

He asked that they make sure it was proportionate to each district.

Chair Holt said if they looked at it, where would they work in the districts and they had to look at that. She said they need to look over it again once they sign up. Commissioner Hinson said “it wasn’t Commissioners this time, it was straight staff”.

He said they need to address the homeless program in the County and need to have dialogue to work out something to address the issue. He also said Governor Scott just added \$51,000 for the opioid crisis and there were other funding coming in and the Board needed to figure out how to target that. He said there was a facility in either St. Petersburg or Winter Haven where people could stay until they were able to get straight. Chair Holt asked if he would look into that facility and report back to the Board.

He said he wanted to recognize the Gadsden County Hall of Fame committee group and Chair Holt said for him to bring them in.

He said he also wanted to recognize Courtney Wester.

He also wanted to recognize Mary Brock, President of Quincy Kiwanis Club and that she has worked closely with the kids throughout the County.

#### **Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had a couple of items. He said there was a former Gadsden County Commissioner that passed away, James Peacock from Chattahoochee and asked for a Resolution to honor his eight years of service as a County Commissioner and they could have his

wife come in to recognize his service to the County.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO HONOR FORMER COMMISSIONER JAMES PEACOCK.**

He said he felt it was one of their primary responsibilities to hire a permanent County Administrator and if it was to be Mrs. Jackson, great and they should do it and support her. He added they were in need of a permanent leadership position in the day-to-day operations and if she was to be the one, they needed to give her that freedom. He asked that they think about it.

Commissioner Hinson said there was nothing against Mrs. Jackson and when he gave his word; his word was all he had and he had told Commissioner Morgan and the Board if they waited until after the holidays, he would support it.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she saw something interesting concerning the opioid crisis and there was a class action lawsuit being moved thru governmental agencies. She said she was watching the Leon County Commissioners and they were joining the suit against the company and recouping whatever funding the County lost trying to combat citizens who have become addicted to this. She said maybe they should reach out to Leon County and there were other Counties involved as well. She said she was not sure if there were any excessive costs but would like to hold a conversation regarding it and see if there were a fiscal impact and if could they recoup any money.

Chair Holt asked if she wanted the Attorney to look into this and Commissioner Taylor said she would like to direct the Interim Administrator to first reach out to Leon County.

Commissioner Taylor said there was a conversation earlier and was glad the Clerk was still here. She said she wanted to get clarity on what was said regarding Commissioner Viegbesie's motion on tabling the item. She said based on what was said and heard at this meeting regarding the Ordinance being tabled, but the Board being willing to move forward with what was in place; if that was sufficient enough for the Clerk, could he start paying the invoices so some of the citizens that were qualified would be able to receive assistance. Mr. Thomas said he was waiting for them to encourage this process. He said no-one ever tried to stop this program, they questioned it and when they did so, he put notice on them to justify or fix it and was waiting on them to do that. He said they had not stopped anything with the process he was aware of. Commissioner Taylor asked if he was saying he had not stopped paying for services and he said they had not stopped anything. Commissioner Taylor said earlier the Chair had said it was incumbent on this Board to fix policies and make adjustments needed so that services could move forward and if there was any hindrance in the Clerk's Office, it was incumbent upon them to fix. She said when she first became Chair around the dais; she added the Clerk's name to the Agenda so if there were any issues the Board needed to know about, that was an avenue to get the information to them. She said she did not know the Clerk had any issues or needed clarity on how the \$100,000 was to be paid and would not have set back until now. Commissioner Taylor said she was confused because the Clerk said he had not hindered it or stopped and asked the Interim Administrator if any repairs had been sent or if she had made anything happen.

Mr. Thomas said this was an existing problem; they looked at it and contacted the County Attorney with their concerns. He said some comments were made and he was not trying to tell the County Attorney what to do, but simply brought an issue to the County Attorney to get his perspective on it.

Mr. Weiss said for clarification, this had been ongoing for a little while where the Clerk's Office had questions about the program and how it worked and operated; there had been several email exchanges where Mrs. McLendon asked questions about the program and how it was operated; they responded. He said he looked into it, found an Attorney General opinion, fairly dated but suggested this was within the Board's authority; had questions about the process and procedure; responded to those questions in terms of a policy that existed and they declared that the public purpose issue was satisfied and felt the Declaration of Public Purpose was in their existing policy. He said he did not disagree that the procedures were not as clear and well defined as they could have been and in this Ordinance, they were. He said he felt when he would respond to the questions, it was satisfactory and when he received an email with the subject line in all caps and said "MORATORIUM ON EMERGENCY REPAIR PROGRAM UNTIL ORDINANCE ADOPTED" and was his understanding that the Clerk took the position that there would be no funds used for this purpose until an Ordinance was adopted. He said that was when he felt "at that point I would, it's not that big of a deal to put the policy into an Ordinance form, and I don't disagree when you have an Ordinance, it is a more substantial, I mean, the legislation is more than a policy and it does make sure the public is aware, a declaration of public purpose is very clear." He added that his understanding was that until an Ordinance was adopted, no funds would be disbursed.

Mr. Thomas said he waited on them to address the issue and felt it needed to be addressed.

Chair Holt said that was why she asked for the workshop and it was not just for the housing issue.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt like this Board should have been informed when such a position was taken by the Clerk's Office and when the County Attorney read "Moratorium" on a program the Board implemented, the Board should have been informed as a body.

Mr. Thomas said to her that was a suggestion in communicating with the Attorney.

*Chair Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Mr. Thomas said there was a meeting where some comments were stated by members of the Board about the program that did not sound very good. He said (to Commissioner Taylor) she implied to one incidence where one of the homes had been sold after repairs were made. He said there were other issues as well. He said his sole purpose was to make sure this was financially ok.

Commissioner Taylor said this obviously "was like beating a dead horse" and too much should have been said to the Board soon enough and if the bills were paid for years and the only reason for not paying them now was because the amount was raised, she did not see if they were going to spend public dollars, it did not matter the amount and if there were concerns they should have been addressed as a Board and they were not.

*Chair Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

She said the Attorney dropped the ball and was going to leave it where it was at and did say this, "We live in Quincy and this is a small, small County (inaudible). It's like on a head of a pin. We get it, we hear things, we, everything's always in the air. It's like a conspiracy sometimes it keeps programs from moving forward because people have personal agendas against them. I don't know that to be true and I'm not going to speak that. I'm just going to share that. But, when you go and take hold of a program that help the least of them, you are putting yourself in a quagmire because that's all this program is designed for is to help people who cannot otherwise get assistance. To me, it's just as important as getting them guns, because the people who need these services are the ones who made it so that the most of us who are sitting around this dais is able to sit here. These people, it's a matter of life or death to them as to what we can and cannot do to their houses. That's a matter of life or death if the houses are not properly built." She said she could appreciate the Sheriff needing guns and could appreciate houses needing to be fixed. She said she did not understand that a moratorium was in place and how could the Clerk do that on something that the Board approved. She added that a moratorium was something that they should control because that would stop a procedure, not the Clerk on something they set forth. She said if they were at the stage where someone wanted to do a moratorium, then it was time for someone to come address it. She said if they were at the stage where they were going to refuse a \$100,000 line item, it was time for it to be talked about. She said several emails were sent back and forth trying to clear up the concerns and issues and said if such a statement was going to be made like that, what was the use of them coming up if they were not respected and given the chance at dialogue.

Mr. Weiss said he was trying to remember and was sure he forwarded the email from the Clerk and may have just forwarded it to the Administrator and apologized if he did not and did not communicate that to them immediately, but he did work on the Ordinance to get it on the next agenda once he found out what the Clerk's position was so they could hopefully get the Ordinance adopted, address the issue and continue with the program as quickly as possible.

Mr. Thomas said that was simply a recommendation in emails between the Clerk and the Attorney of one way this could be handled. He then said if he thought it necessary to come here and make the recommendation for a moratorium he would have done it and would have had no problem in doing so if he thought that was the way to have handled this. He said there was an existing program and he went to the Attorney to see how it could be fixed. He further reiterated the Clerk never said anything to the Board about a moratorium and they did not take the position that they were not paying any of them. He said this was a recommendation in an email and said the bottom line was they saw what they thought was a problem that needed to be fixed to protect the County and no-one tried to stop the program. He said there were issues that needed to be fixed.

Chair Holt said it was time to move on and she was not taking any more comments. She said this was going to have to be workshopped and they needed his input. She added all they wanted to discuss were the facts that were on the table and they needed an Ordinance. She added that anytime they were spending public money, they needed something. She said with Policy and Procedure, they needed an Ordinance and the Attorney was telling them that was the best thing to do and she had spoken with another attorney and they told her the same thing. She said they all would say the same thing in dealing with public money and how they dealt with it was up to the Board to decide on how it was to be done.

Mrs. Jackson said for clarity, it seemed to be the will of the Board that everything was to operate as usual and that these were to be paid. She asked the Clerk if they should still continue to send invoices for emergency repairs and they would still be paid or no.

Mr. Thomas said, as previously stated, it was his recommendation to the Attorney that (an Ordinance) would be the best way to handle this but he left it up to the Attorney and it was up to the Board. He said that was his recommendation in the email to the attorney when they were discussing how to handle it or if it needed to be handled. He said he was not taking a position on that at this time.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not want to continue to “spew the contents of this can that is actually being spewed right now. “ He said he thought that the Board voted and passed that the current process of the implementation of the Emergency needed to continue until the Ordinance was completed and did not see why any other composition was going on when they were the policy making body of the County.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR A RESOLUTION HONORING T.J. DAVIS FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE HAVANA TOWN COUNCIL , THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said his last comment was “May God continue to bless Gadsden County”.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said she was aware there were things that came up in the meetings that they could only respond to in the meeting, but otherwise there was a pre-commission meeting and if they would come or call in to the Manager, some of their questions could be addressed earlier and they would not have to stay so late. She said when things were addressed at the pre-meeting, there would be time to get answers before the meeting but when things were asked for on the spot, they were not given the opportunity and asked that they take advantage of the two week period and the Pre-Meeting workshop.

She asked that they be mindful of the Summer Youth deadline and get applications in on time.

She asked if there was an account for Commissioners to have aides. Commissioner Hinson said he was the only one that had taken advantage of it. Chair Holt asked if there a funding source for individual aides and Mrs. Jackson said there was a funding source for student workers.

Commissioner Hinson said it was agreed that he could have aides and Chair Holt said that was when he was Chair. He said no, it was every year; there was no one time. He then said there were some facts they did not have all the facts on. He said they talked about it and he was always in the street and his position at the time was to get an aide. He said it was told that he could not have an aide, but was minimized to him having student workers. Chair Holt said if there was a funding source if they approved an aide and if not, they did not. Mrs. Jackson said they did not have a funding source designated for an aide and Chair Holt added for Board members. Chair Holt said she remembered Mr. Lawson told them they had to go through the



employment process.

Mrs. Jackson asked for clarification if students were to go through a hiring process or be appointed by Commissioners.

Chair Holt said in order for a person to be employed as an aide, they should have to go through the hiring process.

Mrs. Jackson said from now on all student workers would go through the interview process.

Commissioner Hinson said they were focused on \$10,000 but they have \$64 Million and they were focused on the smallest of issues.

Chair Holt said as she told the Clerk earlier, she would like some information so they could work out any kinks because there could be problems on their side and other things when they were trying to get some things done.

She said she wanted the contracts with CSA, DPB and Joel Sampson brought back to look at. She said there were two architects that could do work for them and they were excluding any other architects from being able to do any work.

She said they needed a Salary study for employees. She said there was a difference with Constitutional Officers, different departments and was no salary comparison. She said every so often they needed to “true” the system and would like that item to be brought back.

Chair Holt then said they needed to make sure when they talked to employees, they were supposed to call the Manager first and make her aware of things they wanted to have done.

#### **Receipt and File**

18. **Proclamation Honoring Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church-On the Glade 146<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:13 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 APRIL 3, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt welcomed everyone and asked that phones be muted or placed on vibrate. She then asked that everyone stand for a moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Morgan asked that the Board add the County Administrator's position for discussion and action to the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO ADD THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION TO THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, CHAIR HOLT AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Commissioner Taylor asked when would be the best time to discuss ongoing items. Chair Holt said at the end of the last meeting she asked the Manager to set up a workshop. She said she wanted to discuss purchasing procedures and some of the Constitutional Officers had questions also. Commissioner Taylor said her concern was if things were being purchased or not purchased, if things were still being stalled and did not like rumors. She then said she was unsure if items voted on to be processed at the last meeting was being processed and needed to know that today. Chair Holt said that was discussed in the Workshop at 4:30 and they could bring it back again and discuss it at the end of the General Business.

**CONSENT**

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

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. March 6, 2018 Pre-Meeting Workshop**
  - b. March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting**

- 2. Ratification Memo**
- 3. Approval to Accept the FY 2018 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report**
- 4. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehab Contract-SHIP**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Tim Borris, 154 Wire Road, Thomson, GA  
Nancy Linnan, Esquire, Carlton Fields, 215 S. Munroe Street, Suite 500, Tallahassee, FL  
Doug Hall, Esquire, Carlton Fields, 215 S. Munroe Street, Suite 500, Tallahassee, FL  
Beth Kirkland, GCDC

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**5. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-Hoover Treated Wood Products, Inc. (Azalea Project) Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan (SO-2018-01)**

Chair Holt said this item was a Public Hearing and all ex parte communication should be disclosed prior to any testimony or presentation of the case. She also stated the procedures they were to follow.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked questions.

Chair Holt asked if anyone had had any contact with anyone concerning this matter and stated she has had a conversation with Tony Holley and Tim Borris, who were with the Hoover project. She said it was not to do with this item but to encourage, as she always had, businesses to come to the County. She said it did not mean she was in favor of this business over any other business. She asked if there were any other disclosures.

Commissioner Taylor said she had a conversation with a concerned citizen that had property in the area and her position was they wanted to make sure the residents were happy because they were the ones that elected them. But she said as a Commissioner she was concerned with growth and development and jobs were needed. She said she encouraged the individual to see if they could talk and work through their differences and come up with something that was best for the community.

Chair Holt said she was in a meeting and a gentleman called her. She referred him to the Manager because of her being in a meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his disclosure, at the preliminary phase he had a phone conversation with one of the property owners and when he disclosed it to the attorney, he was told that he could not do that with any party because that constituted a violation of the ex parte statutes. He said based on that, he decided not to have any other conversations with any other parties even though he was a resident of that area. He said he did have a conversation at the very beginning of the public hearing and upon the advice of the attorney decided not to have any further conversation to avoid violating the ex parte statute.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a conversation with a property owner in Havana and with someone with Hoover.

Commissioner Morgan said he had spoken with several folks. He said his first remarks were centered on communicating with the public when there was an issue of this nature. He said he wanted to make sure that they clear something up with the public and wanted the Attorney to address communication with their locally elected officials. He said if he was a resident that lived in Gadsden County and there was an issue that was impacting the local neighborhood or something he did and he wanted to talk about it, share information and did he have the right to do that. Mr. Weiss said yes. Commissioner Morgan continued and said along with the right they have, the Commissioners had the right as locally elected officials to accept those calls and listen to their point of view. He said they did not have to and he had not shared how he felt about this project, but they owed it to the public to listen to their concerns. He said he had never understood why there was any miscommunication about that. He said he did understand about ex parte communication and revealing the conversations, but they could listen to the folks in their community give their feed-back and asked if that was correct. Mr. Weiss said there was no legal prohibition on having an ex parte conversation, the reason he had advised not to, it could create a presumption that they have been prejudiced and made up their mind based on conversations that happened outside of the public hearing. Commissioner Morgan asked if his advice to the Commissioners was to not talk to the public when they called asking questions or wanting to give their opinion on an item. Mr. Weiss said on quasi-judicial matters, yes. Commissioner Morgan went on record disagreeing with that and said he appreciated the legal advice and there was nothing illegal about having those conversations. He said he could not believe there was a restriction of him talking to one of his locally elected officials or a resident when there was a serious issue coming up. He said he has had several conversations where he listened to folks' opinion regarding this project moving forward. He listed people he had spoken to regarding this matter. He added it in no way impacted his decision but he felt it was his responsibility to listen to them.

Commissioner Viegbesie said before being advised by the County Attorney, he had a meeting arranged with citizens including Mr. Baxley for him to hear what they had to say. He said that was when he was told he could not do it because of the ex parte statute.

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item at this time.

**Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She gave a brief description of the agenda item. She said the Planning Commission heard this item at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and it was continued to the March 15<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting to allow for more time for the applicants to meet with notified property owners and intervening parties to discuss the project. She said the applicants were represented by Anthony Holley, P.E., Jim Stidham and Associates, Inc. and there were two intervening groups, Tall Timbers and the local property owners who were represented by attorney Randall Denker.

She informed the Board members that at the March 15<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting, they voted 6-1 to approve this matter and the options were listed on pages 6-7 of the Staff report.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if she had specific reasons why it was a 6-1 vote. She said she could

only provide a summary and there was testimony given by adjacent property owners and there were concerns with property values, stormwater, pollution, contamination and traffic.

**Nancy Linnan, Esquire, Carlton Fields**, appeared before the Board. She said they agreed with all site plan conditions and were also adding two more tonight. She said they would be providing directional down lighting to prevent glare and said when the Settlement was completely signed, it would be filed tonight and was to be accepted into the record and as a condition of Site Plan Approval. She said they did hold two meetings, the first one they were asked to hold a private meeting with Tall Timbers and the Intervenors and they did not want to do that in a public setting. They held the meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> at their office in Tallahassee and had 25 people in attendance. She said a second meeting was held for property owners within a 1000' notification zone who may not have been able to make the first meeting and Tall Timbers was also included in that meeting. She said they met in Havana and as a result of the two meetings, they arrived to the two settlements, the latter being this afternoon with the intervenors.

**Tim Borris, Vice-President of Operations, Hoover Treated Wood Products**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He gave a brief explanation of the planned operation of the plant. He said they were the World's largest producer of fire retardant treated wood products and that would be the main focus of the company. He said fire retardants were used in life safety applications; schools, nursing homes, hospitals, multi-family housing and places where building codes require fire retardant products. He gave the difference in a wood preserving plant and a fire retardant treating plant. He said they would treat finished wood products and would then be kiln-dried and all chemicals used contain no VOC's and was water-based. He said they were committed to hiring 15 employees with an average salary of \$40,000/year and there was a strong preference to hire local. He informed them the hours of operation would be daytime and would be an exception if they had to run longer; there would be no trucks that would be serviced on the property other than their forklifts, they would hire commercial carriers. He said they had been asked why they chose Gadsden County and he said Florida was a very strong fire retardant using State and Gadsden County will serve the Florida market. He said the land was zoned heavy industrial and had the availability of rail, water, and gas. He said he believed they could be good neighbors and contribute financially to the County.

**Anthony Holley, with Jim Stidham and Associates** appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He said the site was 65 acres and the buffer would now extend 150 feet more than map showed as per the Settlement Agreement that was recently reached between them, Tall Timbers and the Intervenors. He said of the 65 acres, they were looking at 11.86 acres for development that would include the site and roadway. He informed them that the water and electric would be provided by Talquin Electric and a septic tank would be provided for the office building. He said stormwater was a major concern and it would be broken into two separate basins and an area of natural vegetation will stay in place as part of the settlement agreement with the property owners. He further stated as part of the Tall Timbers agreement, the stormwater facility was increased by 150% approximately to provide an additional buffer for a larger storm event and to provide additional sediment capture for the down gradient natural features. He said there would be six semi-trucks per day on average and fifteen employee vehicles. He also said the facility would use downward directional lighting to prevent any light pollution to adjacent property owners.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Weiss with the minor changes that were mentioned, would it

require it to be readdressed by the Planning Commission and he responded no.

**Doug Hall, Esquire, Carlton Fields**, appeared before the Board. He said they had worked very hard to reach a settlement agreement and it was signed tonight. He said it incorporated the prior Settlement Agreement that Hoover entered into with Tall Timbers and all adjoining property owners have now agreed to the Settlement.

**Beth Kirkland, GCDC**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She said this item came before the Board as the active project, Project Azalea from a company that was looking to relocate in Gadsden County. She read aloud a letter of support from Coastal Forest Resources Company on behalf of Hoover.

Commissioner Holt said they now had a copy of the settlement agreement before them and it would be provided to anyone that wanted a copy.

**Randall Denker, Esquire, attorney representing the property owners** appeared before the Board and said they did reach an agreement and she did not disagree with anything that was said tonight. She did add that it was a Conditional Agreement and was based on the County doing their part adopting the points they agreed on with the Site Plan approval.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Interim County Administrator had looked over this as well as the County Attorney. She said she received a copy of the Agreement this morning and there had been a few changes made to it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was his chance to give input with regard to what was before them. He thanked the Planning Commissioners for a job well done. He also said most of the questions he had as an individual had been addressed and was very glad that the neighbors and Hoover had come to a harmonious agreement that would provide jobs for people without adversely affecting the area. He also agreed with what the property owners' attorney said that anything deviated from the Agreement would be a breach of the agreement.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt this was a win/win. He thanked the intervenors for their part and thanked Hoover for thinking of Gadsden County. He asked if the County did any research regarding cancer-free neighborhoods. Mrs. Jackson said there was research done regarding emissions. Doug Hall reappeared before the Board and said he could speak on it. Mrs. Jackson said she would rather County Staff address that issue they were asked. Ms. Jeglie said they would have to rely on their research and expertise.

Doug Hall then reappeared before the Board. He said no chemicals used were on the hazardous list. He said if there were any breach, it would be contained entirely in the building; reviewed by DEP and the only emissions from the drying process were water vapor.

Commissioner Viegbesie said that one of his concerns he had was the emissions and the solution that was used to treat.

Commissioner Taylor had questions for Mr. Borris. He reappeared before the Board. She said she was also concerned about the area. She asked if there were any health-related issues at any of the other nine plants. He said they were an industrial plant and there had been accidents but have

had no health-related issues because of the chemicals used in his 30 years of employment.

Commissioner Morgan said obviously the community was a little gun shy because of the history with the Post Plant Road facility and what was left behind. He said this sounded like a positive outcome with all the parties and thanked Hoover for considering Gadsden County. He said all growth was not good growth and they wanted good quality growth for the County. He said he was appreciative of them coming in and explaining the process, how they wanted to work with one of the County's existing employers, and with Coastal coming forth in how this would benefit them. He further stated that another positive was a local municipality that had an investment in the project. He said he was glad people got involved and mentioned they were working through processes now regarding the Land Development Code and Comp Plan and hoped this could be used as an example moving forward. He said he hoped the Board moving forward would consider the process that could help anyone wishing to come here, be able to come. He said this was a good example of why they had the Citizens' Bill of Rights and gave them an opportunity to learn. He welcomed them and said the neighbors did have legitimate concerns, hoped they would move forward in a positive manner and they may want to expand in the future.

Chair Holt said she was happy that they were able to come to an agreement. She said they had to add the inclusion of the recent Agreement. Ms. Jeglie said if they went with the Settlement Agreement, they needed to strike "M" and add the downward lighting as a condition.

Doug Hall reappeared before the board and said the neighbors would feel more comfortable with the downward lighting be specifically added to the Site Plan Agreement.

Commissioner Hinson said he has been in favor of them, thanked them for their patience, and hoped for the next time, the Board needed to start doing research and investigation themselves to make sure the Commissioners made the best decisions.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO APPROVE THIS ITEM BASED ON THE INFORMATION AND CONTINGENT OF DELETION OF "M", ADDITION OF DOWNWARD LIGHTING AND THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT SETTLEMENT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Sheriff's Deputy Training Request-Florida SWAT Association 2018 Tactical Emergency Medical Support Course**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval for funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training and per diem costs for a deputy to attend the upcoming Florida SWAT Association Tactical Emergency Medical Support Course and that the amount had increased from \$666.00 to \$711.00. She said Staff had checked the budget and there were adequate funds and the LEEF form needed by the Clerk's Office had been submitted.

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

**7. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County**



Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the contractual agreement between CenturyLink and the GCB OCC and for authorization for the Chair to sign. She said this would completely replace the E911 Primary system and this was fully grant supported.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the funding under the fiscal impact. He said this was a \$200,000 agreement and asked about the funds from the State.

**Buddy Peddie, E911 Coordinator**, appeared before the Board. He said this was a grant that had been applied for and was a total reimbursement grant and would be reimbursed when he turned in everything to the State.

Mrs. Jackson clarified this was a reimbursement grant and they were not in charge of the Constitutionals' money, that was a Clerk's Office question. Mr. Peddie further clarified the County had been awarded the grant; he just needed to get the contract approved.

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

**8. Approval and Award of Re-bid RFP 17-17 CDBG Grant Lead-Base Paint Inspections, Risk Assessment and Clearance Testing Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for the approval and award of Re-Bid RFP 17-17 CDBG Lead-Based Paint Inspections, Risk Assessment and Clearance Testing Services. She said this was required by the CDBG Office and their procurement policy was a little different from the County's. She said the original bid was advertised in all three local papers according to the County's Procurement Policy but their Procurement Policy required that it also be advertised in the Tallahassee Democrat.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the amount that was to be paid out to the Grant Administrator of the \$750,000 was a normal amount. Mrs. Jackson said they were not on that item yet.

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

**9. Approval and Award of RFP 18-04 CDBG to Andy Easton and Associates**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award RFP 18-04 to Andy Easton and Associates, Inc. for Grant Administration services and for authorization for the Chairperson to execute the contract.

Mrs. Jackson said she was the grant writer at the time of this submission and there was \$110,000 written into the grant for the services and was allowable by the CDBG office and was an amount that would be expected to administrate this grant. She said there were a lot of deliverables and this person was the contractor and had to ensure every single deliverable was done and would remove Staff from doing it because it was so tedious.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked regarding \$110,000, could they not find someone that could do it

along with other duties. Mrs. Jackson said they had to do what was allowed by the grant and the grant required that this person do it.

Commissioner Taylor asked who Andy Easton was and he was in the audience. She asked if he was recommended and she said they did not make recommendations but his name was on a list of qualified contracted vendors that had done this work in the past.

Commissioner Hinson asked why it was bid out and an RFP not done. Mrs. Jackson said an RFP was done and according to the CDBG policy, they had to do an RFP. They wanted the least amount of money spent and if they had done an RFQ they could have picked them based on qualifications and did not have to be the lowest bid. She further reiterated that CDBG required an RFP.

Mr. Weiss said that generally an RFP was proposals but not necessarily locked into evaluating based on costs alone, other factors could be considered.

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

**10. Appointments to the Quincy Historic Preservation Trust**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint two representatives to serve on the Quincy Historical Preservation Trust Committee. She added that the Quincy Garden Center sent a letter requesting the District 3 County Commissioner and the Tax Collector, Dale Summerford, be appointed.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for clarification as to why the significance of District 3 was requested when the Trust required two commissioners to be appointed. He said he was not going to oppose but would rather the Board choose which Commissioner would like to serve.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Morgan said he had received a phone call and knew that Mr. Summerford did as well, from the group to see if they would be willing to serve. He added as far as he understood, the Board had the right to appoint two people and they made a request of the initial appointment.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Board reflected the composition of the County, if they were diversified.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood her point and from the names he heard that going to serve on the Board, it did reflect diversity.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with regard to Commissioner Taylor's concern, he suggested that with this particular organization, if the makeup of the members were not reflective of the demography of the County, suggested they research historical sites in the County to include in their list of historical sites to work on improving for the historical preservation of the County. He said that he would prefer that the makeup of this particular Board was representative of the demography of the population of the County.

Commissioner Taylor asked for a list of who was on the Board.

**Allie Vanlandingham, Capital City Trust**, appeared before Board and said they service the Trustee for the Quincy Historical Preservation Trust. She said the City had already approved a couple of their representatives and they needed two names from the County. She said the other members of the committee were appointed by the original members of the Munroe family and was typically children, grandchildren and they had the ability to appoint their successor. She said the City had appointed Andy Gay, Mike Wade and Joel Sampson.

Commissioner Hinson said it sounded diverse to him.

Commissioner Taylor said with that, she did not agree with the two nominations.

Chair Holt asked if they look at properties and determine whether the properties were a historical site and Ms. Vanlandingham said they did not. She said they only determine historic preservation pieces and how to spend the money from the Trust for the old Munroe House, also known as The Garden Center and the surrounding grounds.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

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

Commissioner Morgan said to be clear, the names submitted by the City of Quincy were different from the ones that were selected.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

Mrs. Jackson said she had a couple of announcements:

Groundbreaking for the St. Hebron Walking Trail first phase would be on April 24, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Travel Policy workshop is scheduled for May 8, 2018 @ 4:30 p.m.

Development Order Process Workshop with the Planning Consultant has been scheduled for May 17, 2018 @ 4:30 p.m.

She said the Budget process has begun, they have given the Fiscal Year guidelines to all department heads, she had met with most of the Commissioners regarding their budget needs and were now getting information from the Constitutionals.

### **Building Inspection Department**

She said they had staked out the Greenshade/Dogtown Fire Station and framing would begin the next week.

She said she spoke with the architect for USDA yesterday regarding the Ag Center and he was

sending an approval email so they could proceed; it was going out for bid in the next week's newspapers.

Commissioner Morgan had questions.

**Clyde Collins, Building and Planning Director**, appeared before the Board. He said they had to advertise for two weeks, will get bids in, look over them and certify them, will make a recommendation and it would then be brought to the Board. He said it could probably be June before they were able to start on the building.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked about the employees they were talking about moving out at the last meeting. Mr. Collins said they had been moved. Mrs. Jackson said they were having the building inspected and based on that, the employees may be moving back in before the new building was completed.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the arena would be refurbished; Mr. Collins said they would build the building first and go after grants to redo the building to make it a year-round arena.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he understood that employees were getting sick and birds had gotten inside of the building. She said they were speculating what could make the employees sick because previously an investigation was done on the building and there was not mold or mildew found. She added that the only thing they could think of that might be wrong was the inability to keep down the bird poop from the broken windows.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he saw the drawings the architect showed them and thought they were doing the whole building and thought that was included.

Chair Holt said when they tried to get funding for that part, the Legislature would not give any; they only gave funding for the new building. She said they were asked why not fix the building and had to remind everyone, the State owned the building, not the County.

Mrs. Jackson said the Summer Youth employment applications were out in the schools, the County Administrator's office, at the libraries and on the County website.

She reminded them the 5 Year Plan Retreat at the Havana Library is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Chair Holt said on the Summer Youth Program, she was hoping they could have some County students as Ambassadors representing the County. She said there was no-one representing them as Ambassadors to the County. She explained that would be to welcome people into the building or at other places and could welcome people to County events, such as the fishing tournament. She said there were some events coming up with the Tourist Development Council and this would

be a good public relations process for young people to do and would like to see them do more for the County.

Mrs. Jackson said Staff received a letter from a development company wanting to purchase a piece of property located behind the Library and Centennial Bank. She asked what the will of the Board was as to how to handle future property sales. She said this was the second inquiry she had received this week.

Chair Holt said they may need to look at the Policy and Procedures to see what they may have in place.

Commissioner Taylor said at one time the County had a realtor and if they looked at that again, they could get it appraised properly and get fair market value for it.

Chair Holt said that was kind of in her area and she would not advise to use a realtor because if it was left in the open market, all the realtors would try to sell it.

Commissioner Taylor said they could fashion a contract so they would not be locked in and yielded to the Attorney.

Mr. Weiss reminded everyone there were certain advertising, notice and public bidding requirements associated with selling County-owned property. He said at one time there was something in place with a realtor that was marketing properties for the County. He said he wanted to make sure if they moved forward in that way in the future, the realtor understood the County's obligation to publically advertise and bid out to highest bidders and would need to look at the whatever the agreement was with the realtor to make sure it was not the Standard Residential real estate but would need to have certain language in it.

Commissioner Taylor said that was good information and she felt they needed to start moving property, they were starting to accumulate it and they needed to grow the revenue and needed someone that could help move it.

Chair Holt said what they were talking about was an open-listing and they needed to put Policies and Procedures in place.

Commissioner Taylor said to set up a workshop so they would be able to move some property.

Mr. Weiss said there were exceptions but not to bid at the Courthouse, that was a foreclosure type procedure and the tax deeds were done at the Tax Office. He said this was separate and he would be happy to look into it.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not believe in selling property because when you try to buy property back, it cost a thousand times the price. He said there were a lot of issues here, mental health, homelessness, opioid crisis, etc. He said there were too many serious needs in the County.

Chair Holt asked the Attorney if he could research out all the property the County was holding, and then said no, the County Administrator had the information.

Mrs. Jackson asked for direction and Chair Holt said the Attorney just said it had to be bid out. Mr. Weiss said there were exceptions and he would get with the Administrator.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss said he wanted to clarify ex parte communications. He said there was no absolute legal prohibition against having ex parte communications; the issue was if they had those conversations, there was a presumption that could arise that they have made a decision or was somehow prejudiced by the conversations outside the public meeting and the repercussions were, if the party was on the losing side of the battle, Court could say they were entitled to go through the entire process again.

Chair Holt said she agreed but her questions were when that came into play.

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if someone sent a letter saying, for example, the Interim County Administrator was a genius without signing, could that be stamped and when given to her, did that then become a public record?

Mr. Weiss said it did not have to be stamped to become public record.

He thanked the Board for being bold today and for making good decisions.

He said at the end of November or December, he made a motion to invite Head Football Coach Willie Simmons to come because it was important for Gadsden County to support their own. He then said at the last Board meeting he made a motion to bring in three other people and it has not been on the Agenda. He said one showed up and he hoped that the next week they would get in touch with the people.

Chair Holt asked if he wanted to direct Mrs. Jackson or remind her of these items. He said that was the way they had done for years.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he recalled in the conversation Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to "recognize" someone and that was different than wanting a Resolution. He said if he was asking for a Resolution, he suggested he make a motion now, get a second and Staff would work on it.

###### **Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan had nothing to report.

###### **Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said there were three people she wanted to have recognized and a Resolution issued during one of the May meetings  
Lajarious (sp) Davis, nicknamed "Pole"

Candidate - ?

Garrett Dowdell, who goes to the Group home and cuts people's hair with disabilities.

She thanked Mrs. Jackson for the groundbreaking at Stevens School and the Commissioners that took part.

She said there must be order and respect and everyone must be treated fairly and with respect. She said she heard his passion but it must be orderly.

She then said she was unable to get here for the 4:30 pre-meeting because of work.

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the residents of Potter Woodberry Road and Hoover Wood Treatment Plant for their civility, understanding and desire to enhance economic development by working out a win/win compromise and ensuring a harmonious coexistence.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt apologized but said she could not have Commissioners going back and forth in debate because sometimes things get out of hand and they had to stay on task.

She thanked everyone for the Pre-Workshop meetings and said things were going great.

She said she did not see how they could choose architects without a bid and asked the Manager about bringing it back before the Board.

Mrs. Weiss said they did bid out the continuing contract services.

*Commissioner Taylor left at this juncture of the meeting.*

He further explained as long as the scope of the service and the need was (inaudible) below the dollar threshold, they could use contracts on a continuing contract basis. He said the engineer, architect, that all fell under that consulting professionals under the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act. She said if it was under that threshold, could they rebid it each time? He said there was a threshold set by statute and did not think there was any reason if they wanted to set a lower threshold...She said if there were two people in the audience and could provide the same service, why should they not be given the same, and this has been going on for twenty projects and may go two or three years and have nothing.

Commissioner Morgan asked why they could not bid on the Professional Services agreement.

Chair Holt asked what the length of that contract was. Mr. Weiss said he believed the most recent one did not have a term on it but was at the will of the Board.

Chair Holt said she wanted to bring it back and did not see it as fair.

Mrs. Jackson asked for clarification, when they bring this item back, was it the will of the Board to bring back to revoke the current CSA or bring back with another bid to add to the current CSA.

Chair Holt said she wanted to bring it back to look at it.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he could list three people he want to recognize and wanted a proclamation for them:

Gadsden County Hall of Fame  
Courtney Weston  
Mary Brock

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

Chair Holt said she wanted the architect contract brought back.

**Receipt and File**

14. FY2017 Administrative Budget Amendments  
Letter from Capital City Bank  
Letters from USDA  
Death Resolutions for the week of March 12, 2018

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**April 17, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:43 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**BRENDA HOLT, Chair**

**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 17, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt welcomed everyone and asked that phones be placed on silent. She then asked everyone to stand for a brief silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. She welcomed the children from the Boys and Girls Clubs from Quincy and Havana that were present in the audience.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments or for approval of the Agenda.

Mrs. Jackson said the family of Mr. T. J. Davis could not be present and the item would be pulled and scheduled for a later date.

Commissioner Morgan asked that discussion of the County Administrator's position be added to the Agenda.

Commissioner Viegbesie interjected at this point and asked of the Attorney, that he understood the person or people that were on the losing end on the vote of an item were not able to bring it back on the Agenda and asked if that was correct. Mr. Weiss said if they wanted to move for reconsideration of an item or move to rescind an item that was true, they had to be in the majority. But for an item they were wanting to add to the Agenda, he did not think there was any reason they could not propose that in terms of discussion and added if there had not been action taken on the motion.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO ADD DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION TO THE AGENDA AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON  
WITH A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson said his word was his bond but when he made the motion to appoint Mrs. Jackson as Interim County Administrator, it was a temporary situation and thought this was a process. He said this was during his re-election and he went against the grain and moved forward because the Commission said it was a process. He said they moved forward and sometimes in a leadership position, there had to be tough decisions made and he made one move in finding a County Administrator. He said they were now going through a process, but since they had gotten to that point, they were not trying to move forward and to him that was politics. He said he told Commissioner Morgan in November when he brought this up that he would entertain this after the Christmas holidays. He said he liked the Interim County Administrator but his word was his bond.

Commissioner Taylor asked that they separate the two items.

**CHAIR HOLT SAID THE FIRST MOTION WAS TO REMOVE THE RESOLUTION FOR MR. T. J. DAVIS AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Chair Holt then said a Motion was not needed for that, Mrs. Jackson had stated they were removing it from the Agenda because Mr. Davis was not there.

Mr. Weiss said typically if they were amending the Agenda, they needed to have an approval and if doing it as an amendment or approval, they remove it and approve as amended. He added if they were taking up two separate motions...but they were right and there was no motion and he thought the consideration could be at the time of the approval of the Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION UNDER GENERAL BUSINESS AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, CHAIR HOLT, AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

#### **AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution Honoring the Life of Mr. James E. Peacock**

Chair Holt introduced the above item and asked everyone to step forward.

Commissioner Morgan read the Resolution aloud and it was presented to Mrs. Peacock.

**2. Resolution Recognizing the Years of Service for Mr. T. J. Davis**

Item pulled.

**3. Proclamation Honoring Mrs. Mary Brock**

Commissioner Hinson asked Mrs. Mary Brock to come forward and read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to her.

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

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

#### **CONSENT**

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

#### **4. Ratification Memo**

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Harold Bailey, PO Box 658, Chattahoochee, FL**, appeared before the Board. He said he was before the Board as a result of the meeting this morning of the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation (Rec) Advisory Board. He said he had been asked to assist with marketing and they were in the process of forming a new baseball team in town, Gadsden County Cardinals. He said it was an adult baseball team that ranged from ages 16 years old and up. He said there was to have been a Showcase Classic this past weekend, but it was rained out. He said he was here on behalf of the Cardinals to let them know about it and it would take a little money to do it right. He said there were a franchise fee, uniform costs, baseball costs and insurance costs. He said the bottom line was \$1,900. He said all parts of the County were involved in this matter and they had plans of coming about other monies but needed some start-up money. He said they were excited about it and thought it would be something good for the County. He said he would like to see the Gadsden County Parks and Rec adopt the team and sponsor them.

Chair Holt explained any item that came before them had to come to the Administrator. She asked that he contact the Administrator and a meeting would be set up.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **5. PUBLIC HEARING (Legislative) Adoption of Ordinance 2018-004 for the Perkins Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendments (SSPA 2018-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to adopt Ordinance 2018-004, a Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and transmittal of the amendment to the Florida Department Economic Opportunity.

**Jill Jeglie, the Senior Planner**, appeared before the Board and explained the item. She said it was a 6.7-acre parcel that was owned by David and Tamara Perkins and they were represented by Elva Peppers; was currently Ag II and they wanted to change it to commercial. She said there were no wetlands on the property, no level of service issues, and the roadway was currently at 12% of its daily capacity and only at 15.8% at peak hours. She said a Citizens' Bill of Rights meeting was held, was advertised and there was no-one in attendance other than Ms. Peppers and Mr. Perkins.

She said the Planning Commission recommendation was to approve (6-0) the ordinance adopting the FLUM amendment. She said Mr. Perkins was a Gadsden County resident and would like to move his business from Leon County to Gadsden County.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Scotland Road was paved approximately 10 years ago and thought this road was in the long-range CRTPA widening plan for 2020-2022. He did not think the capacity issue would be of any concern.

**David Perkins** appeared before the Board. He said he owned Perkins Electric, was an electrical contractor, wanted to build a shop on the parcel and it would be used only for storage.

Chair Holt asked again if there was anyone that wanted to speak regarding this item and there was no-one.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Jeglie if there was any significant discussion at the Planning Commission.

Mrs. Jeglie reappeared before the Board and said she could not remember who was present on the Board at that meeting. Commissioner Morgan said to the Chair it would be helpful in the future if they could have the discussion and who was present at the Planning Meeting.

Mrs. Jeglie said they could provide draft minutes if they were available. She said the item was discussed and supported, he asked if there were any concerns and she said no.

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

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Northwest Rural Area of Opportunity Boundary Change**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity regarding the Northwest Rural Area of Opportunity boundary change and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents. She also said if this item did not pass it would make them ineligible for monies.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any other changes other than the boundary and she said no.

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

**7. Write-Off of EMS Accounts-Bad Debt**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to write off the bad debts that totaled \$558,101.49 and the amount was to be turned over to a collection agency to try to collect the debt.

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

**8. Approval of the County Email Policy Number 18-02**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the proposed County Email Policy Number 18-02, which would supersede County Policy Number 05-001 Internet Access and Electronic Mail Policy for County Employees. She said technology was much more advanced now and they were expanding on the policies.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the original copy was attached. He said he would like to have an original copy as well as the strike-thru and underlined version to see the changes better. Mrs. Jackson said previously it was the Email and Internet Policy and it had been expanded out where the Email Policy alone was seven pages and there was no way they could do a red-line version. He asked if they were getting rid of the entire old policy and she said yes.

Mrs. Jackson said when there was a separation of an employee from the County, the former employee would be locked out from the email account but the County still had the privilege to get into the account.

Commissioner Viegbesie said during the Pre-Commission Workshop that question was brought up and his understanding and response was the retention policy was yet to be developed. Mr. Weiss said there will be a separate Retention Policy that had the various Retention Schedules that were required per Florida Statutes for Public Records and there were provisions in this Policy that also addressed Retention but without as much detail. He said one thing that needed to be completed in this Policy was in Section "K" for providing Back-up media and in talking with IT Staff they thought ten years was a reasonable amount of time for emails and attachments to be stored in the "cloud".

Commissioner Taylor said the question was asked earlier if whether or not the old policy had any emphasis coming forward and was told no. She said there was a lot of language from the old policy that was reflected in this new one so that statement was not correct. She said she was also concerned with the timing of this policy and felt they may be facing this issue with litigation and it concerned her. She felt there were statements in the policy that should be discussed before making this a Policy; one, in particular, was dealing with political activity. She said they did need Policy and Procedure in place regarding this but generating one at this time concerned her.

Mrs. Jackson said if any litigation happened it would be under the old policy. Chair Holt said this was addressed in the Workshop and said that no matter what they did in the County Email, it was public record. Commissioner Taylor said her concern was how they would enforce some of the "nevers" and how could it be enforced with their Government provided political positions, language, opinions, etc.

Chair Holt said they had to update the policies and had no choice.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood the concerns that his fellow commissioners had on the item, but this policy had been in existence since 2005.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt it was important that the Board realize it was only as effective as it was enforced.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**9. Approval of the County Internet Usage Policy Number 18-01**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the proposed County Internet Usage Policy Number 18-01 would supersede County Policy Number 05-001 Internet Access and Electronic mail Policy for County Employees.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Attorney if he had any concerns with this item and he said no, but on page 7 of 9 there was an inconsistency under “Examples of Acceptable Use of the County’s Resources” and the last bullet point says “Incidental use of the internet (i.e. less than 10 minutes at a time) but on Page 8 of 9 he made a proposed change that said no longer than 10 minutes during a work day. He said that was an inconsistency that would be changed. He said also, as they knew, anything that pertained to County business was public record and did not matter if it was on a personal email, personal Facebook page, Twitter, etc. He said it was a good idea if something came on a personal page to forward that to their County email but if it was on Facebook that was a little harder. He reminded them it was public record and had to be retained somehow.

Chair Holt asked if they were doing something at their house on their internet and someone sent you something regarding the County on Facebook, should they forward it to the County’s Facebook page?

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was a question he raised during the workshop and with the proliferation of and the extent of which Social Media and the degree to which it was emulating everyone’s lives, his understanding was anything that had to do with the County that was posted on their own Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, etc. was public record. If for some reason there was a public record request, those items should be made available to whoever was requesting the public record.

Mr. Weiss said that was accurate but the question was how it was done. He said he knew if something was sent to their private account that dealt with County business, it should not be deleted from that site until it was retained but was unsure exactly how that would work.

Chair Holt said IT needed to get with them and show them how to do it.

Commissioner Hinson said he was told to send it to an email.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt this item was one they needed to take some time on.

Commissioner Hinson said for the record if they received something; send to their County email, he said they were told to do that in an Ethics course.

Commissioner Taylor said someone made a point to give the Attorney some direction and she agreed to a workshop.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE TO WORKSHOP THIS MATTER.**

**10. FDOT Highway Beautification Program at I-10 Interchanges**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Chair to sign a letter from the BOCC to the FDOT District 3 acknowledging that FDOT mitigation funds were available for Highway Beautification on FDOT Right-of-Way and including a determination as to how to partner with FDOT on deploying those funds at Gadsden County Interstate 10 interchanges.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when he looked at this item, he was elated about it and it came from a discussion that started when Four Star Freightliner wanted trees cut. He said for budgetary reasons and for the sake of expediency, he was looking at Option 2 where the County would pay approximately 10% of the costs for it to be started by the end of 2018 as opposed to Option 1 when the process would take approximately 1-1 1/2 years from now.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the costs to the County.

**Beth Kirkland, Executive Director of GCDC**, appeared before the Board. She asked Staff to pull up the website, North Florida Corridor.com, a website that was procured by a State Marketing Grant by the four regional Economic Development Organizations across the I-10 corridor to brand as the North Florida Manufacturing and Logistics corridor. She said the Development Council had invested through the same grant process in the Expansion Solutions Magazine and there will be three different appearances throughout the next few months to hone in on the community and participation in the Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone as a part of this manufacturing logistics corridor. She said they had an opportunity as a community to make this County stand out because there were 4 interstate interchanges within the borders of the County. FDOT recently advised there was \$243,584.70 currently available in the District 3 fund bank that was available to use in the Highway Beautification program.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there would be enhancements at each of the four interchanges and she said correct. He then said that basically the dollars would be spent on trees, etc. and she said for instance, it was services related to the purchase of plant material, fertilizer, and the costs of the labor associated with the installation of planting that the designs indicated. He said his questions were what the cost to the County was because in return, the County would have to maintain it. She said yes and she would look to the Public Works Department to help her better understand that. He said in order to make a decision he needed to know what the fiscal impact would be to the County and how would that be prioritized as far as to what should be done now in each of their districts as a primary role.

Mrs. Jackson said until the letter was sent to DOT, they would not know what the plans were, this was just to get started with the letter saying they were interested in the Beautification process.

Chair Holt said there was discussion at the 4:30 Workshop and her question was to see if they could negotiate any of that or a way to get together to see if the State would maintain it because of rural fiscal restraints.

Commissioner Taylor said both options talked about reasonable agreements and seemed with

both they were agreeing to do some type of maintenance. She said she would agree to any form of beautification.

Mrs. Jackson said there was a sample document attached and they could draft the letter however they chose to do.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was referring to the maintenance agreement between Leon County and FDOT. He said there would be maintenance costs and that was where they could go back to District 3 Secretary through CRTPA to explore what the estimated costs would be and what type of subsidy they might could get from FDOT since they were a rural, fiscally stressed County.

Chair Holt said there was data they could look at.

Mrs. Kirkland explained the difference in the options.

Commissioner Hinson said this was something he had brought to the Board the past 4-5 years, and every time he traveled to Plant City or Hillsborough County, they have beautiful palm trees. He said he also traveled to Washington County, they placed palm trees there as well and he was excited about it. He said he was waiting for them to make the County look like it deserved to look.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mrs. Kirkland for clearing up the items but the options they were talking about voting on was not what was before them; it was something completely different from what he saw on the Agenda. He said he wanted to beautify each one of the interchanges. He said his original question was they had to have a game plan on how to manage and maintain the areas. He said they did not need to advance any dollars when there was no reason to do so.

Chair Holt asked if there was a deadline on this and Ms. Kirkland said funds were available for all counties in District 3 and were on a first come, first serve basis, and there were 16 counties in District 3.

Chair Holt said if they applied for it, they did not have to accept it and Commissioner Morgan said that may have an impact in the future.

Commissioner Hinson said he concurred with Commissioner Morgan but at the same time, in reading the document, it was kind of clear and with that being said, he would like to see if they could get the ball running. He said they were not fiscally strapped, the County was in great financial condition and have gone from \$2.5 – \$3 Million in the Reserve up to approximately \$6 to \$7 Million and have been doing a great job with the General Fund and this was a great way to lure people into the County.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed and did not think there was anyone that did not want the funding.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND THERE WAS DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS AROUND THE BOARD.**

Ms. Kirkland said it was the recommendation of FDOT that they handle one interchange at a time



because it was hard for them to manage on their side a JPA (Joint Participation Agreement) that would encompass four interchanges.

Commissioner Taylor said that was not what was said earlier, four interchanges was said. Ms. Kirkland said that was not her intention, they could prioritize.

Chair Holt asked if the interchange they decided to do did not require the \$243,584, could the balance be used on another interchange. Ms. Kirkland said she understood from the FDOT Staff that the letter could say that the County would like to do highway beautification with all four interchanges and understood the amount of funding available today.

Commissioner Viegbesie said personally, as the County representative on CRTPA, he had no problem requesting that Susan Estes come to give a clearer understanding of the process so they would know what they would incur after a year.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON RESTATED HIS MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED THE MOTION BE AMENDED FROM "ONE" INTERCHANGE TO "THE" INTERCHANGE.**

Ms. Kirkland said that once FDOT was engaged in the process, through the recommendation Commissioner Taylor made regarding the interchanges and the data was collected, it could come back before the Board for a decision to be made.

Chair Holt said she would rather have one beautiful one and not one that did not look like it had everything.

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

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

Mrs. Jackson said the Parks and Rec Advisory Board met this morning and they have decided to meet monthly.

The groundbreaking for the East Gadsden Park and Multi-Purpose Complex in St. Hebron is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

The EMS workshop is scheduled for Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

The Travel Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. Mrs. Jackson asked since they tabled the Internet policy, could that be added to that workshop or did they wish to make it a separate workshop. Chair Holt asked if that was a meeting day and it was not. The Board agreed to add it to the Workshop.

Mrs. Jackson said there were quite a few policies to come before the Board and asked if they would to have three policies at a time, a workshop or do it the way they have been doing and bring

it before the Board at the meeting.

Chair Holt said she felt it could be brought before the Board and could then vote if they wanted to workshop the item.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss said they had entered into a Contract with the Medical Examiner that was effective October 1<sup>st</sup> last year that provided for a potential 13% increase of rates on either June 1, 2018 or the completion of the new building. They have not started construction on the building yet and would probably be another year before the rates went into effect. He said they needed to think about what they wanted to do when that rate increase took effect. He said he spoke with the Leon County Attorney and he was going to take a look to see what their proposed rate increase was so there would be a comparison as to what it may be.

Chair Holt said she had previously requested a meeting/workshop with the Clerk to work out things such as purchasing or whatever and asked for an update. Mr. Weiss said he was not sure what attempts had been made as far as scheduling a workshop; he and the Administrator had made attempts and have not received a response from the requests. Mrs. Jackson said there had been no response from the Clerk on anything from any of their attempts. Chair Holt said it was important they to continue to reach out to the Clerk to resolve problems they may have and said other departments were asking the same questions and were having problems.

Commissioner Morgan said with regard to the increase with the Agreement with the Medical Examiner, would that be postponed or would it happen beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Weiss said it should be postponed but he will follow-up on that. He said the way the Contract read was the rate increase takes place either June 1<sup>st</sup> or when the building was completed, whichever happened last.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said every year he's asked the Board to add 10 additional jobs for handicapped students for the Summer Youth Employment Program and was told this year it would not happen. Mrs. Jackson asked if he meant 10 additional jobs or the 10 jobs already set aside. He said 10 jobs were already set aside. Mrs. Jackson said 10 jobs set aside for disabled students and then each Commissioner picked 5 students each and Commissioner Hinson said it was 10 last year. He said maybe they needed to encourage staff to do some customer service training. He said he was asking the Board to continue to make this happen so kids could work this summer.

Chair Holt said this was brought up before and asked about liability. Mr. Weiss said they could not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Chair Holt asked that he look into it and bring it back.

Commissioner Hinson then thanked the Chair, felt this had been a good meeting, and thanked

them for being prepared.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan commented regarding the Parks and Rec Board and thanked Mr. Bailey and said he was the first that agreed to serve on the Board. He said he would need direction pretty quickly and if they decided to support the ball team, there might be funds in Parks and Rec and it would need to be budgeted.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she appreciated the presentation from Mr. Bailey.

*Chair Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Construction in Shiloh**

She said she understood there was some road development going on that was causing issues with roadways and she had had some phone calls. She asked if anyone had received any calls. Mrs. Jackson said she had not received calls and asked Curtis Young if he had and he had not.

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

Commissioner Taylor asked that they let her know something the next day so she would have clarity on the issue.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting.*

She said she was informed recently there were contracts being signed without Board approval. She asked if that was so. Mrs. Jackson said there were a couple of discrepancies that they would be brought before the Board at the next meeting. Commissioner Taylor asked if no contracts had been signed prematurely. Mrs. Jackson referred that to the attorney.

Mr. Weiss said yes, his understanding was there were a couple of contracts that were signed without Board approval, apparently they were related to items that had come before Board and had been approved but there was some confusion as to whether the specific contracts, one related to the Parks and Rec Trail in St. Hebron. He said the issue came before them several times but the actual Grant Agreement never did come before them for approval and there was some confusion as to whether or not the Grant Agreement had been approved. He said the same thing happened with the Four Star Freightliner, the issues had been before the Board several times and was part of the extension of utilities in the right-of-way and one thing required was to transfer utilities from the County to Talquin. He said the issues had been before the Board but those documents had not.

Commissioner Taylor said the Chair should never sign contracts without authorization from the Board. She said this was an ideal situation for an emergency meeting to be called if something needed to be signed due to time constraints. She said anytime a contract was signed without authorization from the Board it was not a binding contract and there had to be some ethics there and felt advice should have been given to see if the Board could be convened.

Mr. Weiss said he agreed 100% with that and his advice was not soft on it and he never had

knowledge of it and agreed that the contracts should not have been signed without approval.

Chair Holt said in that situation, she wanted to clarify it for them. She said the paperwork on that was with the other paperwork and all paperwork was signed at one time. She said what they approved the paperwork for those items was in the same packet and was the reason it was signed. She said it was a misunderstanding.

Mrs. Jackson asked the Attorney to clarify this a little further because they both felt like both of the contracts had been before the Board and had been discussed in detail and everything around it had been approved and felt it was the Clerk's attempt to...

Chair Holt said everything was there together.

Mrs. Jackson asked the Attorney to speak on that again.

Mr. Weiss said as previously stated, the Agreements should not be executed without going before the Board. He said he understood the confusion because the items were before the Board in various times, in various manners and if that was what happened and it, for whatever reason, the actual Agreement that was signed was mixed up in some things. He said he could understand how that confusion could happen but did not condone...

Commissioner Taylor said once this Pandora's Box was opened, she said she heard when Mr. Weiss said that what was signed was not actually approved by the Board; it was a discussion but never a formal approval for those particular contracts to be signed and really never happened. She said she was not against moving items and was not trying to stall anything but wanted to see it done the right way and was concerned when she understood there were contracts being signed. She said if the Attorney was sought or not sought, and should have been especially when there were such gray areas and concerns as to whether or not this was actually a Board approved the item, then advice should have been sought from the Attorney. She said based on what she just heard, the contracts should have never been signed. She told Mrs. Jackson it concerned her and "Once you start this, then it does not stop because now you've opened up Pandora's Box and that concerns, now we're getting ourselves into some litigation issues. Now already we're having issues back and forth with the Clerk and here you have a contract that are being signed that had not gotten Board approval and gives them additional ammunition for push-back."

Mrs. Jackson said both items would be brought back to the Board in a blank form for Board approval and one was concerning the Recreational Trail Grant.

Commissioner Taylor said she was asking in the future that no contracts be signed by the Chair unless they were Board approved. She added that following Board's Policy and Procedures would always be put first and when questionable, seek legal advice.

She then asked if the Clerk was paying bills.

Mrs. Jackson said the Clerk since she had been Interim, has always paid the bills, a lot was delayed because he sends them back and forth, the bar changes constantly. She gave an example of one day they may send over a nameplate that needed to be purchased for one of Boards and could be

\$7.00 and next time it was sent over the following week there was a different procedure to get it paid and was that type of stuff all the time.

Commissioner Taylor said to the Attorney and the Administrator, the two entities needed to be in a better work relationship and was there anything that the Board could do or he could do or direction that they needed to have so there would be a better relationship.

Mrs. Jackson said there “seems to be a historical issue not just me as the Administrator with the Clerk and there are relationships that are toxic between the Clerk and some of the Constitutionals as well. It just depends on who it is as to whether they get pushed back on certain items. Hopefully, we can fix it. I’ve made several attempts to meet with him, have actually met with him before but just recently he stopped responding. The Attorney has reached out to him, we’ve asked him to bring his attorney in to speak with us if he felt more comfortable and he doesn’t respond”.

Commissioner Taylor said she may have made mention to the Attorney that they needed to do whatever they could to figure out how to make sure bills were paid and have some kind of ambiguity between them so they could communicate.

Mr. Weiss said that had been their intention in trying to set up a meeting to discuss a) to have some consistency and b) to know what the process was and wanted the Clerk’s input on that. He said if there was a policy that said they need X, W & Z to submit, then they need that. He said they were trying to have a better working relationship so everything was understood by everyone. He said at the end of the day if they could not get a response or a meeting, they could draft their own policies but would certainly like to have the Clerk’s input on it, but if they were unable to get it that may be the next step.

Commissioner Taylor said if she had done anything to offend the Clerk, she publically apologized and that was not her intention. She said she just wanted to have good government. She added if this continued, and she was only willing to wait one month, they need to develop a policy that they adopt and send over and that had to be implemented.

She said Commissioner Hinson talked about persons with disabilities or special needs and he mentioned 10 slots and in her opinion, the slot should not be limited because that was a form of discrimination. She said it should say at least a certain number be considered.

She then said Commissioners should be allowed to voice their opinions on Agenda Items and after voicing their opinions should not be made to feel so small, belittled, inadequate and said comments made were derogatory and negative and they all have rights to their own opinions. She said in one instance because she had problems with the Comp Plan, she was told “to read” and was a very derogatory statement made to another colleague and it cast a very dark shadow. She said they did not have to be belittled because their opinions were different.

Chair Holt said in response to some of her comments, the contracts were in a packet and signed and if they had not been in there they would not have been signed. She said she would never sign any documents without permission of the Board and did not think the Staff was aware of that. She said there was no reason to insinuate that anything was done incorrectly.

Chair Holt then said, as she has said in the past, they need to respect the time of citizens in the audience. They need to make their point, make their discussion, do their debating in a timely matter and there was time to respond. She added she was not trying to offend anyone, the packet is out for two weeks and there was time to review it, call the Manager with any questions and they owed it to the public to be prepared when they came to the meeting.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie commended Commissioner Taylor for being courageous enough to publically apologize for anything she felt she had done to offend anyone, especially the Clerk. He said his understanding was that everyone on the Board was a Christian. He said, in spite of their differences in perception, as public servants; let them seek a unity of purpose which was for the good of the Citizens of Gadsden County.

He thanked Mr. Bailey for bringing the project to the Board and said that was why he advocated and initiated the creation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He further stated this was what was needed to get the citizens, both elderly and youth, engaged.

He said he was grateful to Staff for the Greenshade building that was now up.

He also mentioned the Groundbreaking for the East Gadsden Recreation Park and Multi-purpose Complex that was announced earlier and asked that everyone come to celebrate the growth and development that Gadsden County was having.

He thanked Public Works for their engagement in the expeditious striping of the roads in District 2 and said they were looking good and improved the safety of the roads.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said with regard to the Youth program, she wanted them to consider using some of the students as Ambassadors to welcome people to events around the County.

She said there will be a May Day festival downtown on May 12<sup>th</sup> being put on by the Tourist Development Council.

**Receipt and File**

**14. FY2018 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Community Organization Reports (10/1/17 – 12/31/17)**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
April 17, 2018-Regular Meeting

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:43 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 MAY 1, 2018 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-arrived late  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt welcomed everyone, asked that they place their phone on mute or vibrate; asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

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

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Morgan asked to add discussion of the County Administrator's position.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, CHAIR HOLT, AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Mr. Courtney Wester**

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to Mr. Wester.

**2. Presentation of Gadsden County Audit**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item.

**Mr. Ryan Tucker, Purvis, Gray, and Company**, appeared before the Board and presented the result of the audit period ending September 30, 2017. He said the process began in October; they did the Board audit, moved to the Clerk's audit, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections, the Property Appraiser, and the Sheriff's audit was completed in mid-March. He said there were six different audits that were completed and were included in the bound report. He went through some of the highlights of the audit. He said they reviewed the internal controls of the County's financial operations. He said if the County spent more than \$750,000 in Federal or State financial assistance during the fiscal year, they have to do a State or Federal Single Audit and they had to do both State and Federal this year and required them to look at additional compliance requirements over major



programs. He said this was an unmodified opinion, meaning there were no modifications of their opinion that the financial statements were fairly presented in all material respects. He said the Unassigned Fund Balance was just under \$4.5 Million and was about where it was this time last year. He said the GFO recommended keeping a minimum of 2-3 months in reserve and they were just in that range. He pointed out the Miscellaneous Revenues showed \$705,138 and were a one-time revenue source from insurance on the Stevens School fire. He said there were several loans paid off during the year and no new debts were added during the year. He said there were a number of grants on the Federal level and almost \$836,000 was spent. He said there was over \$4.5 Million on the State grants and most were related to the County Road grants from DOT. He said they had to do some additional compliance testing and had a couple of findings he touched on. One had to do with the SHIP Program, the first was related to eligibility of one particular participant who did not meet the criteria spelled out in the LHAP Plan and the second was related to not selecting the lowest bidder for a couple of the contracts for the program and final item was the Annual Reports that were submitted to the State that did not agree with the accounting records. He said the County had issued their response; discussed the matters with SHIP and the issues have been resolved. He said the other findings were in the Sheriff's audit, one related to getting the books closed out in a timely manner, the books were not ready for them to audit when they came to perform the audit and they needed to go back through some confiscated funds in their Evidence Room that they need to determine the ultimate resolution of those cases and submit funds to the appropriate parties. He said the Sheriff has issued his response and was included in the document as well. He said overall the Audit went well, Staff did a good job of pulling the financial records together and the books were in good shape.

Commissioner Hinson asked how they determined if a person was eligible for the SHIP program and Mr. Tucker said they had to get income verification for each participant and keep that in the file and it was found that the one did not meet with the low-income requirement, but met with the moderate requirement. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was a County employee and was told yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said a thorough job was done and wanted it clear on the record with regard to the confiscated funds from the Sheriff's Office, it was reported there were some issues and the Sheriff responded and his response was satisfactory. Mr. Tucker said they had not verified what they had done since the Auditors recommendations but it would be looked at next year.

Commissioner Morgan asked him about the term "unmodified audit" and in the past, they had used the term "unqualified audit" and was it still considered a clean audit. Mr. Tucker said it was considered a clean audit, the terminology had been changed a couple of years ago. Commissioner Morgan said he had pointed out their "assigned" and "unassigned" Fund Balances and he had mentioned they could not include the \$500,000 insurance funds received due to the fact it was a one-time thing. Mr. Tucker said that money was sitting in the "unassigned" fund of roughly \$4.5 Million and in Fiscal Year 18 was transferred out so it was probably closer to \$4 Million now. Commissioner Morgan said the reason he wanted to mention that to the Board was that they were trending in a direction where the fund balances were going down and he knew the Board was aware of the issues that they could fall into when that happened. He said in 2008 and 2009, they were actually down to \$1.9 Million in unrestricted Fund Balances and had serious cash flow issues. He added he felt they were still financially healthy but just two years ago they were \$5.5 Million in unrestricted fund balance and it was recommended by their firm that based on a budget of the County's size, they needed to stay within that \$5-\$6 Million range.

Chair Holt said when it was mentioned that they were down before in 2008 and 2009, it was because they built libraries and people were now using them. She said with regard to the Housing issue, the County's policy said they could be low income but the Granting agency said it was low to moderate and they had to adjust what they were doing to make sure people were qualified. She said they could not have County employees getting low wages and it must be open to the public. She said some of the employees were low income and until they true up the salary base, some would fall in the moderate to low income of housing. She added if they qualified, it was almost penalizing them if they do not allow them to apply.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked to move Item 6 off for discussion.

**CHAIR HOLT SAID THERE WAS A MOTION TO EXCLUDE ITEM 6 AND ASKED IF THERE WAS A SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to pull the item for discussion. Commissioner Morgan stated he wanted to vote no on the item.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a reason why he wished to vote no on it. Commissioner Morgan said comments had been made previously; he wanted to vote no on it.

Commissioner Hinson said he always voted no on the Consent Agenda and that included today and he wanted to vote no also.

Commissioner Morgan said he wished to pull the item for discussion.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS 3-5 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**3. Ratification Memo**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- a. January 29, 2018-Special Meeting
- b. February 5, 2018-Special Meeting
- c. March 20, 2018-Pre-Meeting Workshop
- d. March 20, 2018-Regular Meeting

- e. **April 3, 2018-Pre-Meeting Workshop**
- f. **April 3, 2018-Regular Meeting**

5. **Ratification of approval and execution of Transfer Agreement for the transfer of water and sanitary sewer distribution system to serve Four Star Freightliner Property, and instruction for the Clerk to record the Transfer Agreement**
6. **Ratification of approval and execution of DEP Grant Agreement for St. Hebron Park “Walk and Bike Trail”**  
Pulled for discussion

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

6. **Ratification of approval and execution of DEP Grant Agreement for St. Hebron Park “Walk and Bike Trail”**  
Commissioner Morgan disagreed with the process they went through regarding this.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 2. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

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

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

**Gary Murray, 108 S. Shadow Street, Quincy, FL-Woodberry Road**

Mr. Murray appeared before the Board and said he was present because there was a meeting regarding Woodberry Road and felt they were “forgotten people”. He said they had raised \$10,000 of the \$17,000 they hoped to raise to get the road fixed. He said they have been working on this for over 20 years. He asked the Commissioners what they could do for them and said something needed to be done.

Chair Holt said she met with the people on Woodberry Road in 2000 and have met several times since; it was private property and the County could not do maintenance on private property with County equipment and County labor. There was more discussion about the private road.

Commissioner Taylor said the County had a process to adopt private roads and suggested he meet with the Administrator to further discuss this matter.

Paul Hoppes, 150 San Bonita , Havana, FL

Doug Hall, Esquire, 215 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

7. **Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) High-Speed Test Track Special Exception Use (SE-2017-02)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was a quasi-judicial hearing for Board approval for an application for a Special Exception Use (SEU) to allow the Florida Highway Patrol to construct and operate a high-speed test track south of the main FPSI campus.

**Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner** appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She said this was heard and recommended for approval by the Planning Commission (PC) on a 7-1 vote at the September 14, 2017 meeting. She added that the applicant filed another application to address the PC conditions of approval including buffer requirements and to propose an increase in the proposed hours of operation. On December 14, 2017, the PC voted 6-3 to recommend approval of the SEU with conditions and the requirement of a noise study to be considered by the Board. A noise analysis was provided and was attached to the Agenda item. She said there was a table included in the Staff report that provided a summary of the adjacent FLUM categories; to the north was property designated Rural Residential as well as the FPSI Main Campus; 317 acres to the north owned by the Suber family was designated Timber II; to the east was designated Agriculture 3 and indicated as Timber III owned by Bradley Road Partnership; to the south was infrastructure which was Interstate 10; to the west was Agriculture 3 which was 367 acres, 72.88 acre, and 50 acre tracts in Timber II owned by St. Joe Timberlands. She explained the rest of the Staff report to the Commission.

**Mark Brown, Chief of FHP**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He said he has made it his mission to build this training track here where they do their training and in 2016 they were awarded \$2.8 Million to use to build the track. He said that initially, he wanted a 2-3 mile driving track and due to constraints of the facility and wetlands, they came up with a 1.4-mile driving track and was double of the driving track currently there. Because of costs, they reached out to the Florida National Guard and their engineering battalion with help to build and they agreed to do so as a training exercise. He said this would save the State a substantial amount of money and would provide them to do the first large-scale training exercise in the Southeastern United States. He said this would be the first of its kind in Florida. He said over the past two years they had averaged more than \$100,000 per year on hotels for training in this County and their intention was to house the Florida National Guard in Gadsden County while they build the track, roughly 50 members for 50 days or longer. He said the plan was, once the track was built, to have every FHP member come and train on the track over a four-year training cycle. They anticipate in the future for law enforcement officers across the State to come train on the track as well. He said they had attempted to mitigate the impact with the landowners and have been unable to come to a compromise. He listed off what had been agreed to thus far. He said they would like to alter hours of operation to Mon-Tues 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; W-T 8:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.; F-S 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and no use on Sunday. He asked that in the future, if they add a restroom, they be able to put a floodlight there to be able to see to get to the restroom.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he needed to make a public disclosure statement and that he was a Professor at TCC and has 32 years on as Staff. He said there was no conflict of interest but felt he needed to state this publically before going further.

Chair Holt asked if there had been any ex parte conversations regarding this matter between any Board members and TCC or from citizens.

Commissioner Hinson said Eugene Lamb, Trustee at TCC (and former County Commissioner) contacted him and informed him that someone might be calling him regarding this issue.

Commissioner Morgan said he had spoken with folks on both sides of this issue; Harvey Suber, Paul Hoppes, Herb Sheheane, Mike Dilger and Chief Brown, Mike Dorian, and Commissioner Lamb.

Commissioner Taylor said it had been a while and she had been contacted by some of the residents regarding the noise issue.

**Robert George, George, and Associates**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He gave an overview of the details of the proposed track.

**Doug Hall, Esquire, Carlton Fields**, appeared before the Board and informed the Board his firm represented Harvey Suber and Bradley Road Partnership.

**Paul Hoppes, the Managing Partner of Bradley Road Partnership**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He said they bought the property in 2003 with the intention of building single-family homes. He said he did not believe the track was compatible with the neighbors. He said TCC owns and controls 1,296 acres and said this project would kill his project. He said there were several locations in the State that could house this training facility.

Mr. Hall reappeared before the Board. He said they tried to reach an agreement and it had fallen apart over the past week over a couple of things. He said Mr. Hoppes did not think the track met the compatibility requirements and they agreed it was a special exception use and was not permitted as is for this piece of property. He added that the only way it could be permitted was if the Board approved it as an exception from the permitted uses on this property and one of the lynchpins of the requirements that have to be met to satisfy that criteria are that it be compatible. He said when it went before the PC, one of the conditions that they imposed was that the applicant prepared a noise study and they did not have the results when they made their recommendation. He pointed out some of the points from the noise study. Mr. Hall said they felt if this was going to be approved the conditions should be very strict.

Chair Holt asked if anyone else wished to speak in opposition to the item and there was no-one.

Chief Brown reappeared before the Board and said the proposed conditions have become more restrictive since he first saw them. He talked about some of the challenges and issues with the proposed minimum conditions of approval that were proposed by the adjacent landowners.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in hearing both sides, felt the differences could be resolved if they would speak and listen to each other and said he was not hearing “no way” from either party involved. He asked if there was any way this could be tabled to see if it would help with amicably resolving the issues between the parties.

Chair Holt asked Chief Brown to step back to the podium and asked if there was a time limit with the funding and he said they had secured the funding and as far as he knew, time was not a problem.

Commissioner Morgan thanked everyone that had participated so far. He had questions for Chief Brown. He said he heard him say originally they were looking at the track to be 2-3 miles and this was much smaller and even if there were no opposition, was this the ideal spot for this tract. Chief

Brown said yes, the land was given to them. He said the best location was no wetlands and no restrictions.

Commissioner Taylor said they were close and wanted to see both come to fruition and was just a matter of working out the details. She said obviously they would like to have the best of both worlds. She said she was for them meeting to try to work this out.

Mr. Weiss said staff had done a great job in explaining the criteria to the Board and pointed out to the Board members what was needed to vote on this item.

Chair Holt said in this, they were going to have to make some decisions.

**Harvey Suber** appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He said if the track was opened up for all the State to use for training, it would be a busy track and was not intended for all of the government to use, only the Highway Patrol. He said he had spent \$50,000 getting his property approved for 1:1 housing and was waiting for the economy to recover.

Commissioner Taylor said it did not matter to her which route this took to come back to them but that they resolve their differences.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE TWO ENTITIES TO WORK OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES AND ONCE WORKED OUT, TO RE-AGENDA THIS ITEM BEFORE THE BOARD AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Weiss if he had any issues with how they were proceeding and Mr. Weiss responded no.

Commissioner Morgan asked that they put a time certain for the Board to re-address the issue.

Mrs. Jackson said they would not be able to bring this back at the next meeting but could on the first meeting in June.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AMENDED HER MOTION FOR THIS TO BE TABLED UNTIL THE FIRST MEETING IN JUNE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS SECOND.**

**Doug Hall** reappeared before the Board and asked if this item would pick up where left off with Commission deliberations or be reopened for public testimony. Mr. Weiss said that was a question for the Chair and she said she did not think they needed more evidence, they just needed to make decisions. Commissioner Morgan agreed.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONTINUANCE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING UNTIL JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>.**

Ms. Jeglie asked if the next item (Preliminary Plat) would also be continued.

Mr. Weiss said they would need to open it and then they could continue it.

**8. Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) High-Speed Test Track Conceptual & Preliminary Site Plan (SP-2017-003)**

The Chair said they had overlooked Mr. Murray who wished to speak during Citizens Comments. (Please see Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items)

Chair Holt said since the previous item was tabled, this item should be tabled as well.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THAT THE ITEM BE TABLED UNTIL THE JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING.**

**9. Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-001, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County amending Chapter 6 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, regulating the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages; 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.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances regulating the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Chair Holt stated this was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak on this item and there was no-one.

Commissioner Taylor asked for clarity regarding this item and said they would be reducing 1000 feet to 500 and this was being done in hopes of generating businesses as well as economic development. She asked what the existing businesses thought about the change and they were now putting competition in their front door.

Mrs. Jackson said she was being told the County was out of the norm by having the 1000 foot restriction from a Church or school and this was basically to change to allow restaurants to be able to come into the area.

Commissioner Taylor asked if it was specific to restaurants or could a bar come in?

Mr. Weiss said he wanted to mention the change to the Ordinance was due to 1) reducing the 1000 feet to 500 feet from schools, houses of worship and government-owned and operated playground areas; but the other thing was actually exempt certain license holders from the 500-foot requirement as well and listed the exemptions.

Commissioner Morgan asked if GCDC brought this and was someone present to talk about this item. Mrs. Jackson said Ms. Kirkland was at a workshop and Mr. Jefferson was at a Board meeting. Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a way to do this without changing the Ordinance and do this on a case-by-case basis. He added he thought there was a reason they had the 1000 foot restriction from churches, schools, and parks.

Mr. Weiss said there is or was something in the Land Development Code and did not remember if was currently there or was deleted when some revisions were made the past few years that were

related to alcohol sales. He said without changing the Ordinance they would not be able to grant this on a case-by-case basis.

Chair Holt said that there was nothing in an Ordinance that said a school or church could not be near a place that sold alcohol.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt that this warranted further discussion and was not going to vote to approve based on this.

Chair Holt said she was in favor of this item because when they advertise those exchanges, U. S. 90 or (Highway) 27, they do not go by what they had to do for the process; they go by what was on paper.

Commissioner Taylor said she was kind of on the same lines as Commissioner Morgan and had heartburn with putting alcohol next to a school or church. She added she thought the only exchange that would have an issue was the Lake Talquin exit with a church there.

Chair Holt said she believed they had annexed that into the City of Quincy and Commissioner Taylor said she believed it went as far as Wal-Mart and not past.

Mrs. Jackson said they were talking about the unincorporated areas of the County and was something that was discussed at length at the TDC meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in listening to the conversation, he did not think the 1000 feet made much of a difference and personally did not believe that morality could be legislated. He said if everybody was for economic development; they needed to move in the direction that went with others. He said he did not see any difference in 1000 feet or 500 feet.

Chair Holt asked the will of the Board.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE THAT THIS ITEM BE BROUGHT BACK IN THE SECOND MEETING IN JUNE AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **10. Approval and Execution of Satisfaction of Housing Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson 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) Housing Rehabilitative Program.

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

##### **11. Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Revised Annual Reports**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Annual Reports and for authorization for the Chair to execute the certification on FY 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.



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

Commissioner Hinson had questions.

**Sonya Burns, the Housing Coordinator**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief explanation of the item.

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

**12. CDBG Housing Assistance Plan (HAP) Revision Request**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and adoption of the newly revised Community Development Housing Assistance Plan CDBG (HAP).

Commissioner Morgan asked what they were doing here.

**Andy Easton, Andy Easton, and Associates** appeared before the Board and explained this item. He said they were the Grant Administrators for the Housing Program. He added there were some missing exhibits in the attachment.

Commissioner Morgan asked how they knew what changes were made from the previous item and Mr. Easton said Attachment A was missing from the previous package.

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

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND THERE WERE QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he concurred with Commissioner Morgan that changes should have been highlighted.

Mr. Easton said with the CDBG program, there were a lot of policies that needed to be adopted.

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

**13. Approval of Off-System Project Maintenance Agreement-County Road 268 Shoulder Construction**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval and execution of the design phase of the attached Off-System Project Agreement for County Road 268 (High Bridge Road) between Joe Adams Road and Brickyard Road for shoulder construction and other minor related improvements for acceptance of State of Florida funding.

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

**14. Discussion and Direction of the Continuing Service Contract for Architectural Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board discussion regarding the

Continuing Service Contract for Architectural Services.

Chair Holt said she asked that this is brought back. She said this item prevented other architects from bidding on items.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this was the architectural firm the County was currently working with and was told yes.

Mrs. Jackson said a need for an architect was required when she was in the Grant Writing position. She said this was bidden out and the person that won the bid was Joel Sampson and Associates.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this firm was not the only architectural firm that the County had and if there were some major architectural designs that needed to be done, those could be bid out and this was one retained for urgent matters.

Mrs. Jackson said they had an engineer that had architectural services built into his contract as well and when there are projects that they need architectural services, it is sent to both DPB and Associates and Joel Sampson to request a quote and given to the lowest quote.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how dependable their speed to the response to the County's sense of urgency for and Mr. Jackson said they were talking about Joel Sampson and Associates tonight and had had no problem with services that had been provided.

Chair Holt said it was not due to the speed of the item, it was due to the fact that they not only have just him but could be opened up to other architects.

Commissioner Morgan said they had a local architect firm that they have a contract with and he had never heard anything but glowing remarks with his services. He asked why they would want to do anything that might hamper the relationship if no reason.

Chair Holt said she was questioning the Board's process, but she had no problem with Mr. Sampson. She thought he was doing a great job; she just wanted to look at the Board's process.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he agreed with Commissioner Morgan, this firm was doing quality work.

Chair Holt said she only wanted to discuss their process.

**15. Approval to Conduct a Classification and Compensation Study**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to pay for services to conduct a compensation and classification study of positions with the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Mrs. Jackson if the compensation plan would involve a reorganization of the County.

**Lonyell Black, Human Resources Manager**, appeared before the Board and said they had a study done approximately ten-twelve years ago. She said this was a two-part process and they were

here tonight to ask for funding to start the preliminary study. She said the findings would be brought back to the Board and be inclusive of the costs to implement, if it meant to change classification of current positions to bring them comparable to what the market was; and then would be up to the Board as to whether they wanted to approve the findings and what the fiscal impact would be.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with a feasibility study and asked if they were currently only approving funds for the study. He said he had no problem with this but they needed to understand that this in no way meant they had to accept their recommendations.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to make sure this money was budgeted last year. He said he had a great idea every year of what the starting salary should be but at the same time, if they were not going to move forward, what was the purpose of paying \$18,500. He said they needed to figure out what direction they wanted to move first.

Chair Holt said she was in favor of this study “because you always true the system” and some do it before ten years and they could see where they were. She added that every time they look for someone for a position, they were trying to guess. Commissioner Hinson asked if they interviewed others or assumed this would be the one. Mrs. Jackson said they had three quotes.

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

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

Mrs. Jackson thanked them for approving the salary study. She said they were losing a very valuable employee, Clyde Collins, on June 18<sup>th</sup> and this study would help them to recruit and retain the best staff.

She requested a Proclamation for National Public Works Week for the May 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

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

She said in the Receipt and File was a letter from FAC congratulating the CCC graduates and ACC graduates.

She reminded the Commissioners that on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 would be a Travel and Internet Workshop. She said that last week they conducted an Emergency Management Workshop and was very productive.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt the workshop was very informative, suggested Staff look at hybrid options for the EMS services and see what would work for them and the County because two different models were presented and know there were others out there.

Chair Holt said they were looking at the Hospital Trust Fund at the interest only so they would not disturb the principal for EMS funding until they were able to collect some of the debts.

Mrs. Jackson said they put a list of the 2017 Summer Youth Employment recipients before them and it listed the names and where they were placed.

Commissioner Taylor said there was a request for striping on Joe Adams Road and Lakeview Road, was there a reason why it had not been done yet. Mrs. Jackson said she would check on that and get back with her. Commissioner Taylor said there were three recipients for her district for who received services for emergency repair and she asked her to follow-up with her as to who received the services.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he knew they had approved some roads to be striped.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss said he wanted to piggyback on the emergency services and the Hospital Trust. They were getting to a deadline if they wanted to discuss the contract and he asked for direction on how they wanted him to approach it.

Chair Holt asked for some information that they could look at.

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said he would like for the Board to get the Gadsden County Hall of Fame here on the May 15<sup>th</sup> Agenda and wanted to recognize them, along with Willie Simmons and Willie Taggart. He also said they needed to write the school a check as well for the football team.

Mrs. Jackson said when she spoke with him before, she told him there were already quite a few presentations for the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and when they received his information, she said it would have to be the first meeting in June. He told her “We are the boss, not the boss; we are the leaders of this County. What you told me that you can do and I agreed with that, you came back and you made the motion to put somebody here to do that and I agreed with them showing up. But I think you should be sensitive to the fact that I asked you first and you come here today and made a motion, I’ve been asking for these folks to come here for the last 3-4 meetings and I apologize, I hate the word Boss, I can’t stand for people to say the work boss. I tell everybody, don’t call anybody boss. To me, it’s derogatory to say, boss. Whatever, I hate to use that word but I apologize for that. I tell everybody don’t use that word, it’s a crazy word to use. But I asked you and we talked, you said we have a lot of stuff on the Agenda and I agreed with that but you came here today and put something on that same date that for months I’ve asked you for these other folks. The reason why I calculated that date is because of Havana’s May Reunion, right? They gonna be in town. Some people may have to come into town that day anyway and just make sense they come that same week that all this gonna be in and that’s the reason why I proposed

that.”

Chair Holt said when he had something to say to her, make it directly to her and if there was any way they could work on getting it done, get it done. She said to do it without badgering.

He said he was not badgering, he was talking generally.

He said he had no problem with her when he asked for something, he expected it to be done.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to recognize Staff for some things they responded well on. He said the reason he stayed back today, he was trying to look over some stuff and felt they needed to reflect on just being here sometimes and needed to be careful as to who they listen to as well. He said they had to be careful about which spirits they were dealing with sometimes and who they were dealing with and the person they thought might have an issue might be the person that loved them the most.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said with the EMS issue, he applauded the Board for looking at a new EMS model moving forward and thought they were doing a great thing.

He said there was some discussion about the hospital contract and the Trust Fund. He encouraged a conversation to be had with the Chair of the Hospital Board and Mr. Glazer.

He said they really needed to button down the County Administrator’s position. He said they had a serious issue with day-to-day operations currently as far as leadership and was not an individual issue. He said he supported what the Interim County Administrator was attempting to do and they needed to support her in that position. He said there was key staff that had left and others were considering that and did not have folks with tenure to be able to address some issues they have moving forward. He said it was their responsibility to make sure they had folks in place and someone with assurances that they could move forward in whatever direction they want to go.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor had no comments and started to leave the meeting.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to make a motion for a Resolution.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A RESOLUTION TO HONOR AMANDA LIGHTFOOT WHO OWNS SPLIT ENDS AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

*Commissioner Taylor left at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Viegbesie then said that Gadsden County was their responsibility and they should put the people of Gadsden County before politics and whatever they discuss and do in the dark at some point comes to light. He said they needed to take politics away and do what was for the good of Gadsden County.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt asked that if they had any questions about the Agenda, to please start calling the Administrator to give them the opportunity to do research and get the documentation to them by the time of the meeting.

She reminded them that May 12<sup>th</sup> was the May Day celebration and informed them that Curtis Sconiers was to direct a play that was to be put on that day but he died today.

She said they did a good job tonight on the public hearing.

**Receipt and File**

**19. April 5, 2018-Florida Department of State Letter**

**April 5, 2018-FAC Memorandum**

**April 12, 2018-Department of Economic Opportunity Letter**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**May 8, 2018-4:30 p.m. Travel Workshop**

**May 15, 2018-4:30 Pre-Meeting Workshop**

**May 15, 2018-6:00 Regular Meeting**

**May 17, 2018-4:30 Development Order Process Workshop**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:09 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 MAY 15, 2018 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 1  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked everyone to mute their phones, stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD DISCUSSION AND MOVING FORWARD ON THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, CHAIR HOLT AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring Public Works**

Chair Holt asked everyone with Public Works to come forward. Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to Public Works.

**2. Proclamation Honoring Mr. Willie Simmons**

Commissioner Hinson asked Coach Willie Simmons to come forward, he read aloud the Proclamation and it was then presented to him. Coach Simmons said a few words.

**3. Proclamation Honoring the 2017 Gadsden County Hall of Fame Inductees: Mr. Odester Carter, Mr. Thomas Gordon, Mr. Don Hannah, Coach Charleston Holt, Mr. Alfred "Al" Lawson, Mr. Earl Murray, Coach Vernell Ross, and Mr. David Whatley**

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Proclamation and they were presented to the Inductees and a few words were spoken.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **May 25, 2017 Budget Workshop**
  - b. **April 17, 2018 Pre-BOCC Workshop**
  - c. **April 17, 2018, BOCC Regular Meeting**

5. **Ratification Memo**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Thomas Hawkins, 308 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, 1000 Friends of Florida-Citizens Bill of Rights

Nancy Linnan, Esq., 215 S. Monroe, Tallahassee, Anderson Columbia & Citizens Bill of Rights

Darrin Taylor, 215 S. Monroe, Tallahassee, FL 32302, Items 6 and 7

Brian Schreiber 871 NW Guerdon St., Lake City, FL-Midway Business Park

Debra Chathan, 6277 Flat Creek Rd., Quincy, FL Item 8

Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson, 825 S. Virginia Street, MLK Celebration, Chattahoochee

Beth Kirkland, 221 Madison Street, Quincy, FL 32351-Items 6 and 7

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL-Items 7 and 8-Midway Business Park and CBOR

Pastor Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL – Item 8-CBOR

Arkeba Bouie, 565 Millwood Drive, Havana, FL 32333-Item 8-CBOR

Linda Dixon, 4332 Attapulcus Highway, Quincy, FL Item 8-CBOR

Antonio Jefferson, GCDC, Item 8

Lori Bouie, 4237 High Bridge Road, Quincy, FL-Super Majority

Michael Dorian, 145 Alligator Run, Quincy, FL 32351-CBOR

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. Public Hearing-(Legislative)-Consideration of the Midway Business Park Platting Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a Legislative Public Hearing for the approval of the Midway Business Platting Agreement to allow 1.43 acres of land located in Midway to be considered as part of the Midway Business Park Preliminary and Final Plats.

**Jill Jeglie, AICP Senior Planner II**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief description of this



item. She said the primary property owner is Anderson-Columbia and was represented by Nancy Linnan, Esq., of Carlton Fields. She said the need to address the portion of the plat was a condition of the final plat submittal on March 19, 2008 and all previous approvals had expired. She said therefore the applicant had to resubmit for conceptual, preliminary plat, site development construction plans and final plat. She informed them on November 11, 2016 a second conceptual plan was approved by the Planning Commission (PC) and several extensions of the conceptual plan were granted to allow the applicants the opportunity to address the jurisdictional issue with Midway and so that the conceptual plan did not expire. She said the City of Midway signed this agreement on February 9, 2017.

Chair Holt announced this was a Public Hearing and asked if the requesting participant wished to come forward and explain this item.

**Nancy Linnan, Esq., 215 S. Monroe, Tallahassee, FL**, appeared before the Board speaking on behalf of Anderson Columbia, Inc. She explained the background of this project to the Board.

**Brian Schreiber, 871 NW Guerdon St., Lake City, FL, Anderson Columbia, Inc.**, appeared before the Board and had a few words to say. He said the project was originally started in 2008 and there was a downturn in the economy at that time. He said there was more and more interest in the property and a lot of things were happening around the property and it made sense to get it done now.

**Beth Kirkland, 221 Madison Street, Quincy, FL, GCDC**, appeared before the Board. She said the Development Council had the opportunity four years ago to reorganize and document similar industrial parks around the County and have done so on their website. She added that they would hopefully be able to add the Midway Park to the website in a similar fashion as they currently had the Gadsden 10/90, Gadsden Exchange, Gretna Industrial Park, Quincy Commerce Park and the Hammock Creek Commerce Park.

Chair Holt asked if anyone wanted to speak in opposition and there was no-one.

She asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the Staff recommendations were and was told for it to be approved.

Mr. Schreiber reappeared before the Board and Chair Holt asked a few questions of him.

**Darrin Taylor, 215 S. Monroe, Tallahassee, FL**, appeared before the Board to address their questions regarding traffic counts. He said they had asked Kimbly Horn and Associates to look at the latest traffic counts and it was on U.S. 90 (none on Brickyard Road) and they looked at how much traffic was on U.S. 90 and determined what was on the road currently was not even half of what would be permitted in the adopted level of service standard.

Chair Holt said the area they were talking about was where the Waffle House was on Brickyard Road and Highway 90. She said if they were trying to get to I-10, there was no turning lane going to I-10 from Brickyard, how would this affect the number of businesses that were going in. Mr. Taylor said at this point and what had been designed, the amount of development that was

planned compared to what was actually going to occur was far less than what was proposed and would be light Industrial.

Chair Holt asked the will of the Board.

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

**7. Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-Midway Business Park Preliminary Plat (MSD-2018-02)**

Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board and was sworn in by Deputy Clerk. She gave a brief description of the item. She said this was for 33 lots located on 191.29 acres. She said the subdivision approvals expired without an approved final inspection for the final plat being approved for recording. She said at the April 12, 2018 public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended denial (7-0) of the preliminary plat because there were several reports that were missing at that time and since then, they have been provided. She said there was a Citizens Bill of Rights meeting on September 4, 2016 and no-one attended. She said as long as the Gadsden Station DRI remained in effect, the Property Owners' Association documents shall reference and include as an attached DRI SIC codes for approval and prohibited uses in the Heavy and Light Industrial category. She then listed the four options.

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

**Nancy Linnan, Esquire**, reappeared before the Board to discuss this item. She said the toughest problem was letting the prior preliminary plat expire.

Chair Holt asked if anyone wished to speak in favor or opposition of this item.

**Marian Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board to speak in opposition of this item. She was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She spoke on Attachment #4-SIC codes that were included in the packet and said they were from the 1987 DRI and it was amended or revised in 2001 and quite a few of the Codes were deleted and are not included in Allowable Uses and she wanted to make sure that particular factor was reflected in the allowable uses that would be accepted for this property.

**Darrin Taylor** appeared before Board and was sworn in by Deputy Clerk. He said he wanted to clarify that the history of the DRI in 1987 did establish land uses based on the SIC Code and there were concerns raised by the County when an amendment was proposed in 2001 to further restrict uses that were permitted and what was permitted in 2001 and was still used today. He said what was before them tonight did not amend the land usage that was permitted in any way and nothing they approved tonight would be in conflict with the Development Order.

Chair Holt asked again if anyone wished to speak for or against and there was no-one.

Commissioner Morgan had a question for Ms. Jeglie. He said he noted she mentioned the Preliminary Plat and the (Planning) Commission found it was not complete and they denied it. He said since then the requirements had been met and resubmitted and asked if they had been back before the PC and she said no. He asked what the other requirements were moving forward for the Commission to see the revisions that were made. She said should the Board approve this

tonight, it would not go back before the PC; the next step would be for them to file site plans and come back for the final plan. He asked if she felt it an issue for it to not go back before them and she said she felt they had met the technical requirements.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when he was reading the packet; his concern was what Commissioner Morgan alluded to. He said it seemed the PC was not satisfied with what came before them and if they as Commissioners had appointed the citizens to volunteer the time to do their due diligence and bring their recommendation to this body, he would not want them to marginalize the relevance to their obligation by not giving them what they needed to use to make the proper recommendation. He said why they should not give the PC an opportunity to review what their concerns were and let them bring a recommendation to this body for a decision.

Commissioner Taylor said someone alluded to the list that some items might be antiquated but was still a part of the list. She asked if they should be concerned about approving a list that had items or business...Ms. Jeglie spoke up and said they were not approving the 1987 list, that was an example and they were approving the plan.

Commissioner Morgan asked when the next PC meeting would be and Ms. Jeglie said June 14<sup>th</sup>. He asked if it were possible to have this go back before them for reconsideration. Ms. Jeglie said they did not have a quorum at the last meeting and this would be a long agenda but they did have time to add them to the Agenda.

Chair Holt explained they had to have a super majority and it took 4 votes to be in favor of this item. She pointed out that the items that were not included (for the PC) were included in their packet and should have been studied.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his concern was still the same with regard to the elements to the PC and he did not see why they should not be given the chance to see that the Board appreciated what they do as an Advisory Body. He added he did not see why the item should not be approved but did not want to marginalize the relevance of the members of the PC.

Commissioner Taylor said they did have ample time, but when she had a citizen from her district that raised concerns, she wanted to echo those concerns.

Chair Holt asked the will of the Board and no-one said anything. She said they had to make a decision as to what to do.

Commissioner Hinson said they had to have 4 of 5 votes and it seemed they would not have that and pointed out this was in his district. He said they did a great job presenting, he was for it but at the same time they could table this until June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Nancy Linnan reappeared before the Board and said the only thing the PC did not have was the large plan set that (inaudible) brought with him, which they would not have looked at anyway. She said they had the certification from David Melvin that everything had been done and built according to plans that was the only issue. She said this hearing was quasi-judicial and they could only take into account the information that was in the record and the facts before them tonight. She said they could not sell any property there by metes and bounds; it had to be legally platted and was why they were in a hurry now. She said no-one intended to disrespect the PC and she

asked that they reconsider some of their concerns and go on the information that was in front of them tonight.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Linnan what they did not see and she said a set of original plans done by David Melvin that they did not have at the time. He said he felt he and Commissioner Hinson were on the same page along with Commissioner Viegbesie, but was the simple fact that the PC had not seen the documents.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious. They could expedite the process and have a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> after the PC heard it on the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Weiss said technically they could do that, the concern would be practically they could notice it but there was not enough time to have a PC recommendation by that time. Mr. Weiss said they could publish prior to PC meeting but the problem was they could not have a PC recommendation for the Board meeting package.

Commissioner Morgan asked what if the PC had a special meeting and Chair Holt said they could not get a quorum for a regular meeting.

Chair Holt asked for a recommendation and Commissioner Morgan said option 3, to send it back to the PC because they did not have all the information to consider.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt if they allowed the Administrator to talk with the PC to see what information could remain factual and get back with the Board as soon as possible and that would be her motion.

Commissioner Morgan said he made a motion for Option 3 earlier and she never called for a second. Chair Holt asked Commissioner Taylor if she would yield and she said they were saying the same thing and she would make the second. Commissioner Hinson had comments. He said he made the motion before Commissioner Morgan did.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR OPTION 3.**

**8. Public Hearing-(Legislative)-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-005 for the Amendment of Chapters 1 and 7 of the Land Development Code, specifically regarding the Citizen's Bill of Rights**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for the adoption of Ordinance 2018-005 for the amendment of Chapter 1, Administration and Enforcement and Chapter 7, Development Orders, Development Permits, and Developmental Agreements of the Land Development Code, to amend the Citizen's Bill of Rights and move it from Chapter 7 to Chapter 1.

**Allara Mills Gutcher, The Planning Collaborative**, appeared before the Board. She said this item had been before the PC to help implement some of the comments she had received from them over the past several months to streamline the Development Order and process in Gadsden County and to help encourage additional economic development throughout the entire unincorporated County. She said she had heard from developers when they had a workshop about the process. She went over the Citizens' Bill of Rights (CBOR) with the Commissioners.

She said the first request was to move it from Chapter 7 to Chapter 1 and the second request was to reduce the subsection from its current form and remove certain aspects that were currently

required as part of the Developers' responsibility to have hearing processes from FLUM amendments, major land development reviews, variances, special exceptions, major site plans and major subdivisions. She explained the process to the Board. She said this would reduce the CBOR from its current form so it removed certain aspects to the hearing processes. The reason behind this was with variances and site plan review, were typically allowable by right according to the Future Land Use Category on which the property lies, but when talking about a Future Land Use Map Amendment, that could be a change to the type of uses that would be allowed on the property. She said the PC recommended retaining the FLUM amendment as part of the CBOR process. She said when there was a residential or agricultural piece of property and seeking to go to any other type, such as commercial or industrial, they would still be required as a Developer to have the CBOR meeting. She said the mandatory workshop would still be required; there was a clearer process on how and when that happens. She said the notice requirements were still routine and no less than 14 days prior to the workshop held by the applicant, the notification was still there and required to be at a ½ mile radius and they still have to advertise in a local newspaper of general circulation in Gadsden County at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. She said the 7 day cooling off period had been cleaned up some and was clearer.

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

She added that the application could not be changed between the CBOR meeting and the PC meeting. She said the Super Majority vote was deleted, the free-net density was deleted, conversion of rural and agriculture land to urban density in the form of compact mixed-use communities due to the fact this is a heavily rural community and to require that a mixed use compact development be the reason why they were changing from agriculture to a more dense category was not practical in a rural community. She said "Establish Reasonable Urban Service Boundaries" had also been deleted because that was a 2014 requirement and was not completed.

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

She said this had been before the PC and the County Commission in the past, it went through the PC a few years ago and they recommended that the BOCC delete the entire sub-section, it came to the BOCC and stalled, did not move forward and was now before them again. She wanted to make sure they all understood the Public Hearing process for Legislative Hearings and the Quasi-Judicial process was not going away. She asked if there were any questions.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any questions for Ms. Gutcher.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his only question to her was this was something that was established before his time on the Board and he saw the 1000 Friends of Florida and asked how many other Counties have this type of Ordinance. Ms. Gutcher said when she was doing research on this a couple of years ago, she called 1000 Friends of Florida and they only knew of two other communities in the State that had adopted a version of this model Ordinance and one pertained to CBOR hearings just for environmentally sensitive issues. Commissioner Viegbesie asked if no other County has such a restricted Ordinance in the State and she said that was correct.

Commissioner Morgan asked what type of recognition did Gadsden County receive from 1000 Friends of Florida and she said as far as she knew none.

Chair Holt said the Association of Counties recommended against this Ordinance.

**Antonio Jefferson, GCDC**, appeared before the Board and said he stood in support of what seemed to be reasonable changes to the CBOR and he posed the question again "Are we really open for business?" He said the regulation was a job killer and had not been a problem because they had been through the great recession and there was no development but now they were seeing development. He said he was 100% for citizens being aware of what was happening around them and as the proposed amendment was presented provided that level of notification, citizen participation but certainty was more important in business. He said there was inconsistency and confusion in the policy when the intended impact in it was to allow citizens to participate in the process so they would know what would occur next door to them. He said the GCDC would like the BOCC to consider this. He said they imposed restrictions that even the 1000 Friends of Florida never expected them to impose. He asked that they not be the only county in 67 counties with a policy so restrictive that it be allowed to contribute to poverty.

**Lori Bouie, 4237 High Bridge Road, Quincy, FL**, appeared before Board to speak against the super-majority vote. She felt the super majority should address the concerns of a minority and that should be identified. She said citizens should have the right to address their concerns and make certain that they were well represented; every voting issue did not have a minority concern. She asked that they strongly consider eliminating the process of the super majority vote as an over-all voting procedure.

Nancy Linnan reappeared before the Board and asked they please change the language and said as a lawyer, it was virtually indecipherable and was not a model of clarity that they currently had. She said she represented many cities and Counties around the State and many of them that had super majority requirements have done away with it. She said they did sometimes require rather than County-wide, if someone came in with a project, they had a number of days to notify neighbors and were expected to meet with them in a meeting where there could be discussions.

**Beth Kirkland, GCDC**, appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of the amendment. She said they had been working the past four years to provide ready product and facilitating job creation through good public policy and this represented improvement in their public policy. She said they were also marketing the community as a community with competitive assets related to their transportation assets and they facilitate a good location for manufacturers and distributors in the transportation and agri-business, which was providing food and fiber like products which was then distributed.

**Linda Dixon, 4332 Attapulgis Highway, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said she was in support of doing away with the super majority vote and felt it hindered the growth and development of the County. She said she left here more than 30 years ago and when she came back, Gadsden County was in worse shape than it was before she left. She said they needed to be more pro-active to make Gadsden County grow.

**Felicia Redding, POB 366, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board and said she was against it for all the reasons the people before her said. She said there was nothing more frustrating than trying to get permits to build on a person's own property. She said there were guidelines, Ordinances and Land Use Maps in place. She said they were restricting themselves from being productive.

Chair Holt asked if there was anyone else in favor and there was no-one.

**Debra Chathan, 6277 Flat Creek Rd., Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said she wanted growth in the County but wanted to stress she wanted the citizens' rights to be protected as a citizen and still be notified of things that were going on in the community so there would be no surprises that popped up next door to them.

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

She continued that she wanted to see it kept open so people could be notified so they would know what was going on and to protect the environment. She said she wanted to make sure they kept in mind the citizens.

**Michael Dorian, 145 Alligator Run, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said he would like to leave it exactly as it is. He said in an effort to cut costs, the State reduced services, reduced developmental regulations and reduced oversight that they once had in the past and has thrown the burden of responsible development to the County. He said they needed local review processes such as the CBOR. He said residences could not be notified of decisions that could affect their property without the CBOR.

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

He added the 4-1 super majority vote ensured that four commissioners make County-wide decisions for large developments, land use changes, and variances. He said the citizens stood a better chance with four points of view. He said the CBOR was the most important document to come from the BOCC and they needed to keep it.

**Thomas Hawkins, 1000 Friends of Florida**, appeared before the Board and said he was glad that the line of questioning came up. He said there were several other counties that had adopted the CBOR, Martin, Sarasota and City of Sarasota, St. Johns County, to name a few. He said a lot of different local governments have rules and none were the same. He said there were some really important protections there that they needed to keep. He said having public meetings early in the process and sending out notices; he said people may not read the newspapers as much and they may want to consider electronic notice on a website in addition to the mail, but encouraged to keep the public meetings. He said with regard to the Super majority requirement, he was an attorney and a planner at 1000 friends of Florida and most decisions get adopted on an unanimous vote. He said his recommendation tonight was to ask staff to keep two components, the super majority and the meeting. He said economic development was important to Gadsden County and did not believe in his professional experience did not see good planning as an obstacle to economic development.

Chair Holt asked when he was on the City of Gainesville, with their voting change, did they require a super majority vote and he replied the City of Gainesville did not and felt they would be a better city if they did.

**Arkeba Bouie, 565 Millwood Drive, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board and said she wanted to be notified when there were changes in her neighborhood.

Darrin Taylor reappeared and said he wanted to mention as a Land Use planner, they believe strongly in public participation and felt it made for better developments and communities.

**Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL** appeared before Board and spoke as a proponent of the CBOR. He said when President Obama was President, the jobless rate went down, with the current president it had gone down even more nationwide as well as the State of Florida. He said children deserve an opportunity and believes the CBOR was stifling.

Marion Lasley reappeared before the Board and said this may add 20 days to the approval process and felt it was very important.

Ms. Gutcher reappeared before the Board. She said there were several comments about citizens not being notified and she reiterated in the Land Development Regulation they currently had regulations and a requirement for notification, mailing, newspaper ad, and notice on the property and that existed outside the CBOR. Chair Holt asked about meetings with the communities, did it take out the meeting with the developer. Ms. Gutcher said the proposal removed the requirement for a CBOR meeting for variances, special exceptions, major development orders, development agreements, and the quasi-judicial issues. She said there was still a public hearing process, still went before the PC, still went before the Board and was still opportunity for public comment at the PC state and at the BOCC stage. Ms. Gutcher said the 4-1 vote had been stricken from the proposal and by the time they came to the PC, there have been plans drawn, hired an engineer, gone through certain permitting processes and spent a lot of money to get to the first hearing and was taking a big risk to continue with the development because a 4-1 vote was needed. She said she agreed with Ms. Linnan if they were considering different amendments, they needed to clean up the language because it was very confusing.

Chair Holt said they needed to move to the Board but wanted clarity.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he read the attachment and the changes and revisions made and in his opinion, saw the revisions accommodating a lot of the items the CBOR have asked for. He said the option was to repeal, he would not support it, but if the recommendation was to revise to make the County more business friendly, he would support the recommendation.

Commissioner Taylor said Hoover Wood Products, Four Star Freightliner, Trulieve, and Peterbuilt was set up with the CBOR intact, she supported it and as the young lady said earlier, neighbors have a right to know what was coming and was not detouring because the policy and procedure was in place already. She said she had been in the political arena since 2001 and had seen three commissioners control the movement of the County and also with the City Commission.

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

Commissioner Taylor said a lot of people did not understand what the CBOR was all about, and she suggested they be careful giving up rights and some commissioners filled their head with untruths. She asked if the language could be cleaned up and said yes.

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



Commissioner Taylor said her concern was not to developing homes, only to the businesses. She said she knew the super majority vote was not one that everyone liked. She said people had been telling them things and filling their heads full of things and it was not true. She said the biggest reason for businesses not coming was infrastructure and the only thing that would change was three people would be running the County. She said they had been making language changes the last two to three years. She said that every business that came before them that had fallen under the guidelines of the CBOR had gotten an approval. She said there were no longer businesses in Quincy, true, but they were branching out and the County was still growing. She listed reasons why they were not growing as rapidly as they would like and asked that they not be brainwashed.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not have a whole lot to add to what Commissioner Taylor said and he agreed with 100% of what she commented on, but the most important thing to understand CBOR was about information and notification and thought the comments from 1000 Friends of Florida on right on the money. He agreed that they wanted good growth for the County and he agreed with Ms. Gutchner to moving it from Chapter 7 to Chapter 1 and to clean it up. He said he thought it was all in how they approached and understood what that was. He said the fact was this was a policy they had in place that was currently working, not to say it could not be improved upon but had worked 100% of the time. He said he understood it could add an additional 21-45 days to the process but was a part of planning. He encouraged everyone to do their homework and look at ways to embrace something that would help them understand the growth that could potentially go on around them.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt great about what Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Taylor said and he was tickled to death because with all the points made, they sounded like him. He said he always talked about the bumblebees and how they could protect them and protect the land and wetland areas.

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

He said it was interesting how someone brought up infrastructure and said he had been yelling about that forever along with the digital infrastructure was needed, water, sewer and transportation as well.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he felt personally they were having good dialogue and they needed to have a workshop prior to coming here. He added that what he saw was not consistent was the 4 out of 5 voted. He said that it may be because someone did not like a person they may not vote with then and the project would be shot down. He said they have a great board and felt they needed to workshop this, 4 out of 5 votes could cause heartburn.

Chair Holt asked the Attorney that it was required to have four votes to change the zoning, was it legal for them to require four votes to get rid of the four votes. He said if they looked at it from the perspective of changing it without a super majority vote, there would be no reason to have a super majority vote.

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

Chair Holt said they do not get calls because people look at the map and that was old and needed to be redone. She said she was not in favor of a super majority vote and she wanted everyone notified.

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

Chair Holt announced again this was a public hearing and said she needed a motion.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM BECAUSE HE HAD HEARTBURN WITH SOME ISSUES AND WANTED TO WORKSHOP IT AND COME BACK AT A LATER DATE TO DISCUSS IT. CHAIR HOLT HAD COMMENTS.**

Chair Holt said they had workshopped this about five times since 2010 and they had not come to any conclusion since then.

Commissioner Hinson said it would be hard for them to vote on 1000 feet instead of ½ mile. She said to correct the ½ mile. He said there were some things they needed to look at and go through it and if they were on the losing side, they could not bring it up again. Chair Holt said they could.

Commissioner Hinson said he was a consensus builder, felt they could bring it to a workshop, use their political savvy and show they could negotiate and work it out.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS MATTER UNTIL THEY HOLD A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked Ms. Gutcher with developing where the CBOR came in in such instances as that, she did not want citizens not to be able to share property to build and asked her to give her some language because she was not for citizens not being able to do what they want with their land but was for being notified when businesses were coming to the neighborhood.

Ms. Gutcher said the times the CBOR came into play was when asking for an amendment to the Map on the wall or some sort of variance from set-back or other regulation to a structure, a special exception to a use, and there was some language in it that did not make sense regarding major developments and major subdivisions. She explained there was a Family Exception that allowed immediate family members to convey property to another immediate family member and was not subject to the CBOR requirement but there were limitations.

Commissioner Viegbesie called the question.

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

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **9. CR 269 (Little Sycamore Road) SCRAP Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to award the bid of Little Sycamore Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction, the low bidder in the amount of

\$1,206,162.00.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.**

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out after she made the second before the vote was taken.*

**10. Approval of Amended Contract #21831 for the William M. Inman Agricultural Center Funding for the New Gadsden County Extension Office**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of amendment of the original contract #21831 for the William M. Inman Agriculture Center for the funding for the New Gadsden County Extension Office.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.**

**11. Approval to Execute the Agreement for Services for the Classification and Compensation Study**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the Chair to sign and execute the agreement for services to complete the Classification and Compensation Study to be conducted by Evergreen Solutions, LLC.

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

**12. Clarification and Direction of the Criteria and Selection of Youth for the Summer Youth Employment Program**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for direction from the Board to clarify and set criteria for selecting youth for the Summer Youth Employment Program and clarify the number of youth Commissioners have the option of choosing.

Chair Holt asked the Attorney if he said earlier that they had 10 slots saved for individuals that were disabled.

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

Chair Holt said they were trying to find out who chose them and said she did not think they needed to have that classification in place; she felt they needed to have qualifications in place. Mr. Weiss said set a minimum requirement and minimum spots that were designated and his concern was there was an equal protection concern with the selection of one person over another. He added if everybody met the qualifications and minimum criteria, why one person is selected over another. He said if they had minimum qualifications and everyone met them and they started selecting one person over another with no real basis for it, it would open them up to potential equal protection and ADA exposure, ethics issues and was a concern when they start making selections without having anything other than...

Commissioner Taylor said they were talking about 14-17 year olds and asked what qualifications they had and said it would be minimal. She said she did not see any elevation past the basic they needed to have to qualify. Mr. Weiss said that was his point in terms of if they met the minimum

qualifications, trying to make a selection on a basis other than a random lottery could open them up to potential claims.

Chair Holt asked how they were selected before. Commissioner Hinson said the reason he asked the Board to look at this was because sometimes with physically and mentally challenged students they were looked over and was why he said there needed to be a minimum of 10 kids to give them an opportunity to work and they need to find language.

Mr. Weiss said for clarification, they were not attacking anyone, he was trying to say the selection process, when looking at students and the qualifications and criteria were pretty minimal, it had nothing to do with the mentally/physically impaired, it had to do with over-all with anyone being selected for any particular reason over anyone else.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a young lady with the School Board that worked with kids.

Commissioner Taylor asked the attorney and the Administrator with the way they were selecting potential participants for the housing program, according to the rules sent from the State, a portion was to go to persons with disabilities and Mrs. Jackson said they were to get first priority. Commissioner Taylor said there was already a program in place that recognized them and it was State Mandated and what they were doing was not illegal. Mr. Weiss said he was not suggesting that was problematic, he was speaking of the over-all selection process, it was an equal protection issue in terms of whether it was needed to remedy any past issues.

**Lonyell Black, Human Resources Manager**, appeared before the Board to explain the process. She asked if she meant clarity for the 10 or the whole entire process. Chair Holt said the whole thing. She said they had budgeted \$130,000 this year for this program and the way they calculated it was they were paid minimum wage, they had to calculate FICA, it was established they would work 20 hours a week and when they made those calculations it determined the number of positions they were budgeted for at that rate. She said the minimum qualifications to participate in the program was they had to be a citizen of Gadsden County, be between the ages of 14-18 when the program began, have to have a "C" average or 2.0 GPA, have to have acceptable attendance and conduct, was allowed to have one "N" throughout the duration of the school year. She said they typically put the applications at the end of the third 9-weeks of school to have an opportunity to see the report cards and what they had been doing for the majority of the year. She said the applications were reviewed by the selection committee and vetted according to the criteria. She said each commissioner was allowed to pick five from their district being 25 slots and the 10 slots remaining would be for the mentally challenged or disabled. She said as Commissioner Hinson mentioned, they do not make those selections, there was a representative from the School Board Office that made the recommendations. She said they were able to make all adjustments for the child that was disabled.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Attorney and the HR director, he did not remember any place where the hiring policies and procedures for summer youth or any type of employment was done by the County Administrator and not a Commissioner. He asked if the County Commissioner was allowed to hire five, was that in violation of the hiring policy because they were only able to hire 2 positions, the Administrator and the County Attorney.

Mrs. Weiss said as far as he was aware, there was nothing in the Personnel Policy that addressed

this program and he deferred that to the County Administrator.

Mrs. Jackson said there was nothing that prohibited that in their policy but, that was a day to day operation.

Chair Holt said if they had nothing in place, they needed to get something in place.

Commissioner Hinson said every year he went through this, and the last time he checked Commissioners all over the State of Florida had their own staff. He said Commissioners could hire staff; they could call Escambia County all the way down to Monroe County or drive to Leon County and see how many full-time workers they had on staff.

Chair Holt said all they were saying was they needed Policy and Procedure in place.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not say what he said with regards to Policies and Procedures to stop hiring youth, his vote was for the program and for simple disclosure. He said before he came to Gadsden County, he ran for City Commission in Tallahassee and knew they had in place Policies and Procedures of what Commissioners were allowed to have. He said he was asking if they were changing that there were some that they, as Commissioners could hire and if so, they need to change the Policy and Procedure. He said no-one ever said not to hire youth, they wanted to keep them out of trouble and mentor them and train them to become professional individuals but they needed to have Policy and Procedures on place. He said he was only asking for clarification.

Commissioner Morgan said they were talking about part-time summer youth coming to work for the County for a short period of time. He said there was a program in place about how to go about doing it, they had done it for the past few years and it had worked fine. He said they were simply making recommendations and the County has to look at each of the children and decide if they met the minimum qualifications and those were the ones that made the decisions who are the ones to get placed with the Summer Youth Program. He said they were not talking about the County Commissioners hiring anyone in an adult position. He said they had sat there for an hour talking about hiring kids part-time for a summer program.

**COMMISSIOENR TAYLOR MADE A MOTION THE COMMISSIONERS COULD CHOOSE 5 KIDS AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIOENR HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they could choose 10. Commissioner Taylor said that was the argument and she made a motion.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Taylor said she thought the next questions was how many slots for the mentally and physically challenged students if it was 10 or 20. Commissioner Taylor said they did not want to set a number, but a minimum of a number and that way if there was more, it could put them in a legal bind.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR A MINIMUM OF 10 MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD**

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

Commissioner Hinson said there was another problem, and they had the same problem at the end of last year; they voted on 125 kids at the last budget cycle and they went down to under 120 kids. He said if they said 125 kids, his argument was that at the last budget meeting for 125 kids. He said the Board agreed to 125 kids and now all of a sudden, they took 5 jobs away from the youth.

Ms. Black said what came into place last year, when budget season was taking place, the State of Florida was set at a certain minimum wage. Last year when they were doing this, the minimum wage was \$8.10 an hour when they went to budget season. She said come January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, minimum wage increased and what was budgeted was what they had to work with and the criteria had been set that there would be youth that will be paid the minimum wage, paid for six weeks and will work no more than 20 hours per week and they had to work with what was budgeted.

Commissioner Taylor said they had to work backwards. She said Commissioner Hinson was correct with 125 slots but Ms. Black was also correct in there were other factors that needed to be played in that they did not do during budget season. She said Mr. Presnell took those 5 slots and used that funding to pay so he would not have to take from somewhere else. She said going forward, they needed to add in whatever costs there might be so they could get 125 students.

Chair Holt said they would need to know that ahead of time and make the arrangements. She asked for the minutes to those meetings.

Commissioner Hinson said normally in budget, they put in the budget for 125 kids and it was up to them to figure out the budget.

Chair Holt said they needed to amend the budget before they could hire. Commissioner Hinson said they could amend the budget now and Chair Holt said they had to advertise it first.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR MINIMUM OF 10 MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED KIDS, 5 MORE STUDENTS AND 125 JOBS THAT ONCE RECEIVE INFORMATION, WILL SELECT OTHER STUDENTS. MS. BLACK HAD QUESTIONS.**

Ms. Black reappeared before the Board. She said they were supposed to already have letters sent out, if they continue to push this back for an additional two weeks, it would limit the time the kids would have to participate in the program.

Chair Holt suggested they wait until next year to make the change.

Commissioner Hinson said "The kids have got to have someone to fight for them. The thing here, this was a grown folk's mistake, not the kids' mistake."

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL KIDS AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, CHAIR HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

Chair Holt asked that the information be brought back and they could vote again. She said she could not hold up the other students and they could amend later and add five more.

Commissioner Taylor said she liked that idea. She told Ms. Black to bring the 120 students on and they could add the five later.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Black if this process would be an issue and she said criteria also were mentioned about training and they may not be able to participate in the entire program.

Chair Holt asked what they should do at this point to get this vote and get this moving. Mrs. Jackson said if they brought back the five students as an agenda item, what budget line to pull from. Chair Holt said they had not decided that yet, they needed to know to pass this right now.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 SO THE 120 STUDENTS COULD BE MOVED FORWARD AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.**

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **13. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **14. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson had a few announcements:

May 23<sup>rd</sup> CRPTA program will be in these chambers 5:00-6:00 p.m.;

May 24<sup>th</sup> Public Works Week celebration-She said Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Morgan and Chair Holt were going to serve food for them and Commissioner Viegbesie and Commissioner Hinson would be working a ½ day on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Public Works and she would be working on the 22<sup>nd</sup> .;

June 5<sup>th</sup> BOCC meeting;

June 7<sup>th</sup> Pat Thomas Park extension groundbreaking at 3:00 p.m.;

June 12<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Budget workshop (that was tentatively scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>) at 4:00 p.m.;

Special meeting June 14<sup>th</sup> for the Communication Tower status meeting. Mr. Weiss said there was a Planning Commission meeting that night. Mrs. Jackson said this would be rescheduled;

June 26<sup>th</sup> thru June 29<sup>th</sup> is the FAC conference.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they had any part of their government that could explore expanding broadband internet in unincorporated areas. Mrs. Jackson said since Commissioner Hinson had been talking about digital infrastructure they had been looking into it but they did not have a department set up for it but were looking into how they could expand that.

Commissioner Hinson asked with what they just talked about with the summer youth employment, did she have the money and spending authority that she could add five jobs for the kids. She said yes, but they would have to find what line item it would come from; that would be the first thing the Clerks' Office would ask because it was not budgeted. She said a budget amendment could be done and it could come from General Funds. Commissioner Hinson asked if she had the authority to do it without Board approval and she said she was not able to create jobs, not just with the summer youth, but was not able to create jobs even with County staff unless it

came before the Board.

**CLERK OF COURT**

**15. Updates**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said they had good dialogue tonight and a lot of people were recognized. He said there were some challenging things they discussed tonight and things they believed in. He said as long as they could continue to work together and for the best interests of the people, they could continue to grow and move forward.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt told everyone they did a good job on the Public Hearings and she thought it would have taken them longer than it did.

**Receipt and File**

14. Ordinance 374-Town of Havana  
Florida Department of Health Quarterly Report

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

May 24, 2018-4:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Workshop (postponed to June 12<sup>th</sup>)  
June 5, 2018-4:30 p.m. (Pre-BOCC Workshop)  
June 5, 2018-BOCC Regular Meeting  
June 19, 2018-4:30 p.m. Pre-BOCC Workshop  
June 19, 2018-6:00 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting



**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:10 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 JUNE 5, 2018 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 1 –phoned in late  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to order and asked everyone to mute their phones, stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S POSITION FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO THE AGENDA. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution Honoring Mr. LaJarous Davis**

Mrs. Jackson announced the resolutions honoring the honorees. Commissioner Taylor led in the resolution handouts of barbers in the community. She read a portion of the Resolution aloud and it was presented to Mr. LaJarous Davis. He spoke a few words, posed for pictures with the Commissioners and gave his sincere thanks.

**2. Resolution Honoring Mr. Willie B. Canidate (Gadsden County BOCC)**

Commissioner Taylor introduced Mr. Willie Canidate and asked that he come forward. She read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to him. He posed for pictures with the Commissioners and had a few words to say.

**3. Resolution Honoring Mr. Garret Dowdell (Gadsden County BOCC)**

Commissioner Taylor then introduced Mr. Garrett Dowdell and asked that he come forward. She read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to him. He posed for pictures with the Commissioners and had a few words to say.

**4. Resolution Honoring Mrs. Amanda Lightfoot (Gadsden County BOCC)**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Ms. Amanda Lightfoot to come forward and he said he wanted to honor small businesses that improved the quality of life for individuals in the County. He read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to Ms. Lightfoot and they posed for pictures.

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

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Chair Holt announced that Commissioner Hinson called and he was out sick.

**5. Ratification Memo**

**6. Approval of Minutes July 13, 2017 – Budget Workshop**

- a. August 17, 2017 – Special Meeting
- b. September 7, 2017 – Budget Hearing
- c. May 1, 2018 – Regular Meeting

Chair Holt said she there were Minutes attached and she did not pull them for discussion but said they were from 2017 and that they needed to be presented in a timely manner and not from last year for approval.

**7. Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Liens – State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) (Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program)  
(Dee Jackson , Interim County Administrator/Sonya Burns, Housing Program Coordinator)**

**8. Approval and Signatures for Rehabilitation Contract and Special Assessment Lien  
(Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Sonya Burns, Housing Program Coordinator)**

**9. Approval of the FY 2018 Quarter Report  
(Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Jeffery A. Price , Senior Management & Budget Analyst)**

**10. Public Officials Bond Reviews (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator)**

**Items Pulled for Discussion**

There were none.

**CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS N/A**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**11. Public Hearing (Quasi – Judicial) – Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) High- Speed Test Track Special Exception Use (SE – 2017-02) (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Clyde Collins, Building and Planning Director/Jill Jeglie, AICP, Senior Planner II)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and it was announced this was a Quasi-Judicial hearing and would require a super majority vote.

Board deliberation was continued from the May 1, 2018 Board meeting to allow the applicant and adjoining property owners and their representative (s) an opportunity to reach an agreement. The public hearing on this agenda items has been closed.

Chair Holt said it was only for discussion among the Board. Mr. Weiss said they needed a super majority vote of those present.

Commissioner Morgan disclosed additional conversations he had had since the last meeting regarding this issue. He said he received a call from Chief Brown, FHP, and had received a call from President Jim Murdaugh from TCC and had not had a chance to return that call and they had not had a discussion regarding this and had received a letter from Mr. Hoppes regarding his point of view regarding this issue.

Commissioner Taylor said she had received a lot of calls and could not recall the names, but she had spoken with former County Commissioner Eugene Lamb and a few others that represented the Florida Highway Patrol.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had not spoken with anyone and would base his decision on the facts as presented. He said he did receive an email from Chief Brown asking for a phone call and he responded that in order to avoid any form of violation of the ex parte statute limitation; he would not be inclined to have a conversation with him.

Chair Holt said she was told of an email but did not receive it; however she did speak with Mr. Brown and with President Murdaugh. She also said it did not matter if they had spoken with anyone or not outside of the meeting, they could only base their vote on the facts that were presented at the last meeting and they would not be accepting any more comments, evidence or statements from anyone outside of the Board and nothing could be considered outside of the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said it was his position that the two parties could come to a complete agreement regarding this and he maintained his position that he did not think this was the best spot for this particular track. He said he would support the effort when the right spot was found.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had hoped when this item was continued, the parties would work to become good neighbors for the good of the County and be able to work out some of their differences. He said he would stay with the decision he originally leaned toward the first time. He said this particular project was good for Gadsden County and the land owners were also good for Gadsden County but as an economist, he had to do his own analysis to see which was for the greater good of the County. He said he was surprised to see there were no compromises derived between the parties with the continuance of this item.

Commissioner Taylor commented that she was able to recall one of the conversations that were shared with her with the Board directing them to come up with a compromise. She said the land owners wanted to make sure the track would not operate during certain hours based on the development of the land. She said if five houses or more were there, her understanding was the Academy was willing to scale back. She said she was in favor of seeing the track developed, but was concerned about the residents or residents that may be there some time in the future. She said they needed to see what needed to be put in place in order to create a buffer, respect the landowners that were adjacent to the track and move on with this development.

Commissioner Holt said she was in favor of the project moving forward. She said she respected the fact that the possible development was rezoned as Rural Residential in 2005 but had not been developed as of yet.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he hoped the parties would be able to work together and understand that they would be neighbors.

*Commissioner Hinson called via phone at 6:39pm*

Commissioner Hinson said he saw pros and cons and was ready to vote. He disclosed he had spoken with someone from the Florida Highway Patrol last Friday, the Sheriff and former Commissioner Eugene Lamb.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Mr. Weiss said if they were going to deny this, they had to disclose a reason. Commissioner Morgan said he did not think that was the best location for the track and that it was not compatible.

Commissioner Taylor questioned the word buffer and asked where it would be.

Mr. Weiss recalled there was a list of proposed minimum conditions if Board approved this.

Chair Holt asked that they take a minute and look over the spreadsheet.

Commissioner Taylor said they were looking at two different documents that represented different positions and she explained the difference. Mr. Weiss explained the difference in the documents.

Commissioner Viegbesie said on looking at the spreadsheet he saw elements of compromise. He said the motion should include the implementation of the agreed upon items on the spreadsheet. He asked if that was something they could do today.

Mr. Weiss said that was something that they could do this evening and they would just have to make their decision.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed in theory with the track coming, she just wanted to protect the landowner that had a right to being respected in that area. She said she was in favor of joining the two lists together so there were some agreed upon items in there as well as some stated positions and that way everyone would be clear on what would happen going forward. She asked once approval was given to go forward, how would they monitor the agreements were being made and kept. She said there needed to be some type of measure added to ensure that what they set forth would be adopted and part of the development of both projects. Mr. Weiss said it would be approved as part of the Development Order with conditions that they imposed.

Chair Holt asked if the conditions needed to be read into the record and he said he if the intention was to adopt all the conditions that were agreed upon as of the last meeting (indicated in the second column of the spreadsheet).

Chair Holt stated (from the spreadsheet). Item 1 was in agreement; Item 2 was in agreement; Item 3 could work with the use of sirens; Item 4 needed lighting for cars in order to do training; Item 5 Restroom-light needed to be added; Item 7 Middle column would be Monday and Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Closed Saturday and Sunday, Need two evenings for training in the dark in the summer, late until after 9:00 p.m.; and Item 8-FHP has no plans for expansion and cannot give up use of the property. She added also under Option 1 Conditions a – f.

Commissioner Morgan said there were 6 of the 8 items that both parties had not agreed to at this point and if he understood what they were doing, they were trying to move forward with the understanding that both parties were going to agree but they had not and they could not speak for the parties.

Chair Holt said they could approve this item with any evidence they had from the previous meeting and this was things stated in that meeting. She asked that they look at Option 1 a-f to see if there was anything there they would consider.

Commissioner Taylor commented on the differences on the spreadsheet versus the agenda item. She said “b” talked about the hours of operation and was different from the spreadsheet. She mentioned the spreadsheet did not indicate “a.m. or p.m.” on the hours of operation and one said lighting and the other said no lighting.

Chair Holt said that was why she mentioned for them to look it over and state their points.

Mr. Weiss said with the conditions listed on their Agenda, “b” and “c” they were inconsistent with what they were looking at, but the rest were conditions that should be consistent. The Commission took a minute to review.

Chair Holt asked if there were any questions on a – f as compared to the spreadsheet. Commissioner Taylor said she was ready to move. Commissioner Viegbesie said there were two areas where there were some slight discrepancies and like Commissioner Taylor, he was ready to vote this up or down. Commissioner Hinson said he had no comments.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROJECT TO MOVE FORWARD BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CONDITONS:**

**A) FHP SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A TYPE A VEGETATIVE BUFFER ALONG AND ADJACENT TO THE BRP PROPERTY FROM THE NORTHERNMOST LIMIT OF CONSTRUCTION (LOC) TO THE SOUTHERNMOST LOC (REQUIRED BY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE ADJACENT TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT; B) FHP SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A VEGETATIVE HEDGE ALONG THE TOP OF THE BERM TO BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG THE EASTERN PERIMETER OF THE TRACK; 3) WITH REGARDS TO SIRENS BEING USED, STAFF WAS NOT CLEAR ON AS TO HOW THIS NEEDED TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT ASSUMING SIRENS ARE TO BE USED DURING THE HOURS OF OPERATION THAT WAS AGREED UPON; B) NO EMERGENCY LIGHTS SHOULD BE USED AT THE PARK-LIGHTING HAS TO BE USED AND SHOULD ONLY BE USED DURING THE HOURS OF OPERATION; 5) TRACK SHALL HAVE NO EXTERNAL LIGHTING-HAS TO AGREE ABOUT RESTROOM AND LIGHTING NEEDS TO BE IN THAT AREA; DAYS OF OPERATION-THINK THEY AGREED TO DAYS OF OPERATION WITH ONE EXTRA HOUR AND THEY AGREED TO CLOSE ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAYS; SHE KNEW HIM**

**AND HE WAS A MAN OF HIS WORD AND THEY NEED TO PUT IN WRITING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO EXPANSION; AGREE TO THE GOPHER TORTOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN; NO CLEARING; SIGNATURE BY THE APPROPRIATE PERSON/ENTITY AS WELL; ON THE PLANS, INCLUDE THE CROSS-SECTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE 'A' AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

She asked that they look at "d". She stated no clearing, but it should be "no clearing beyond the 'limits of' because they could not build the track otherwise.

**CHAIR TAYLOR AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE "BEYOND THE LIMITS OF" AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM WITH THE LISTED CONDITIONS. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

For clarification, Chair Holt asked Commissioner Taylor about the times of operation and Mr. Weiss asked that she restate the times of operation.

**CHAIR TAYLOR MADE A MOTION THE HOURS OF OPERATION WILL BE "MONDAY – TUESDAY 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.; WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY 8:00 A.M. – 11:00 P.M.; FRIDAY 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.; SATURDAY AND SUNDAY CLOSED-NO EXCEPTIONS AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

**12. Public Hearing: (Quasi-Judicial) – Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) High-speed Test Track Conceptual & Preliminary Site Plan (SP-2017-03)**

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

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was a Quasi-Judicial hearing for approval of an application for a Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan.

Ms. Jeglie was sworn in by Deputy Clerk Beryl Wood. She then commented this agenda item sought Board approval of an application for a Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan to expand the existing Tallahassee Community College (TCC) Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) campus by adding a high speed test track for the Florida Highway Patrol, (FHP) training (SE-2017-03). She said this application was contingent on the approval of a Special Exception Use (SEU) that would be presented to the Board prior to this application. The Public Hearing was opened and this item was continued from the May 1, 2018 Board Meeting to allow the applicant and adjoining property owners and their representative an opportunity to reach an agreement. She then read aloud the findings.

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

She said the site plan addressed utility services and no extension was required at this time. She said at the point the report was addressed, there was no lighting allowed and believed the conditions would allow lighting for a restroom facility and no clearing allowed beyond the limits of construction.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing that was Quasi-Judicial and asked if the applicant wished to make a presentation. Chief Mark Brown with Florida Highway Patrol appeared before

the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He asked that the one option regarding lighting be changed to include the restroom lighting and explained the restroom would be necessary to build the track. Chair Holt asked if there was anyone else that wished to speak in favor of the item and there was no-one.

She asked if there was anyone that wished to speak that opposed the item and Doug Hall, Esquire, representing the landowners stood.

Doug Hall said they had heard from the property owners and he wanted the record to reflect that they continued to oppose this project and they did try to work it out. He felt they went backwards because the conditions imposed were less strict than the ones originally agreed to at the last meeting. He said the adjacent owners concerns were that their property would not be able to be developed.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with the addition of flood lights at the restroom was the only thing he had to question, but was not different than what was approved with the earlier item. There were no other comments.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE THE ITEM WITH THE CONDITIONS AND THE ADDITION OF THE FLOOD LIGHT FOR THE RESTROOM BE ALLOWED AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if the flood lights would be directional.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO REFLECT FLOOD LIGHTS BE FOR THE RESTROOM AS OPPOSED TO FLOOD LIGHTS AND CHAIR HOLT AMENDED HER SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**13. South Adams Street Sidewalk Design Bid Award (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Curtis Young, Public Works Director)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was the South Adams Street sidewalk bid award. She said due to inconsistencies in the scoring, Staff was requesting that these bids be rejected and rebid.

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

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Mr. Weiss said if the will of the Board was to reject all bids that needed to be the motion.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS ON THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Morgan asked what they were looking at for a timeline. Mrs. Jackson said this would go back out for bids and should be back before the Board by the second meeting in July.



**CHAIR HOLT SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND ASKED FOR A SECOND, SHE THEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REJECT BIDS REGARDING THIS ITEM.**

**14. Havana Middle School Sidewalk Extension Design Bid Award (Dee Jackson, County Administrator/Curtis Young, Public Works Director)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and Chair Holt said this was the same thing and asked the will of the Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REJECT BIDS.**

**15. County Road 269 (Little Sycamore Road) Bid Award (Dee Jackson, County Administrator/Curtis Young, Public Works Director)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was the same thing.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS REGARDING THIS ITEM AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REJECT ALL BIDS.**

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

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make sure everything they were doing was in compliance and Chair Holt explained there was an inconsistency in the scoring and Commissioner Hinson said that was a question for the attorney. Mr. Weiss said they were entitled under their procurement policy to reject all bids if that was in the best interest of the County and the will of the Board.

**16. CR 65B (Old Federal Road) SCOP – Bid Award (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator)**

Mrs. Jackson said this item was for County Road 65B (Old Federal Road) and was the same thing.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MOVED TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REJECT BIDS REGARDING THIS ITEM.**

**17. Discussion Regarding the Diversification of Deposited and Invested County Funds (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator)**

Mrs. Jackson said this agenda was for Board discussion regarding the diversification of deposited and invested County funds and at the request of the Board Chair, this item was brought for discussion of previous Board direction of County funds, and the diversification of banking locations of all County liquid assets.

Chair Holt said about a year they requested that the funds be diversified and all funds were being held in Capital City Bank and they requested that funds be placed also in Centennial Bank to diversify funds in the County. She said the Clerk was not present and in another County, they just had this issue with investing surplus funds, not funds needed for day-to-day operation. She said those funds were requested to be invested by Seminole County and their Clerk refused their requests to diversify the funds and Seminole County took the Clerk to Court and the County won. She said the County did have the right to diversify where they banked and how they banked and invested funds. She explained that was why this item was on the agenda and did they want to

allow other local banks an opportunity with surplus funds.

Commissioner Morgan said he would be interested in the Clerk's opinion regarding this matter 1) since he was the Chief Financial Officer of the County and 2) would like to hear discussion of the increased costs to the County because of the diversification.

Chair Holt said she was going to ask him and if he would like to send a response or come to the meeting, that would work.

Commissioner Morgan said as they moved forward, they should get his input regarding this matter.

Commissioner Taylor said she brought this item up some time ago. She said they all agreed they needed to keep at least two banking institutions in the County otherwise, they lose one and because of the banking requirements that needed to be met in order for them to put their investments into, if they lost one, then that made them totally dependent on whichever one was left along with the charges they wished to levy and whatever banking costs they wished to ask for, they would have to give into it because of the qualifications the bank had to have in order to get their proceeds. She said diversification was a safe gap measure for them to make sure that the two qualified entities stay open. She said she was in favor of it, but had to concur with Commissioner Morgan that they needed to make sure of what costs might be there so it could be minimized. She also stated she felt this was an issue that was better discussed around budgeting time because they would know then what revenues and resources they had. She said she was interested, but wanted to make sure it was done in such a manner that the County prospered.

Commissioner Hinson stated he had no comments.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had no comments.

Chair Holt stated she felt they were headed in the right direction for discussion on the item and asked that the Manager to contact the Clerk for his opinion regarding this. She said she noticed in a couple of instances that she researched, the bank had to be competitive with the interest rates and they were able to do that and that was how they were able to get other banks to come into the realm of investments. She said it would also put the Board in a position to make decisions when it came to investments because if they had just the Clerk doing it, then there was just one person's opinion. If there was more than one, it would at least give two or more opinions. She asked if it was the will of the Board for the Manager to send the Clerk a memo requesting his input.

Commissioner Taylor said if they were going to do this, and she was hoped they would, she wanted it clear on what her position was. She said she was not in favor of taking all proceeds out of one bank and putting into another, she was in favor of looking at the two entities and seeing where they would get the best value from each. She said for example, if the Money Market was higher in one than the other, they were best to invest in the Money Market.

Chair Holt said she thought that was good because if they were going to do that, the bank was going to invest the money so they could look at what the investments were.

Mrs. Jackson asked if they would like her to inquire about the stocks and other “stuff” as well.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Morgan if he wanted an opinion or if there were certain things he wanted. He said there were a lot of things to consider and since the Clerk’s office dealt with this on a daily basis, they better understood the cost of doing business around the issue, daily reporting issues, other requirements and there was a lot to it and felt they needed to consult with the Clerk as was mentioned before and felt, more importantly, listen to what he had to say. He said he felt the Clerk should comment on everything they were considering.

Commissioner Taylor asked about reaching out to the two institutions as well to see what the assets were from the bank, which was more competitive, and look at the options and compare them as well. Chair Holt said they could schedule a workshop as well.

**18. Re-appointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority Appointment**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this agenda item was for approval from the Board to re-appoint Clifford Hill as the Gadsden County representative to the Quincy –Gadsden Airport Authority.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CLIFFORD HILL AS THE GADSDEN COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**19. Discussion on Status of the Countywide Communication System (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this agenda item was for Board discussion on the status of the countywide communication system. She continued and said at the October 17, 2017 BOCC meeting, the Board approved the purchase of a Motorola Capacity Max DMR Tier 3 System from Motorola Solutions, Inc. The system was purchased through an Interlocal contract for cooperative purchasing with the Houston- Galveston Area Council. The system cost was \$1,295,000.00. She further stated that County staff and the Mobile Communications team have worked to accomplish the following goals within the project timeline:

- All equipment has been staged at the Mobile Communications headquarters, to ensure operability.

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

- The fleet mapping process of assigning subscriber channels has been completed.
- Approved FCC licenses for all frequencies have been granted.
- Equipment shelters have been acquired, to properly and safely house the newly purchased equipment on the grounds of all tower locations.
- All sole sourced tower companies have approved the County’s collocation applications, and have conducted a structural analysis.
- Lease rates have been negotiated with the tower companies, and contracts are slated to come before the Board.
- The dispatch area of the Woodham Building has received architectural renderings, for the new dispatch center, and construction is currently underway.

**Mrs. Debbie Giles, Mobile Communications, Motorola representative,** appeared before the

Board. She said they were asking for a New Charge change order to extend the (she was interrupted by Mrs. Jackson). Mrs. Jackson asked her to give an update that led to the next Agenda item. She said basically all the equipment has been staged and was ready to go, but due to an issue with the Jail tower from the structural analysis, the new equipment could not be placed on the tower and they were looking into some options, using a Talquin Electric tower or building a new one. She added based on that, they were at a standstill.

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

**Ed Willeby, Project Manager**, appeared before the Board. He said based on the structural analysis, it was determined that the tower could not support the additional load for the new communications system. He said as such, they began to work with the various entities in the County to find an alternative to using the existing Jail tower and that was where the Talquin situation came up. He said they had tried to work to use the Talquin tower to resolve this issue but the most important thing to know was the jail tower was where the core of their communication system would need to be and without that tower, the other sites could not be built out.

Commissioner Morgan asked when the results were first learned of the structural analysis and was told March. He asked why they were just learning of this.

Mrs. Jackson said they tried to find options to save the County money prior to bringing it before the Board and all options have been exhausted and this was the last resort.

Mr. Willeby said to further address their concerns, the engineer and himself spent a great deal of time looking around the County to find a substitute tower that would not require the communications system be totally redesigned. Commissioner Morgan asked what options they had other than building a new tower. Mr. Willeby said technically, none. Commissioner Morgan then asked non-technically, what were the options. He responded that was the only option. Commissioner Morgan then asked what the cost would be. Mr. Willeby said that was outside his scope, he had not looked into towers.

Mrs. Jackson said it was the recommendation of Staff that \$400,000 be included in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget for the purchase of a new tower at the site of the Gadsden County Inmate Facility. She said the average timeframe to build the tower suited for this would be approximately five to eight months and would cost around \$200,000 - \$375,000. She said it was requested that the Board discuss and provide direction regarding this.

Chair Holt asked if the previous company included the tower or were they going to use this tower as well.

Mr. Collins appeared before the Board and said they were going to use the tower at the jail. He further stated they had not done a structural analysis on it until March but now were unable to.

Chair Holt asked if they were using the equipment on the Talquin tower, would the County have to pay for that tower.

Mrs. Jackson said there was in informal conversation and was told the cost would be \$5,000 a

month and that was not feasible.

Chair Holt asked if the County built the tower, then they could lease space off the tower and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely.

Mr. Collins said that was the whole idea of the tower, to build it that would only load 40-50% and could add to it and recoup their money.

Chair Holt asked if there were any other communications systems like AT&T, etc. that could be used and Mr. Collins said they had asked and no-one had said so far that the County could use their tower. Mr. Collins explained the center hub of this had so much equipment, no-one wanted them.

Chair Holt asked about housing the equipment at the Sheriff's Department, if it was sufficient. Mr. Collins said they were moving the Dispatch Center to the first floor and that would be sufficient.

Chair Holt asked the costs of the Dispatch Center and Mr. Collins said they were getting prices. He said they were trying to do a lot in-house. He said to build it without any consoles would be approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000. He said they then got prices on furniture and it was upwards to approximately \$90,000 with the consoles. He said they were required to now have the type that would rise up and down so the dispatchers could stand or sit.

Chair Holt said so to date, they were looking at \$1.3 Million with Motorola; \$400,000 for a tower; \$60,000-\$90,000 for a total of \$1.2 Million plus \$550,000. She said that would be a lot of cutting somewhere in the budget season.

Commissioner Taylor asked how much revenue could be generated by leasing out the tower. Mr. Collins said he did not know what the revenue would be; first they had to find someone that wanted to get on it. He said they would have that tower and the existing tower because he did not intent to take the old tower down. He said it was structurally sound, it just would not hold all of the equipment.

Commissioner Taylor said this was a one-time investment of \$550,000 and Mr. Collins said yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt the tower was needed and they could not put monetary value on the lives that needed to be saved by the communications system.

Chair Holt asked what timeframe they were looking at. She said she knew they were already looking at an increase of 89% with Medicaid and would be \$980,000.

Mr. Collins said if they started right now with permitting processes, they would have started the budgeting process before they received permit to build the tower.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt it would be wise if they could get all the notes from the meetings with Motorola last year and do a workshop again. He said if he recalled correctly, they said they would put up all the towers themselves and \$400,000 was a lot of funds and they could put in a community center with those funds.

Chair Holt said they did not have any notes from that meeting and if the Commissioner wanted to see them, they needed to be provided to him.

Mrs. Giles said he might be referring to when another vendor had come in they had given several different options and one was to build new towers or either but the County's existing towers and lease them.

Commissioner Morgan said two things that came to mind; 1) how important it was to have the right person placed to manage the project moving forward and that was a question for the Interim County Administrator.; and 2) he did not think they needed to rehash what they have gone through at this point to get to where they were now. He said the have made the investment to move forward. He said he had an issue with how they prioritize how they were going to manage it in the year ahead. He added this needed to be done for 30 years.

Chair Holt said this item was to be discussed during the budgeting season and there was no fiscal impact as of today, but there would be in the budget.

**20. Approval of Timeline Change Order for the Countywide Communication System (Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator/Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a timeline change order for the Countywide Communication System and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

Mr. Willeby reappeared before the Board and said the timeline change order was directly related to the tower but they intended to move forward with the project and one of the most critical points was the 911 Center and they were going to get the consoles installed in the new center. He said they would be wired into the existing system because what was there now was on their last leg.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**County Attorney**

**21. Updates**

Mr. Weiss had no comments but was available for questions.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to approval of the agreement for the Florida Highway Patrol moving forward, did he have a clean document so it could be reviewed. Mr. Weiss said he would get with the Planning Department and make sure that the Development Order was provided to everyone.

**County Administrator**

**22. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson thanked the Commissioners for making Public Works Week and EMS Week a success and said the staff was appreciative of the efforts that were put forth.

She said the groundbreaking for the Pat Thomas Park Extension will be June 7, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

She said the Mowing Schedule had been emailed to the Commissioners.

She said there was interest in the hospital from an ophthalmologist to lease space and asked the will of the Board on how to proceed. Chair Holt said she thought they would have to look at what section was not under contract with CRMC and the condition it was in. Mrs. Jackson said they were interested in leasing a portion of the space with Dr. Hart and be able to use the space on Fridays.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this should be presented to the Hospital Advisory Board and let them also have the conversation regarding this matter.

Commissioner Morgan said he also agreed with that comment.

Mrs. Jackson said the Preliminary Budget Workshop has been scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.; the CBOR Workshop has been scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

She said an update was placed before them from Joel Sampson regarding the Ag Center and was still on schedule with the Courthouse with the timeline that was presented a few months ago. She said it would be going out to bid next week for a Construction Manager for that project. She said she also had plans for the Courthouse if they wished to see them at a later time.

She also said the Public Works Department created a card for the Board.

She said the Gadsden County Fire Services received much needed fire equipment from South Walton Fire District. She said the equipment received was SCBA air packs and multiple extra air bottles.

#### **Clerk of Courts**

#### **23. Updates (Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of the Court)**

#### **Discussion Items by Commissioners**

#### **24. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for having patience in his absence. He asked for a Resolution for the Pastor at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR A RESOLUTION FOR PASTOR AT NEW JERUSALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

He said he had several people call from the School District concerning mentally and physically disabled students, he was not sure if there was an issue and asked that the Administrator look into that matter. He said some Senior Citizens were having issues with a housing situation. He said they were told by a previous employee that they were next in line and now find that they were not

in line at all. Chair Holt asked if he wanted to give the Administrator a call and he said yes.

He said the Mega Reunion was a success for Havana and would like a Resolution for the Committee that was in charge of it because he felt it brought in a lot of business for the County.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no items.

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

Commissioner Taylor said she had a request for a Proclamation for Ollie Mae Sheffield.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR OLLIE MAE SHEFFIELD AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

Commissioner Taylor thanked for the movement that has taken place with regard to Stevens School.

**Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Ph.D. , Vice – Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for a Resolution for Pat Smith (Pat's Homeless Pantry).

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBSIE FOR A RESOLUTION FOR MRS. PAT SMITH, PAT'S PANTRY, AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

He then read into the record a scripture – he asked that they all, as workers of the citizens, know who they serve.

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

Chair Holt commented she felt they were doing great in honoring their citizens and asked that they consider that they do just so many Resolutions in a night, no more than four or five a night. She also said she felt they were getting better with Public Hearings and was a good thing.

**Receipt and File**

**25. Letter from Northwest Florida Water Management District**

**Upcoming Meetings**

**26. June 19, 2017 – Regular Meeting**



**MOTION TO ADJOURN**


THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:16 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 JUNE 19, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked everyone to mute their phones, stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Morgan asked to add discussion for the County Administrator position.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION TO THE AGENDA AND IT DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Recognition of Mrs. Pat Smith**

Mrs. Jackson said this Recognition was requested by Commissioner Viegbesie. Chair Holt asked that Mrs. Smith come forward. Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud the Resolution, presented it to Mrs. Smith and they then posed for pictures.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**2. Approval of Amendment to the 2017-2018 State Aid Grant Agreement**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Alan Dust, 477 Scotland Road, Quincy, FL** County Employee Complaints, appeared before the Board. He said over the past several years, he has been harassed by the County for things he was not doing wrong on his property while they ignored and continued to ignore actual code violations, both building and zoning, that have taken place at 433 Scotland Road by both the former resident

and the current resident. He said the current resident has a secondary building that people have lived in for periods of time. The current resident has owned the property for over two years. He said the Code Enforcement officer said he would get back with him and no-one has. He added it was not a typical single family dwelling.

Chair Holt said for him to contact the Manager and she would definitely get back with him. He said he has spoken with her and Chair Holt said this was not agendaed and they could not discuss it. She further advised him once it was agendaed, they would be able to address it.

**Kirk Douglas, 1223 Dodger Ball Park, Greenshade Volunteer Fire Department**, appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Department. He said they needed the Board's help and support in regard to this matter.

Chair Holt said this item could be agendaed and suggested they contact the County Administrator.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked them and said there were others that were dedicated in getting this started. He said there were certain things the fire department needed in order to get the training done and asked that they explore to see how the items could be gotten so they would be able to get the necessary training.

Commissioner Taylor said since there were others that needed to get their certification, could the gear be shared just to receive the certification. Chief Douglas said that had been explored and reached out to other departments but the bunker gear needed to be fitted to the person to be compliant.

Commissioner Hinson asked the costs and was told it varied and could be upwards of \$2,000.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION THAT THIS BE AGENDAED FOR THE NEXT MEETING.**

Chief Douglas said as soon as the building was completed, they could apply for grants also.

Chair Holt said for them to contact the Administrator to get this agendaed. She said they also could not continue discussion on this matter because it was not agendaed.

**Roderick Whitehurst, 220 White Oak Ridge, Quincy, Greenshade**, appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of Greenshade Volunteer Fire department. He said there was a pole barn up and they needed bunker gear.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**3. Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-001, An Ordinance of the BOCC of GC, FL Amending Chapter 6 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, regulating the sale and consumption of Alcoholic beverages; 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.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an Ordinance that would amend Chapter 6 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinance, regulating the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Mrs. Jackson said there was no-one present from GCDC.

Chair Holt said there was an analysis in the packet. She said currently sit down restaurants were prohibited within 1,000 feet of a church, school or public park and there were 480 +/- in the County and it made it very difficult to get an Applebee's, Fridays, etc. to come into the area. She said other Counties made their distance requirements 500 feet. She asked if there were any questions or comments.

Commissioner Hinson said he had heartburns regarding this matter. He said Church's Chicken, pawn shops, liquor stores and sometimes Family Dollar bring down the value of the community, especially liquor stores. He said he did understand what they were trying to do and almost all of them eat at Chili's and other places like that. He felt it was good to have a thorough workshop and go through it line by line to make sure not one word was missed or added.

Commissioner Taylor said her only concern was having it 500 feet close to schools, (inaudible) institutions, day-care, because historically liquor stores in this county also had people loitering and hanging around in the immediate area, which was their choice, but she had concerns with it being that close to churches and other sacred places and would like to see 1,000 feet stay in the Ordinance. She said liquor stores and pawn shops did have an impact in the community.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not want to see liquor stores within 1,000 feet of a church but he had no problem with a restaurant establishment that was serving meals as long as they were located on the interstate exchanges throughout the County. He said he was not for a liquor opening up within 500 feet of a church, school or park.

Commissioner Viegbesie said liquor store within 1,320 feet as in the case of Walton County or 2,500 feet as in the case of Calhoun County, he had an issue with it if it was within a place of worship, day-care, but he thought what they were looking at was sales and service of alcoholic beverages by any caterer licensed by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants deriving at least 51% of its gross revenue from the service of food and non-alcoholic beverages, where consumption was on the premises. He suggested this body needed to consider amending the Ordinance a little and making restrictions of 500 feet allowable along the I-10 interchanges, State Road 90 and State Road 27. He said that was where restaurants would want to be, not in the communities where most of the churches and day-cares would be. He added he was unsure how they Board would feel about considering the 500 feet restrictions to just the three thoroughfares within the County.

Chair Holt said she agreed with those 3 because that was where the traffic was and people were already going to Tallahassee to eat at Applebee's, Olive Garden and Chili's.

She asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak.

Mr. Weiss wanted to clarify what was currently in place. He said currently there was 1,000 feet from any church, school, and public park but there were certain exemptions from the 1,000 feet requirement and they was a "grandfathering" exemption, which was someone that had a license to sell beer or wine as of the effective date of the Ordinance in 1975. He said there was an additional exemption for the sale of beer and wine for consumption off premises, so if someone had a convenience store within 1,000 feet, that was ok, it was a convenience store for beer and

wine sales. He said that was currently the exemptions they had from the 1,000 foot requirement. He said this proposal would reduce the 1,000 feet to 500 feet but those exemptions would continue to be in place. He said the additional exemptions that would be in place would be for what they were currently discussing, restaurants that served beer, wine and liquor and have a minimum of 25 patrons and derive at least 65% of their gross revenue from the sale of food and non-alcoholic beverages. He added there was an additional exemption for culinary education programs, for caterers and for special events that did not last more than 36 hours. He also pointed out that any of those places could be located within the 1,000 or 500 feet, whatever they decided and everything that did not qualify for one of the exemptions, i.e., liquor stores and other types of license holders would have to continue to be at least 1,000 feet or 500 feet, if they changed it.

**Roderick Whitehurst, 220 White Oak Ridge, Quincy, FL32352, re-**appeared before the Board. He said he agreed 100% regarding having more business to come here to help the community like Applebee's, Golden Coral or any type steakhouse. It would help create more jobs and they kids could learn more about culinary art and would help them to do better because that would mean a future and give them a skill.

Commissioner Hinson said it was brought to his attention there was a restaurant in Havana some time back that Coach Slaughter ran and started selling alcohol and now there was a major conundrum because a church purchased a piece of property across the street and had not put anything there the past 5-10 years but they owned the property. He said someone approached him and said they wanted to put a restaurant there like was previously there but could not do it because a church owned the property but he supposed that was another conversation.

Commissioner Morgan said what he mentioned, somewhere in the packet it mentioned "active church or house of worship" and that would not be issue moving forward.

Chair Holt said she was fully in favor of the 500 feet and needed a motion and a second to move forward or however the Board wanted to do it.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the attorney had any concerns and he said based on the conversation, he did not but felt it was a policy decision as to how they wanted to handle it and could do at the policy level what they felt was appropriate, if they wanted to keep 1,000 feet but add some exemptions, that was a possibility. Commissioner Morgan said he did not want to have happen was a liquor store to open up next to church saying their sales was based on 51% of hotdogs but he had no problem with a sit-down restaurant.

Chair Holt said what she understood from the State law, if there was a liquor store there could not be an entrance from the store or restaurant, there had to be a separate entrance; it could be a stand-alone liquor store even if attached to the same building but had to have a separate entrance.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they could include in the Ordinance that liquor stores were not allowed within 1,000 feet of a church and Mr. Weiss said they could include an expressed prohibition if they wished to do so.

Commissioner Taylor said if they read this closer, they were allowing a restaurant to do package alcohol. She then read under the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Licenses and Permits

for Alcoholic Beverages it stated: “Beer, wine, and liquor in connection with operation of a restaurant; sale by the drink for consumption on premises and package sales in sealed containers...” She said they had to have a certain amount of footage for the restaurant but they needed to take this into consideration and the State law would trump whatever they said. She said she was for businesses and economic development but had to have smart development. Chair Holt said for them to look at the Ordinance and Section 6-2(3) stated “...the sale of alcohol is by the drink for consumption on the premises.” She said that was COP and that was the type of license she had and she discussed the different “COP” licenses.

Mr. Weiss said what was important to look at and was proposed here were the “SRX” and the different types of licenses from the Division of Alcohol and Beverages and Tobacco, it showed all the licenses that could be had and what they entailed and allowed. He said if they wanted to expressly prohibit package sales...Commissioner Morgan said it put it in there...

Commissioner Taylor said there were other licenses for them to consider, for example the “CEP” and “13CT”. Mr. Weiss said there were additional licenses and believed they were all specific to consumption on the premises and felt the Ordinance tracked that language and included that “on-premises” as well.

Commissioner Hinson said he had heartburn earlier because of what happened years ago in his district. He said he saw a new trend where they open a convenience store then put pizza, chicken and it laid out like a restaurant in the convenience store and then they could have a liquor store on top of that because they were now selling food. He said there was a place in Havana doing this and Chair Holt said it was in the City and he said it was the County and he was bamboozled by how they were able to do this. Chair Holt said for him to contact Alcohol and Tobacco and they would either explain it to him or shut it down. She said if they approved this, they were saying what could and could not be done. He said when he sees another commissioner has heartburn, they should have a workshop to answer all the questions and they did not need to rush this and needed someone to break down the acronyms on the licenses so could they could have as much information as possible and be on same page and do things the right way.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said from his personal perception, what they were doing right now, discussing different parts of the Ordinance, should be done in a workshop format.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought this needed to be workshopped and at the appropriate time would make the motion.

Chair Holt said in looking on page 9, this was the second time this had been before them and it was for food establishments only and pointed out that Planning and Zoning passed this with a majority vote. She also said she felt it was a great idea what Commissioner Morgan mentioned about including no package stores.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not disagree with what she just said and would like to include what Commissioner Viegbesie mentioned and that was to include the main thoroughfares in

Gadsden County; Highway 90, Highway 27 and the I-10 interchanges to keep the integrity of what they were trying to accomplish and Chair Holt said she agreed with that.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBSIE MADE A MOTION FOR A CONTINUANCE OF THIS ITEM AND THE DIFFERENCES BE IRONED OUT BEFORE IT COMES BACK AND WHEN IT DOES COME BACK, EXPECT GCDC AND CHAMBER TO BE PRESENT FOR THE DISCUSSION AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. CHAIR HOLT HAD COMMENTS.**

Chair Holt asked Mr. Weiss if it could be continued with no further input when it came back.

Mr. Weiss said they could continue the public hearing, but the problem with doing it on this matter was there would be some potential changes and the public needed an opportunity to have input on the changes.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS MOTION FOR A CONTINUANCE AND MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITHDREW HER SECOND AND MADE HER SECOND FOR A WORKSHOP. CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**4. Appointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for appointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team.

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

**5. Voting Credentials-2018 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to designate a County delegate and County Alternate to participate in the NACo annual election of officers and policy adoptions at the NACo Annual Conference.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR ANYONE THAT ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE BE ABLE TO VOTE AS HE WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6. Approval of Resolution 2018-001 Revising Gadsden County's Travel Policy**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2018-001 revising the County's Travel Policy for all employees and authorized persons.

Chair Holt pointed out the changes started on pages 6 of 12. Mrs. Jackson said these revisions were decided at a workshop.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not see anything different from what they agreed on at the

previous workshop held on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Weiss to give a brief refresher of what changed. Mr. Weiss said changes made were underlined and the changes were being able to approve an advance for fuel costs and there was discussion of approval of travel for the Commissioners whether it was by the entire Board or whether it was by the Chair for the Board and the Vice-Chair for the Chair. He said there was interest for the protection of privacy making it so the Chair approved travel for the Board and Vice-Chair approved travel for the Chair instead of the entire Board for routine travel. He listed the agreed upon changes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said one thing this did was to explain the times of department and return and reimbursable expenditures and what determined an overnight stay and the difference in hors d'oeuvres and meals and what could be claimed for reimbursement.

Commissioner Taylor said at the last Board meeting there was concern about Commissioners having regular trips publicized in a Board meeting and security of their privacy and if they trip was cut short. She asked where the Clerk was on 25 days to get receipts over to their Office for reimbursement and felt that was a long time and she did not agree with it. She said the advance for fuel costs, where they receiving a check for gas before leaving based on State mileage before leaving on the trip and Mr. Weiss said yes, if advanced travel was approved.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Chair Holt pointed out a motion was previously made and she made the second.

Commissioner Morgan said there was problem with the previous travel policy and asked if the issues had been addressed. Mrs. Jackson said everything had been addressed here with the exception of the Clerk's office was not comfortable with the 25 days, they recommended 7 days. He said he thought that was the concern that Commissioner Taylor expressed. He asked if there was heartburn in changing it to the 7 days and Chair Holt said that was up to the person that made the motion.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when they said they have anywhere from 25 days, they had anywhere from three hours of arrival up to 25 days to turn in receipts and did not see anything wrong with having "up to" 25 days, if he wanted his money, he would turn in receipts as soon as he returned.

Chair Holt said in looking at the item, it was assumed they would have their money already for the trip and there would be nothing to be reimbursed for; they would have travel for gas, and asked what they were being reimbursed for. Commissioner Viegbesie said the possible things to be reimbursed for were luggage charges, airport charges, toll charges, parking, etc.

Commissioner Hinson called the question.



**THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**7. Approval of the County Internet Usage Policy Number 18-01**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item for approval of the proposed County Internet Usage Policy Number 18-01.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a need for this ordinance and was told yes.

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**8. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said there was a Citizens' Bill of Rights workshop scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30; BOCC Regular Meeting scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.; a second budget workshop scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00; July 17<sup>th</sup> is the BOCC Regular Meeting; and July 26<sup>th</sup> is the tentative Tower Workshop at 5:00 p.m. Chair Holt asked about the tentative meeting for the Ordinance and Mrs. Jackson said probably the second meeting in July.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what the estimated costs to the County was for ink cartridges and paper for their meeting books and Mrs. Jackson said it was in the \$1,000's. He said he was old school and liked the book but for cost saving measures, they could go paperless.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**9. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report

**CLERK OF COURT**

**10. Updates**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he hated to bring this up, but saw something the other day and with Medicaid/Medicare, they were looking at \$980,000 next year for an expense, they needed to be very careful with hiring and personally thought, since they had that expense they knew about, it would be wise to put a freeze on hiring until they knew exactly where they were going.

Chair Holt said they needed another building inspector and they had to have a planner,

Commissioner Hinson said they were about to hire a Public Relations person for \$41/hour and wanted to make sure they had the money.

Mrs. Jackson said the range was already approved by the Board and it could not be changed and the position was revamped to add more responsibilities. Chair Holt pointed out the TDC person was moved into Housing and there was no-one working with TDC currently.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to go on record and said could see what was going on with the State, he knew what was going on with Medicaid/Medicare and felt they should put a freeze on hiring until they knew exactly what was coming.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO PUT A FREEZE ON HIRING AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson then went around the dais and told everyone he loved them.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan suggested they look at an inventory of equipment for their Volunteer Fire Stations and identify any express needs there.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she had nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked Commissioner Morgan for raising the fire issue.

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at this juncture.*

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING STEWARD TEMPLE AME CHURCH ON THEIR MORTGAGE BURNING ON JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> AND A RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE PRESIDING ELDER PLUMMER OF QUINCY DISTRICT AME CHURCH AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIOENR HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt told Commissioner Hinson he had to cut off his comments telling everyone he loved them because it was too long. She said people were beginning to comment they were not taking care of County business and saying the same thing regarding the Resolutions.

She asked the Board to consider doing the Resolutions at 5:30 and then they could conduct their business at 6:00. She said she and Commissioner Viegbesie was running for office and did not need political speeches, just people taking care of their business starting at 6:00 p.m., otherwise they were not serving the public.

**Receipt and File**

**12. Death Resolutions**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 19, 2018 – Regular Meeting

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 3, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

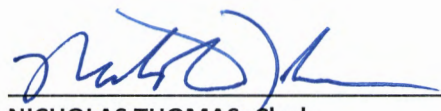
MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:09 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 JULY 3, 2018 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 – arrived late  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
Deborah Mennis, Assistant County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Holt asked for any amendments or for approval of the Agenda.

Commissioner Morgan said he would like to add discussion of the County Administrator contract.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD DISCUSSION AND ACTION OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT AND MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

None

**CONSENT**

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

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. May 15, 2018 Regular Meeting**
- 2. Ratification Memo**
- 3. Approval of the Lease Agreement between Gadsden County BOCC and the Gadsden County Development Council**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

None

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

**Nancy Linnan, Esq., Carlton Fields Law Firm, 215 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL** Item 4

**Brian P. Schreiber, Anderson Columbia, 871 NW Guerdon St., Lake City, FL 32055,** Item 4

**Dwayne Smith, 3137 Atwater Road, Chattahoochee, FL 32324,** appeared before the Board. He said his family has owned property since 1943 and there is a problem with a Caucasian family that lives behind them and said they were totally racist. He said they are arguing about an easement road and the family recently called the County to grade the road. He said the road was not their property and he showed a map of the property to the Commissioners and further explained. He further stated they should find out who owned the property before sending equipment out.

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

Mr. Smith provided copies of signs that have been placed by him on his property and a sign the Hastings' have placed on their property.

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

Chair Holt advised him the Board could not take action on this matter and Mr. Smith said he wanted to bring this before them before work crews were sent out again and advised them to know whose property they were going to before they go there.

**Teran Smith, 3137 Atwater Road, Chattahoochee, FL 32324,** appeared before the Board, and said his brother said everything eloquently and this was still an on-going situation and explained the latest incident.

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

**Alan Dust, 477 Scotland Road, Quincy, FL,** appeared before the Board. He said he previously appeared before the Board, voiced his concerns, gave a copy of what was written to the Deputy Clerk and said nothing had happened since the meeting.

Chair Holt explained they asked that he meet with the Manager because her job was to place items on the Agenda. He asked the purpose for giving his statement and assumed the Administrator would contact him for a meeting. Chair Holt asked if the two could meet and he said he would be happy to and Mrs. Jackson said she would contact him Thursday. Chair Holt asked that he give his contact information to Mr. Morris.

**Eugene Sherman, 660 Sheline Drive, Havana, FL 32333 representing the Lake Yvette Homeowners Association,** appeared before Board. He said in 2014 the County paved the west side and they got fire hydrants. He said the east side roads remain unpaved and the "natives are getting restless". He said they were In need of more hydrants on the east side and a road was

paved a few years ago it created a run-off problem that is impacting the lake.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **4. Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-Midway Business Park Preliminary Plat (MSD-2018-02)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a quasi-judicial hearing for approval of the Midway Business Park Subdivision Preliminary Plat.

**Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She gave a description of the item and said the Planning Commission recommended this for approval by a vote of 7-0. She said they have taken steps to protect the gopher tortoises and the required 50' buffer has been labeled adjacent to the wetlands. She said a Citizens participation meeting was held in 2016 prior to beginning the new application process.

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

Ms. Jeglie listed the options and said the recommendation was option 1.

Chair Holt announced this was a quasi-judicial hearing and public was welcomed to speak.

**Nancy Linnan, Esq., Carlton Fields Law Firm, 215 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL** appeared before the board. She explained Brian Schreiber was in charge of all large projects with Anderson Columbia and he was now actively involved with the project.

**Brian P. Schreiber, Anderson Columbia, 871 NW Guerdon St., Lake City, FL 32055**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and said they would be happy to answer any questions the Board might have.

Chair Holt asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor or in opposition of this project and there was no-one.

#### **COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Taylor said that area was heavily residential and asked if citizens were aware of this and this was the same road Four Star Freightliner was locating on and was a small road. Commissioner Taylor said if Commissioner Hinson was OK, then she was OK.

Commissioner Hinson said that was a great question for the Administrator and he knew there were concerns about development and was great point by the Commissioner.

Mrs. Jackson said a CBOR meeting was held on September 14, 2016 and no-one was in attendance.

Ms. Linnan re-appeared before the Board and said there were two CBOR meetings held and no-one appeared at them. She said she appeared before Midway in January 2017 to achieve the agreement that allowed the County to plat a portion of the Midway property and the City commission was concerned about big trucks leaving their site turning left onto Brickyard Road because of the number of residents and children and was the reason why they had the County put

a sign and when leaving the site, they have to turn right to head toward Highway 90. She said there would be a small portion that would be heavy industrial but toward the apartments would be light industrial.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a serious issue for a lot of people in the community and he asked if this needed to be a super majority vote.

Ms. Jeglie re-appeared before the Board and said major subdivisions were required to have a super majority vote and each meeting was advertised in the papers with a map, a map was attached in the mail outs, signs were posted and there was a map attachment in the report in their packet.

Commissioner Hinson thanked her for being so detailed and thanked everyone for their patience. He said Commissioner Taylor brought up a great point about more trucks on the road. He said the County just put \$1 Million on the road. He said they wanted the business but in five years they would need new roads. Chair Holt said that was mentioned at the last meeting and Anderson Columbia was willing to support legislation regarding the maintenance and improvements to the roads.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Jeglie if the current use allowed for heavy and light industrial use and she responded yes. He said she indicated there was already some infrastructure in place and she said yes. He said once everything was approved, they would go through a final inspection and they all had to meet the requirements the County put in place and she said yes. He said he understood the concern on the roads there but remembered a separate conversation that was not included in this and was not what he heard in the motion nor his second but was something they needed to look at in the future and prepare and budget for it.

Commissioner Taylor said they all could agree there was some land use stipulations in place, but could also agree the maps were old and a lot of upgrades have not been done. She said in Midway, houses were going up and the map had not been updated to reflect the growth.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the County has looked into the area and from his viewpoint, there may be things they were privy to that he was not and asked if there were any other developments going on in the area. Mrs. Jackson said she did not know of any, the biggest concern she heard was the trucks going into the residential area and they made it where they have to turn right and the road was built to handle the trucks.

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

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**5. Approval of Engineering Consulting Services for Gadsden County**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of one or more engineering firm(s) to provide engineering consulting services for the County.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Hinson said he had a question before they moved on. He disclosed he had lunch with Dewberry last week and was unaware this was on the Agenda and told him he could not discuss the item. He said last year they had ranked someone else #1 and Dewberry #2; he asked what happened to the first group. Mrs. Jackson said she was unsure what happened to that group but there were seven proposals and they were all listed.

Chair Holt said she had called for the vote and had gotten ayes and had not called for no's yet and asked if there were any no's and no-one said anything.

**6. Approval of Public Works Mosquito Control Budget FY2018-19**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the required submission of documents for matching funds from Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

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

**7. Re-Appointment to the Career Source Capital Region Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for reappointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**8. Cell Phone Policy**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the proposed County Cellular Phones and Tablets Policy Number 18-03.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked what was so significant about this.

Mrs. Jackson said some things stayed the same and some changed and she explained.

**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 said there was a monthly report from all the Departments before them. Also a Capital Projects Update document. She said there was a request for a Proclamation from the Health Department recognizing the 2018 Health Symposium on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00.

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

Mrs. Jackson gave a list of upcoming meetings and important dates:



Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
July 3, 2018-Regular Meeting

July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 will be the Summer Youth banquet;  
July 10<sup>th</sup> will be the Budget workshop starting at 5:00 p.m.;  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the GHI Board meeting at 5:00; and  
July 26<sup>th</sup> will be the Tower workshop at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for the update from the different departments and said it would be nice to get it prior to the meetings in case they had questions. He said he brought up at the last meeting about looking at fire department equipment and their needs and asked if that had happened and Mrs. Jackson said they were in the process now and it was started last week. He asked who was included and she said Andre Walker was involved in the inventory. He said there were issues at the Library and asked if they were being addressed and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested they follow up on: 1) bringing IBTS folks here to help with Emergency Management and asked that they request they come make a presentation to the Commission and bring Emergency Management people here; 2) What happens when a Sheriff's Vehicle, ambulance or Fire truck was in an accident and asked about insurance coverage and passed a brochure to the Manager and asked she follow up on that; 3) He said at the last FAC meeting there were three graduating categories: the CCC, ACC and the CGE. He said the CGE was for county workers to help understand how County Government worked.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**10. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Deborah Mennis said there were no updates.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

**11. Updates**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked Ms. Mennis for coming.

He said he had a Pastor call him this weekend and had a good friend pass away and they were dealing with CRMC and EMS. He said EMS was called and it was requested he be transported to Tallahassee and was taken to Quincy instead because it was closer. He said the family was outraged and he died at the Quincy hospital. He said when the family arrived at the door they were told by an officer he had passed away and they needed to contact the funeral home and they didn't hear it from the doctor. Then the officer asked them to leave.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a score card or rating card regarding the hospital.

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

He said there was a need for a hospital but they should do what they were supposed to do.

Chair Holt asked if he wanted the Manager to check on this and he said yes.

**Citizens Bill Of Rights**

He said he was curious, if they had four show up for the meeting and need a super majority vote, could they make the vote and was told yes, that all four had to be for the item.

He said he wanted to recognize the National Hook-up of Black Women.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR THE NATIONAL HOOK-UP OF BLACK WOMEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

He also asked to recognize Janice Maxwell and said every year she goes from Chattahoochee to Havana in the summer to make sure the mentally and physically disadvantaged students were OK.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR A RESOLUTION FOR JANICE MAXWELL AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan welcomed Ms. Mennis back and wished the Board a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and invited them to the Greensboro and Chattahoochee fireworks.

**County Administrator Position**

He said they needed to make a decision on who was to fill that position, he appreciated the efforts Mrs. Jackson has made in her interim position and he would support her to be the full-time County Administrator but they needed the position filled permanently.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor wished everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at this juncture.*

She said regarding the Summer Youth program, there were a few students that were selected but were unable to attend the Orientation and therefore was not able to participate in the Summer Program and she felt it was unfair. She felt this could be corrected tonight and they were in their third week.

Mrs. Jackson said she did not feel they should be penalized and did instruct Staff going forward all dates needed to be a part of the application when orientation would be held and they had to be there if they wanted to participate in the program.

Commissioner Hinson said he also had received phone calls because arrangements had been made for one student to go to 4H camp and money had been paid and the following week went on vacation with the family. He said he did not understand why children were being punished that

wanted to work.

Chair Holt said one way to solve this was to go back to CareerSource, they were the professional organization and was good at it.

Commissioner Taylor said this Board never said orientation was mandatory, it said they needed to implement an orientation process and could have been done when the student returned. She asked if they were replaced by some that did not make the original cut and Mrs. Jackson said yes, there were students that qualified and did not make the original cut and were asked to work. Commissioner Taylor asked if it was found in writing that the Board approved a mandatory Orientation and Mrs. Jackson said it was verified that orientation was mandatory. She said she checked with the HR Director and spoke with someone in the Clerks' office and it was verified by them but was not in writing. She said she trusted HR and the Clerk's Office with the information. She said she would check to make sure that was the case and felt it was something the Board should re-visit. Commissioner Taylor said she did not remember it being mandatory, she recalled Chair Holt made mention of Orientation and they go through a training and she concurred with that so they were professional going on the jobsite, but that could have been conducted at a later date.

Commissioner Hinson started to speak and Chair Holt said no, Commissioner Taylor had the floor and Commissioner Taylor said she would yield. Chair Holt said no, Commissioner Viegbesie was next and at the end if Commissioner Hinson wanted to speak, he could then. Commissioner Taylor said she would end now so he would have an opportunity to speak so Commissioner Holt could get in the field.

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he knew each and every one had heard the saying growing up "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself".

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE THAT THE BOCC PREPARE AND PRESENT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NEIGHBORING FRANKLIN COUNTY ON BEHALF OF THE LIMESTONE WILDFIRE AND SYMPATHIZE WITH THEM ON THE LOSS OF LIVES LOST THUSFAR AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said they had talked about the summer youth program, hospital, and asked the Administrator to look into the phone system.

Commissioner Hinson said regarding the Havana Senior Citizens, last year they did not get their money, said they did and did not. He said the President made a decision to give the money back to County without getting with the Board. He wanted to make sure the BOCC gave their support to give the money back to them. Chair Holt said it had to be agendaed for money and they could bring it up at the budget workshop on Tuesday.

He said they now had to do what was right for the children and he wanted to give them a chance to work.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO GIVE THE CHILDREN THAT WERE UNABLE TO**

**WORK A CHANCE TO WORK UNTIL THE END OF THE PROGRAM.**

Chair Holt said in order to move money it had to be agendaed and other children were moved into the slots. She asked the Administrator if there was money left over and Mrs. Jackson said she could not speak to that. Chair Holt asked that everyone that was not accepted, were they willing to give them job.

Commissioner Hinson said the County Administrator had up to \$25,000 discretionary funds and she did not have to come to the Board for it, she could make that decision.

*Commissioner Viegbesie left the meeting at this juncture.*

Commissioner Hinson said he was making the motion now and Chair Holt asked what his motion was. He restated his motion.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE FIVE CHILDREN THAT WERE UNABLE TO WORK WERE ABLE TO GET A JOB AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.**

Chair Holt said she could not say that because they were not in a meeting where they could move money that was not agendaed. Commissioner Taylor said there was a motion on floor and Chair Holt asked if she called the question and she said yes.

Chair Holt asked for the attorney's opinion.

Mrs. Mennis said she shared the concern that the Chair had that even though the Administrator did have up to \$25,000, there was a certain amount of funding set aside for this program and now they were possibly changing the amount because there were five children that took their spots and money that was set aside for that program likely had already been used. She continued and said the Administrator indicated she was not sure there was any money left in that program and her concern was even though she had \$25,000 authority, they had already earmarked a certain amount for that program. She added that was not to say it could not be brought back at a later meeting and placed on the agenda, then the Administrator would have an opportunity to see what funds might be left in the program or the Board could vote to move additional funds into it.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-1 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED.**

Chair Holt said they must follow but have to do it legally.

Commissioner Hinson said with the CBOR, he said he wrote something down that connected to everything they were about to do. He said someone else said it but he was putting it in his words, "one of the concepts that means a lot, not only in America but in Gadsden County, is *Stare Decisis*, right, that means don't overturn precedent unless there was a good reason." He said for the vote they just had, that was a good reason.

Chair Holt adjourned the meeting and left.

**Receipt and File**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
July 3, 2018-Regular Meeting

13. Letter to Dustie Moss, Florida Department of Transportation

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 17, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:41 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 JULY 17, 2018 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  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to mute their phones, stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO THE AGENDA. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**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 of Minutes**
  - a. June 5, 2018 Regular Meeting**
  - b. June 19, 2018 Regular Meeting**
- 2. Ratification Memo**
- 3. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien –SHIP Foreclosure Prevention Program**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Mary Helena Allen, 61 Clearwater Street, Quincy, FL - CW Roberts Mining Issue

Debra Chatham, 6277 Flat Creek Road, Quincy, FL – CBOR

Marian Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**4. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-005 for the Amendment of Chapters 1 and 7 of the Land Development Code, specifically regarding the Citizen's Bill of Rights (LDR 2018-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was a legislative public hearing to adopt Ordinance 2018-005 for the amendment of Chapter 1, Administration and Enforcement and Chapter 7, Development Orders, Development Permits, and Development Agreements of the Land Development Code, to amend the Citizen's Bill of Rights and move it from Chapter 7 to Chapter 1.

**Allara Gutcher, The Planning Collaborative**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief synopsis of the item. She reminded the Board that this item required a 4-1 vote in order to pass.

Chair Holt announced this was a Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments from the public.

**Marian Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board. She said she was looking at the Alternate Ordinance and the concept of the exemption and the overlay areas was not presented to the Planning Board and they had not heard this. She added as she understood the changes to the Land Development Code and the Comprehensive Plan should go through the Planning Board first. She said she would like for them to consider that the Board Variance be included in the criteria for the oversight for the CBOR.

**Debra Chatham, 6277 Flat Creek Road, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board. She said she had been reading and liked the Number 4 item, but wanted to make them mindful of something she saw on Facebook. She said this was about the family splitting and they needed to go back to their constituents because she had not heard one up there say they were not interested in the family rights when they went to split the parcels.

Chair Holt asked for Board discussion.

Ms. Gutcher reappeared before the Board. Chair Holt asked if the Alternate Ordinance needed to go back to the Planning Commission. Ms. Gutcher said they had the discussion after the workshop on June 21<sup>st</sup> and asked if Mr. Weiss wanted to discuss the procedure.

Mr. Weiss explained any amendment to the Comprehensive Plan had to go to the Planning Commission and then to the County Commission. He said the standard when an Ordinance had to go back through the entire process was if there was a change to the nature of the Ordinance. He said if something different was put into the Ordinance when it came to the County Commission than when it went to the Planning Commissioner was different; it needed to go through the whole process. For something like this, the whole Ordinance was considered by the Planning Commission and thought their recommendation was to remove the super majority vote all together. He said he did not think it was a legal impediment and was the discretion to this Board if the Board

thought it should have gone through them, they could make the decision to send it back. He said he did not think it changed the nature of the Ordinance that they would be required to go back through.

Chair Holt said a workshop was held and suggestions were made and put into the document and she further explained.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Gutcher if the existing ordinance in place regarding Chapter 1 and 7 was impeding growth at the interchanges and she said she was not sure anyone could answer that question.

Chair Holt said she was for economic growth and businesses were not coming because water, sewer, electric, etc. was not at the interchanges.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed if water and sewer was needed at the interchanges, the County needed to do whatever was necessary to make that happen.

Commissioner Viegbesie said a question that came to mind was an issue a citizen raised, the perception of what the CBOR was. He said as written, did it apply to individual family property owners who wanted to change their own property land use.

Ms. Gutcher said it applied to anyone who owned property who wanted to change the map; it did not discriminate between ownership.

Commissioner Taylor said if a business did not think it worthy to come to the County to talk to the citizens, The County may not be interested in inviting them. She said Mrs. Chatham had a great point. The CBOR was there to help with large scale development and Ms. Gutcher said the way it was written today, if a property owner owned one acre of land and wanted to go from Agriculture to Rural Residential, they would have to go through this process. Commissioner Taylor said that was for changing the land, but if they were giving land to a family member and not making changes to the land use, would it affect them. Ms. Gutcher said if they were not changing the land use they would not have to go through this. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted that out there for clarity. She further stated she agreed with the Board on some of the language changes that needed to be done for clarity but did not agree at this time to change the super majority vote.

Commissioner Viegbesie said although the changes that have been made were improvements to the document and the main item that has been controversial was still there, for now he was willing to make a motion.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Ms. Gutcher said Attachment 4 had the map and would be Option 3.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO OPTION THREE AND CHAIR HOLT AMENDED HER SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said in the example given by Commissioner Taylor's question and Ms.



Gutcher's response, they were supporting someone that wanted to make a land use change, they would not have to notify their neighbors. Ms. Gutcher said their motion was to include the option that had the exemptions with a map to if they were outside the economic opportunity zones, they would have to go through the process if they were applying for a map amendment. Commissioner Morgan asked if they were inside, they would not and she said correct.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Taylor had questions for clarity. She said she was looking at option 1 and option 3 and the difference was the attachments, attachment 1 and attachment 4. She said she wanted to make sure that she was voting correctly. She said option 1 did not include the map and Ms. Gutcher said correct. Commissioner Taylor said if it did not include the map, which meant whatever area that wanted to fall under this, they had the right to and Ms. Gutcher said outside the city limits. Commissioner Taylor said option 4 included the map and Ms. Gutcher said yes and that had restrictions, Ms. Gutcher said it had exemptions for those parcels within a mile boundary of the city limits, I-10 interchanges, Highway 27 and Highway 90. Chair Holt said around the cities, they do not have this ordinance and they do not have the CBOR and if annexed, they did not have it. She said there was only 1 interchange left at the Chattahoochee exit.

**Commissioner Viegbesie-yes**

**Commissioner Hinson-yes**

**Commissioner Taylor-no**

**Commissioner Morgan no**

**Chair Holt-yes**

**Chair Holt said item failed for lack of 4 votes.**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS AND MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson asked for clarity on the changes and Ms. Gutcher explained.

Chair Holt said she was not voting for option 1 because she was against the super majority vote and no county out of 38 Counties this size uses anything that required four votes to change property to what someone wanted to do.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Commissioner Viegbesie-no**

**Commissioner Hinson-no**

**Commissioner Taylor-yes**

**Commissioner Morgan-yes**

**Chair Holt-no**

**Motion failed for lack of majority.**

**5. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of transmittal of LSPA 2018-02 to Amend the Traffic Circulation Element of the Comprehensive Plan**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a legislative hearing to consider the transmittal of amendments to the Traffic Circulation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and renaming of the element to the Transportation Element.

Ms. Gutcher gave a brief description of the item. She said the element was last updated in 2001 and there had been many legislative changes and different types of requirements and conditions that changed since that time and they were included.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was this was nothing but updates of the current Comp Plan to conform to the more current transportation elements of the Comp Plan with DEO and other required agencies.

Commissioner Taylor asked about "to prevent an increased number of driveways that access on to high-speed roadways..." and Ms. Gutcher explained.

Commissioner Morgan asked about impact fees and she said it was not a firm commitment; it gave them the opportunity to look at in future if they wanted. He asked her to explain impact fees and she did so.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of transmittal of LSPA 2018-003 to Amend the Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a legislative public hearing to consider the transmittal of amendments to the Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan to update specific policies for clarification purposes.

Mrs. Gutcher gave a brief description of this item.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked if this required a super majority vote and was told yes.

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

**7. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of transmittal of LSPA 2018-005 to Amend the Comprehensive Plan by deletion of Chapter 9, Concurrency Management Element**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was a legislative hearing for the transmittal of LSPA 2018-05 for the amendment of the Comprehensive Plan by deletion of the Concurrency

Management Element, also known as Chapter 9.

Mrs. Gutcher gave a brief explanation of this item.

Commissioner Morgan asked her recommendation and she said to remove it from the Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Holt asked if there were any comments and there were none.

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

**8. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Transmittal of an Amendment to the Future Land Use Map for +/-284 acres from Rural Residential to Agriculture-1 of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2018-06)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of an amendment by Elva Peppers, authorized agent, of the Future Land Use Map of the comprehensive Plan for approximately 284 acres from Rural Residential to Agriculture -1.

Mrs. Gutcher gave a brief explanation of this item.

**Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental Land Services**, appeared before the Board. She said some had been on the Board long enough to know this was originally the Highlands/Stoddard Amendment and the request was to down zone from Rural Residential to Ag-1 would allow a 1:1- one house per 5 acres. She said the issues she took away from the Planning Commission were 1) the test amendment, which was coming up on Item 10 and they requested that all of that be brought together but the issue was now after the amendments were originally approved, some parcels had been sold and there was no way for her applicant to bring the entire previous amendment to the Board to request approval; and 2) in the Comprehensive Plan amendment, it was required if the property was developed as a 1:1, it would require a sewage treatment plant. She said the parcels have been sold and some resold and was difficult to do that. She explained her client owned 285 acres and approximately 130 acres additional acres not owned by her client. She said in order for the 130 acres to develop on their property, they would also have to come before the Board and request an amendment to the sewer treatment plant and was not practical. She said the main reason for the amendment request was to create a property and a produce that was doable and developable. She said there was approximately 57 acres of wetlands (20% of the property). She further explained the property to the Board.

Chair Holt asked if there were any comments in favor or against the item.

**Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board. She said the way this property set currently, they were required to create a sewage treatment plant in addition to Talquin water and the sewage was to be taken off-site. She further stated this was originally Ag 3 and was approved to Rural Residential. She added she felt this was approximately 50% wetlands and disagreed with the 20%. She further explained this to the Board. She said if they go forward with this item, there would be 56 septic tanks there and hopefully it would be required they hook up to Talquin water and the sewage would stay off-site. She said she felt Ag-3 would be a much better use of the property.

Commissioner Taylor disclosed that she did have conversation with a property owner regarding this matter. She said her position has always been what the constituents wanted in the area. She said she was concerned with the 56 septic tanks but did not want to stifle economic growth and development and felt this needed to go back to the Planning Commission. She understood that putting in a sewer system was quite expensive.

Elva Peppers reappeared before the Board. Commissioner Taylor asked about the text information that was not available to the Planning Commissioner and Ms. Peppers said it was. Commissioner Taylor asked what was not available that they wanted that she now had and Ms. Peppers said the plan had not changed. Commissioner Taylor said she understood it was impossible to change the parcels that had been sold already and Ms. Peppers said the other issue was regarding the septic tanks. Ms. Peppers said 56 was the maximum that would be allowed on the parcels and was less of an impact than a 200 lot subdivision that would include roadways, stormwater treatments, etc. She added that the sewage would be processed on site. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to see nice houses, it would help the tax base, but they had to have smart growth and development. She said she wanted to support it and it mirrored what was there and she would probably end up supporting it.

Chair Holt asked if there were any more comments.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his concern was the super majority of the Planning Commissioners and he has concerns with how they decided. He felt this should be tabled, go back to them but also heard there was nothing else the applicant would be able to provide to persuade their minds. He said he was concerned with the options they had on this item.

Commissioner Taylor asked the majority of homes at the lake, if they were septic or sewer and was told septic; there were no sewer lines that run to the lake.

Commissioner Taylor asked the costs to the developer to put in the necessary sewer and they did not know. Commissioner Taylor asked with 56 septic tanks, what was the major concern. Ms. Gutcher said she was not sure if she could answer that question, it was not a part of the study analysis.

Chair Holt said she looked at the package plan and the number of lots already sold reduced the package plan.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what the elevation of the developable part of the 5 acres to the wetlands and how would the drain field impact the wetlands. Ms. Peppers said as part of this project, they could look as the floodplain and there about 90 acres of the property was in the flood zone and they would not be building inside the flood zone. She said that constituted 32% of the property would not be developable.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 2-2. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SUPER MAJORITY.**

**9. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Transmittal of an Amendment of the Future Land Use**

**Map for +/- 145 acres from Agriculture 3 to Conservation and Mining of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2018-07)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of an amendment by Elva Peppers, authorized agent, of the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan for approximately +/-145.5 acres from Agriculture-3 to Conservation and Mining.

Ms. Gutcher gave a brief explanation of this item and said the Planning Commission recommended a 6-1 vote to transmit this item.

Chair Holt announced this was a Public Hearing asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in favor of this item.

**Bob Flowers, President of CW Roberts**, appeared before Board and said he appreciated the Board's time in listening to the issue. He said they had been working on their due diligence to bring this request before the Board to change the zoning.

Elva Peppers appeared before the board and gave a brief description to Board and presented a map. She said the mining started in 1994, was not a new area of mining and was approved a long time ago; there were nearby mines located on Sadberry Road across the street. She said Gopher tortoises were on the property and will be relocated before site development. She also said DEP permits and monitors the mining projects annually.

Commissioner Holt asked if anyone else was in favor of the project and wanted to speak and there was no-one.

**Mary Helena Allen, 61 Clearwater Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and spoke in opposition of this project. She said she was very concerned about the additional trucks on the highway. She said the sand mining strips the filters and allows for direct run-off and pollution. She said there was a community meeting regarding this issue and the concern was the restoration of the mining areas and what would be done to fill in after the sand was removed. She further stated the County has incredible natural resources and was concerned if approved it would be like the train was leaving the station and they would have a difficult time stopping it because it would imply that the commission was in favor of the mining and would be difficult to have it reversed at a later time.

**Ed Allen** appeared before the Board in opposition of this matter. He said the CW Roberts was not the Chuck Roberts they knew, he was not local but out of Alabama; and pays equipment taxes in Bristol where it was registered. He said he has been there for 22 years and had been no mining for 22 years. He said the number 1 goal of the Comp Plan was to protect the property rights of the citizens. He said building sand pits was not protecting the property rights. He said there were five sand pits and each one was capable of producing 18-26 truckloads per hour. He held up and wanted to put in public record the Geological Society of America and read the first paragraph and asked that it be put in the record.

"The abstract from the non-mechanical de-watering of the regional Florida Aquifer System. The regional Florida aquifer system has been de-watered and otherwise altered extensively throughout much of Florida and Coastal Georgia by ground water pumpage (mining). An increased threat to the crust aquifer system is structural

mining of aquifer formations primarily to reduce fertilizers, titanium products, construction materials and food supplements. These excavations often include mechanical de-watering to facilitate shallow and deep extractions of aquifer formations. All include reduced aquifer levels, de-watering of the aquifer system and altered hydro? at the surrounding and excavated pits due to increased void, space and evaporated loss (non-mechanical de-watering). Only mechanical de-watering is considered by regulatory agencies through excavation and application for structural mining of the aquifer system. Despite the ? data, open pits resulting from these excavations increase the ? subsurface reservoirs that create new and enhanced sources of water in areas where natural ground water supplements have been depleted.”

He read two more items aloud.

He said it was a known fact that sand pits destroy the aquifer. He said there were too many sand pits there as it was and no more were needed.

Elva Peppers reappeared before the Board to address his comments. She reminded the Board there would be a vegetative buffer, not a wall. She said the Friends of Talquin hired someone to test the water and it came back clean.

Bob Flowers reappeared before the Board and said if the equipment was being utilized in Gadsden County at the end of the year, the taxes were forwarded to Gadsden County or wherever they were working.

**Amy Allen, 268 Chinquapin Way, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board and spoke in opposition to this item. She said she grew up here and wanted it safe for her children and grandchildren.

Chair Holt asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Viegbesie disclosed he had met with representatives of CW Roberts and toured the plant with Clyde Collins. He said he now had questions and concerns and would like the applicant to address. He said he was a strong proponent for economic development but not at the expense of citizens.

1. They know that excessive mining has potential to cause the degradation of nearby rivers and waterways.
2. What provisions have been made to prevent excessive mining leading to potential leading to riverbank erosions and possibly landslides.
3. What are the provisions made that excessive mining would not result in the destruction of the aquatic and riparian habitats through large changes in the channels of methodology.
4. What provisions are made regarding the extra vehicle traffic which would have negative impact on the environment and citizens’ safety on the throughways.

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

Elva Peppers reappeared before the board to address the questions.

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

1. Dividing the property into conservation offers real permanent protection and there would not be encroachment into those areas where the wetlands are. She said the riverbank was included and the way the property ran, there was a slope. She said the mining would not occur down to the wetlands. She added as part of the FDEP permitting, all the cleared property for mining have to be graded so the water went into the pit or stormwater ponds, which was required. She also addressed his other questions.

Bob Flowers reappeared before the Board and said upon the final site plan; they will confer with FDOT to allow them to dictate the ingress/egress to the pit.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how craters created impact private and public property surrounding properties would and if anything was in place to mitigate craters on the surrounding properties. Ms. Peppers said the private property surrounding the property is timberland and there was a large buffer. She said there was not an expected impact on the adjacent property.

Commissioner Taylor said there was a meeting hosted at a local restaurant at the lake and some of Commissioner Viegbesie's questions were asked. She said Ms. Allen was correct in that she supports the mining going in but not without considering some of the concerns of the citizens and addressing them. She said they came up with several things; one being the ingress/egress and one things asked for was turn lanes. She said CW Roberts was concerned with the costs but said they would look into it and come up with a design that would eliminate some of the issues and concerns. She also said CW Roberts has agreed to put a vegetative buffer so the operations could not be seen from the highway. She said the citizens wanted assurance the aquifer would not be polluted and there has not been one study showing where what CW Roberts was doing hampered the aquifer.

Commissioner Morgan disclosed the he had spoken with Kent Sefer (sp), attorney for CW Roberts. He asked Ms. Gutcher about the tract of the transmission of this amendment, if the Board approved it, what happened next.

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

She said if the vote was to transmit, it would be packaged and put forward to DEO and several other State agencies and they have 30 days to review, if no objections to the request, BOCC would have a second public hearing and that would be with the request would be adopted. Commissioner Morgan asked if any of the agencies had questions, issues or concerns, how the applicant would respond. She explained the process. He then asked how long they saw the mining activities lasting at this site and Bob Flowers reappeared before Board and said for a number of years, possibly 15-20 years, depending on the volume of material and would be a long-term process. He said he understood this was a sensitive issue, appreciated the remarks made on both sides both for and against the transmission of the amendment, but they needed to make decisions based on good judgment for good growth and protecting the environment. He said based on this site, he had not seen any negative impact on the aquifer or the lake, has seen an organization that tried to be a good corporate partner for the County, always been someone to respond to the County if they saw a need and if they could help within their realm.

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

Chair Holt disclosed she had also met with the company but knew a lot about the project already and was also concerned about DEP, wetlands, beautification, etc.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS PROJECT.**

**10. Public Hearing-Legislative-Amendment of the Future Land Use Element Policy 1.5.2 and Map 1.2 of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2018-08)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a text amendment of the Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan to delete text from Policy 1.5.2 and parcels from Map 1.2 by Elva Peppers and Lex Thompson, authorized agents.

Ms. Gutcher gave a brief explanation of this item and said recommended if they vote to transmit, they make it effective for the subject parcels only. She said in light of the recent vote on Item 8, it would be a complicated issue if they adopted this. She also explained if they deleted the text, septic tanks would be allowed.

Elva Peppers appeared before the Board and said the way she read the policy, there was only three parcels there and if any one of them were developed as minor subdivision, the others could not be developed. She then asked if Commissioner Hinson was still on the phone and he was not. She asked if this was a super majority vote and needed 3 or 4 votes and was told 4.

Chair Holt asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the item and there was no-one. Chair Holt then asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition of the item.

Marion Lasley reappeared before the Board to speak in opposition of this item and hoped the Board would not go with this item.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the change would be universal across the County for land use with same classification or specific to this applicant and was told would be specific to the applicant.

Ms. Gutcher said if they approved this item, it would be specific to the applicant. Commissioner Viegbesie asked her to clarify what she said if the approved this item and not the previous item and she said if they approved this change, the Rural Residential category still stood and would allow them to develop a net 1 acre parcel and they would have to withdraw the wetlands and after that, have 1 acre parcels that was not wet. Commissioner Viegbesie asked how many septic tanks they would be looking at. She said in Item 8 there was 284 acres and was wetlands; they would have to remove the wet acres and what was left would be the net density. Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not see the position of the Planning Commission. Ms. Gutcher said it was a 6-1 vote to not transmit.

Commissioner Taylor said the whole focus was economic growth and development and it was obvious this project did not meet the approval of the Planning Commission and she hoped the developer and his team does not stop and they needed to work with the Planning Commission Board. She said they needed to look at options to get septic in the area and suggested they look at USDA for grants.



Chair Holt asked about the area in yellow and was told that was a minor subdivision that was created. She said after the one minor subdivision was created; the remaining was subject to that.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Chair Holt asked if this item was tabled would that help and Ms. Peppers asked about procedures. She said the other one failed and they would have to re-apply and start from the beginning. She said it was a lot of effort to get here and they have voted. Mr. Weiss said if it failed there would have to be a new application and tabling would save money.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2. MOTION FAILED.**

Mr. Weiss said the motion failed but there could be another motion of that was the will of the Board.

Chair Holt asked if there was a certain thing the Board wanted because they were not asking for approval but to table.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Item 8 failed, that the benefit was otherwise and his motion would be to not approve it.

Chair Holt said the benefit would be to the applicant so they would not have to pay all that money again.

Commissioner Taylor said Ms. Peppers said earlier she was interested in the reason the other commissioners did not approve this and it would give them a chance to find that out and give them opportunity to readdress it.

Chair Holt said to try another motion, maybe table with a certain time.

Mr. Weiss recommended another motion but not that motion.

Ms. Gutchter said as far as due diligence was concerned, she thought Ms. Peppers needed an up or down vote in case they decide to challenge it.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO NOT APPROVE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**11. Discussion on Gadsden County's State Lobbying Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it seeks Board discussion and direction regarding the County's State Lobbying Services.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was for discussion or for it to go out for bid.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to add another team to the Lawson and Associates to become more effective in lobbying. He felt with the Congressman in Washington, they were not as effective and productive. He suggested bidding this item out.

Commissioner Morgan said his recommendation was to not to go with this item based on Commissioner Viegbesie's comments. He said he also understood with budget constraints moving forward, they would not have as much to invest as they might want to.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO AGENDA THIS ITEM AT THE NEXT MEETING AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO TABLE.**

**12. Discussion on Ordinance for Gadsden County Planning Commission**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said they have had issues with no quorum at the Planning Commission meetings.

Chair Holt said she heard two or three things. They were saying the BOCC was sending so many things back after they have gone through them and felt the Board should make decisions.

Commissioner Taylor said if there was no quorum, they needed to know which district has poor attendance at the meetings and look at replacements and hold orientation.

Chair Holt said some of the commissioners wanted to be able to go to workshops and it be funded.

Commissioner Morgan said he was grateful for the ones that serve.

Chair Holt said she would like this brought back with an Ordinance.

**13. Lease of Portion of Building at 349 Cone Street with North Florida Development Corporation**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and it was for consideration of a lease with North Florida Development Corporation for a portion of the building located at 349 Cone Street.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this property has been on lease with this corporation in the past and Mrs. Jackson said the lease has expired and was leased for \$1.00/year and the applicant asked it be an ongoing lease. Mr. Weiss said it would be a month-to-month basis and was subject to termination with 30 days' notice by either party.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE AN APPROVAL FOR OPTION 1 AND SECOND WAS MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Caroline Ford appeared before the Board and said she shared this with the County three days a month and the County was there every day.

**14. Grant Agreement Execution for Gadsden County Election Security Grant**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a request for execution of a grant award agreement between the State of Florida, Department of State, Florida Division of Elections and Gadsden County Supervisor of Elections. She said the award was for \$78,766.82 to be used in the 2018 Primary and General Federal Elections.

Chair Holt asked for a motion.

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**15. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson mentioned upcoming meetings:  
July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 was the Gadsden Hospital Board meeting;  
July 26<sup>th</sup> is a special meeting for TRIM at 4:00 p.m.; and  
July 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 is the Tower workshop.

Commissioner Taylor asked about TRIM advertising and Mr. Weiss explained.

**CLERK OF COURT**

**16. Updates**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**17. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

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

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**August 7, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
July 17, 2018-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:16 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 AUGUST 7, 2018 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 1  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO ADD THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION TO THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Recognition of the Havana Northside High School Mega Class Reunion Committee**

Chair Holt asked that the representatives of the Havana Northside High School Mega Class Reunion Committee to come forward and Commissioner Hinson had a few words to say, read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to the individuals, Cametra Gibson-Bryant, Gabriel Showers, Dr., Paula Strawter, Mildred Clemons Youmans and Mary Miller. They then posed for pictures.

**2. Havana History & Heritage Society Museum**

**Nell Cunningham, Havana History & Heritage Society Museum**, appeared before the Board and made a presentation and **Donna Warlick** appeared before the Board and had a few words to say regarding the exhibits.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had visited the Museum and it was a very interesting museum.

Commissioner Morgan said he had also been there and toured the Museum and thanked everyone for keeping them informed as things have progressed with the Museum.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to talk with the committee and spoke of the “good, bad and the ugly” of the history.

**3. LUCA Presentation**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item.

**Richard Fetchick, Economic Development, ARPC**, appeared before the Board and had a few words to say. He said they were preparing for the Census 2020 Count and it was a procedural activity to ensure that Gadsden County’s addresses were complete and represented everyone that lived in the County.

**Sarah Hibbard, GIS, ARPC**, appeared before the Board and had a few words to say. She said approximately 40 new addresses were found and were submitted to the Census Bureau.

Commissioner Viegbesie commended LUCA in working closely with the Assistant County Administrator, Brad Johnson, in completing this matter. He added that they found more people in the County and that would mean more money in funding for the County.

**CONSENT**

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

**4. Ratification Memo**

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- a. July 3, 2018 Regular Meeting
- b. July 17, 2018 Regular Meeting

**6. EEO Policy**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL-Citizens’ Rights**

Sam Palmer appeared before the Board and said he was here on behalf of Gadsden County NAACP and DEC (Democratic Executive Committee). He said a list came out from the County for delinquent taxes with approximately 1,000 people on the list. He said he spoke with a lady (at the Courthouse) and confirmed there were approximately 1,000 on the list and they would be updating it periodically. She made a comparison that another County only had 150 on their list. He said he was told that people have lost their land and houses and NAACP and DEC felt it needed to be addressed. He said they did an initiative, talked with an Attorney and Shirley Knight, Supervisor of Elections. She referred them to the Florida Statute and they determined they would do the initiative. He said it took them five weeks to do an initiative of 3,000 people in the County. When people heard what was going on, they were eager to sign the initiative because they did not realize what was happening. He said under Ordinance 2010-005 Commissioners have the authority for land use and jobs, people told them they had 23 acres of land and could put only 1 house on it and do nothing else but pay taxes. He said one guy has five acres and 3 daughters and

wanted to put a trailer there for one daughter and could not do it. He said he heard comments from all over regarding people being unable to place houses on their property when they wanted to. He said they did the initiative and had a time frame they had to abide by. He said the County did not need to approve the initiative, all they were required to do was make sure the language was correct and it be sent to Mrs. Knight. He added that they felt the County Commission should have taken the initiative and done something regarding this because they had the authority “with a stroke of a pen” to make the changes that the citizens wanted. He said he was here to inform them they met the timeframe they were given and this has to be back to the Supervisor of Elections by August 28<sup>th</sup> to go on the November ballot.

Chair Holt said this would need to be placed on the next agenda in order to meet the August 28<sup>th</sup> deadline and could be voted on then.

Commissioner Hinson said he was questioned at Church regarding this and he told them he would let them know what their (NAACP and DEC) position was later.

Commissioner Morgan interjected and said they should not have an open discussion regarding a matter that was not on the Agenda.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he could answer the question.

Chair Holt said he could get with Mr. Palmer on it later and they could move on.

Mr. Palmer said they disagreed with...

Commissioner Morgan interjected again and said point of order.

Chair Holt said he was finishing his presentation and (the Board) was not discussing.

Mr. Palmer continued and said what the NAACP and the DEC had problems with was Ag 1, 2, and 3 property where only one house could go on the land and they feel they should be able to do one house per acre. He added that all could currently happen was to pay taxes. They also felt instead of the BOCC having a 4-1 vote, it should be a 3-2 vote for land use and businesses coming into the county.

**Willie Neal** appeared before Board and echoed Mr. Palmer.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **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**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to approve 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.

Mr. Weiss said he thought they wanted to table this item because the Contractor had questions and the current agreement did not expire until September 30, 2018. Chair Holt asked what their questions were and Mr. Weiss said it was regarding insurance. Mrs. Jackson said they have used this company for quite some time, no-one else has ever bid on this and they did not have insurance last year as well.

Mr. Weiss said if it was the will of the Board, they could re-advertise or they could try to work out the insurance issue between now and the next meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what media was used in the advertising and Mrs. Jackson said all three newspapers. Commissioner Viegbesie said with that, asked that the Attorney and service provider try to work out the issues so there would not be a void.

Chair Holt said if they were advertising in the three papers, maybe they needed to move outside the County.

**UPON MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO TABLE THIS MATTER. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**8. Approval of the Extension Contract with Deer Oaks EAP**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to extend the services contract with Deer Oaks EAP to provide employee assistance program services for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 and for approval for the Chair to sign the paperwork.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if Deer Oaks had been providing the service for 25 years and if this was renewable for one year without bidding and was the company local. Mrs. Jackson said the company was out of the County and the contract had not been in effect for 25 years.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT, BEFORE THE VOTE, COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was a bid or RFP. Mrs. Jackson said it was a bid process but this was an extension of last year and was the significantly lowest bidder. Mrs. Jackson said the County was pleased with the company and wanted to extend the contract, it was not bid, that last year was the Invitation to Bid.

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

**9. Approval of Fire Department Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements between Gadsden County and the Concord, Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, Midway, Mt. Pleasant, Robertsville/St. Johns, Sycamore and Wetumpka Volunteer Fire Departments.

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



Commissioner Morgan asked about any changes and if this included all Volunteer Departments with the exception of Quincy and Mrs. Jackson said that was correct.

**Andre Walker, Interim EMS Chief**, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this would be extending the current Agreements and Mr. Walker explained.

Commissioner Taylor said she heard they were still working on issues and she wanted to make sure there were restrictive funds there for repairs.

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

**10. Approval to Re-issue FY16 Funds that were returned to the County from Carver Heights Senior Citizens**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and this was for Board approval to reissue the FY16 funds that were paid to the Carver Heights Senior Citizens on December 9, 2016 and \$9,557 was returned to the County on March 19, 2017.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Discussion on Ordinance for Gadsden County Planning Commission**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and direction regarding the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances in governance of the Gadsden County Planning Commission.

Chair Holt said there has been a problem with attendance and an attendance sheet was included in the packet.

Commissioner Viegbesie said one of the commissioners was a representative of District Two and he recommended option 2 and said he would be speaking with the individual.

Chair Holt said she hoped they could look at funding for training for the Planning Commissioners.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP FOR THIS BOARD TO FURTHER DISCUSS HOW THEY WOULD HANDLE THE PLANNING COMMISSIONERS FROM THEIR DISTRICT THAT HAD A PROBLEM WITH ATTENDANCE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said he felt it important that the two Planning Representatives the County Commissioner chose be from their district so the County would be balanced.

Chair Holt said she felt it should be done by intellectual level and ability and the willingness to serve and did not think the address mattered. She said if they could give it to the next meeting and workshop. She asked if they could table this until the next meeting.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan said he thought there would be private discussions prior to the meeting. Chair Holt said they were going to do that but table this until the next meeting.

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

**12. Consideration of Approval to Extend Legislative Advocacy & Public Relations Services Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was regarding the County's Legislative Advocacy and Public Relations Services and said the contract expires on September 30, 2018.

Chair Holt said a good lobbyist was important and felt this item should be funded better. She said they did not have the ability like Orange County because this County did not have that kind of money.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were discussing this contract and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2 AND THERE WAS QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said when they discussed this matter earlier names were called out and felt that was a defamation of Character and was not fair for them to be crucified and not be able to speak on their behalf and they should be afforded a chance.

Commissioner Morgan said there was a motion on the floor.

**MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Chair Holt asked for another motion.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt this should be tabled.

Commissioner Morgan had questions.

Commissioner Morgan said this was the third item they had tabled tonight and they needed to make decisions.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS UNTIL THE FIRST MEETING IN SEPTEMBER TO HAVE THEM APPEAR AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**13. Pest Control Services Extension**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to extend the contract with Rudd's Pest Control to service and maintain the County buildings.

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to table (laughter) and Commissioner Hinson made the second.

Chair Holt said they had to address it. Commissioner Morgan withdrew his motion and Commissioner Hinson withdrew his second.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Value Adjustment Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for the selection of the Value Adjustment Board members.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPOINT THE TWO CURRENT MEMBERS, COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER HINSON, AND TO REAPPOINT GAYE STEFFEN AS THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY REPRESENTATIVE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**15. Placement of Veteran's Memorial Monument**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the architectural plans and site location for the Gadsden County Veterans Memorial Monument to be located on the southeast quadrant of the Gadsden County Courthouse lawn. She said this would also relocate the current monument to the southeast quadrant of the Courthouse as well.

Mrs. Jackson said this was designed by the County Architect and the final setting of the foundation will be donated at costs by Charles McClellan Funeral Home.

Commissioner Viegbesie had comments that people thought this was regarding the moving of the Confederate Monument and that was wrong information and the one being moved was the one on the back (Southside facing Highway 90) of the Courthouse.

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with someone at the Courthouse years ago regarding this and Havana has a fountain and that would bring more people to it and would be great to incorporate that into this and Chair Holt said it would be beautification. Commissioner Viegbesie said that was part of the initial design until the issue of liability with water came up and could be improvement that came with it.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE NECESSARY PAPERS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Hinson asked how water could be a liability and Chair Holt said she agreed with the water and beautification but that was a discussion for another day.

Commissioner Taylor said she spoke with a few veterans and they were concerned whether or not this was it or if there could be a building where they could host meetings.

Commissioner Viegbesie said from his perspective, this was not it and was something he would support.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**16. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson gave updates:

A Budget workshop scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.;

Celebration and Dedication of Barack Obama Boulevard on August 16<sup>th</sup> on South Atlanta Street and Martin Luther King at 5:00 p.m.;

Request made by GHI Board for them to meet with Commission and she asked for their thoughts. Chair Holt said yes.

She said there had been a request for this Board to meet with the School Board and they said yes;

Commissioner Taylor asked what the meeting was about and Chair Holt said when she talked to the Sheriff and Superintendent they were interested in the school safety issue. Commissioner Taylor asked if they were asking to meet to request assistance with funding to assist with safety on campuses and Mrs. Jackson said that was correct. Chair Holt said they had met. Commissioner Taylor asked if they knew how much they were asking for and Mrs. Jackson said they were requesting \$500,000. Commissioner Taylor said that concerned her and did not want to put them in a dim light with the school board and felt if they had that meeting they were saying they could help and know they do not have funding to meet that obligation. She added if they sat down they think there was a possibility of getting funding and was time wasted. Chair Holt said she told them they were a taxing authority and could do their own tax but it was not her call and was why she said for them to meet.

Chair Holt said she and Mrs. Jackson had already met with staff of the School Board and the Sheriff's Department and the School Board felt the County was responsible to provide safety.

Commissioner Taylor said she was correct when representing the Board they have to be careful.

Commissioner Morgan recommended in the new fiscal year after they were through the budget cycle, have the Interim Administrator and key staff meet with the Superintendent and key staff and put together a concise agenda, select dates and then come together for a productive meeting.

Chair Holt felt they should meet and said there was nothing wrong with them telling the School Board no; they have their own budget and were a taxing authority and they could request and vote to do a ½ cent sales tax.

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

She said there was a new statute out regarding safety in schools and it needs to be brought to this Board so they could see if they were responsible or not.

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

Chair Holt said if the meeting did not take place it would give the appearance that they did not want to help.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped back out.*

Commissioner Hinson said he was wondering, when issues come to the Board such as this, the Administrator and Staff should inform them beforehand before discussing it.

Chair Holt said before it went to the Governor it did not involve the Counties and there was no reason to move forward at that point.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture.*

Commissioner Hinson said money was given to the schools and asked what percentage of money came from the County to the School Board. Mrs. Jackson said they pay the Sheriff and Commissioner Hinson said it was still coming through the BOCC. Commissioner Hinson said the BOCC pays the Sheriff and in turn, pays them. Commissioner Hinson said before meeting with the School Board, the County needed to have their house in order and schedule a workshop. He said to do it before the next meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Weiss said they needed time for it to be advertised first. Commissioner Hinson said to do it at a regular board meeting.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were talking about one specific agenda item to discuss and a potential meeting with the School Board or to discuss issues. Chair Holt said for it to be put on the Agenda. Commissioner Morgan encouraged them to let the Administrator and key staff work this out prior with the School Superintendent and would be much more productive.

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

Mr. Weiss said in the meantime, he would make sure everyone had a copy of the Statute and they could contact him with questions.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much funding the State gave the School Board and Chair Holt said it would be in the package.

Mrs. Jackson said there was a request to lease space at the hospital and GHI was onboard. The Commissioners asked who and was told Eye Associates, North Florida Thyroid, and Lighthouse of the Big Bend.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked if it needed to be agendaed and was told yes.

Mrs. Jackson introduced Olivia Smith and said she was their new Public Information officer and their liaison to the Tourist Development Council.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped put at this juncture of the meeting.*

Olivia Smith appeared before the Board and said she was glad to be back as a Public Information Officer and looks forward to enhancing some of their current communications efforts and implementing some of the new forward thinking communications efforts.

**CLERK OF COURT**

**17. Updates**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**18. Updates**

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

Chair Holt asked about the Canvassing Board. Mr. Weiss said there had been a request from the Supervisor to appoint an Alternate.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought they had appointed an Alternate and it was Commissioner Hinson.

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

Chair Holt said they still needed an Alternate if he was not available because she was running and they had to have an Alternate for him if he was unavailable.

Mr. Weiss said they needed to have an alternate and could not be anyone actively involved in campaigns and if all were actively involved, would have to find someone else. He said the Statute was specific to candidates.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Canvassing Board did not have to be an elected official and could be the County Administrator.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HOLT TO APPOINT DEE JACKSON AS THE ALTERNATE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND, AFTER DISCUSSION CHAIR HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AS THE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CAVASSING BOARD AND THE ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AS THE ALTERNATE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for a great meeting.

He announced that FAMU will be in Quincy Saturday and doing a Back to School Book bag Drive at Corry field.

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

He said they had talked about student assistants and said he was the only person that had a student assistant. He then asked the other Commissioners if they had hired student assistants and they all said no.

He then thanked them for honoring the Mega reunion in Havana.

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

Commissioner Hinson then asked Commissioner Morgan if he had hired a student assistant or intern and Commissioner Morgan said no. Chair Holt asked if there was a reason for his question. He said to give him two weeks and he would discuss it. He then said he had an issue with bringing some students in and was told there was only \$1,300 left in the student intern budget and he wanted to look into it again. He said he tried to bring in a girl from Gretna and she joined the military because she could not find a job. Chair Holt said they had to move onto other Commissioners and asked if he wanted to look at that item or bring it back. He said he wanted to look at the budget and Chair Holt said there would be a Budget meeting the next week.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to look at how much money remained in the budget for the interns.

He thanked staff for giving the money back to the Havana Senior Citizens.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked for a Proclamation for Cora Lee Brown Williams.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR CORA LEE BROWN WILLIAMS AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

She asked the attorney about the petitioners that appeared before them and if he had had a chance to review the language and said she would like to have a discussion with him later.

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

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

Commissioner Viegbesie commended the staff for an enlightened update.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt reminded them that on August 16<sup>th</sup> they would have the Dedication for the Barack Obama Blvd at 5:30 and asked the ones coming to be there at 5:00 and to bring a lawn chair in case there was no seating.

She said she attended the Hoover event last week and there was a round table discussion with the owners of Four Star Freightliner, Coastal Lumber Company, TeligentEMS and Hoovers and they said intellectual deficit was the problem they were looking at with hiring. She said they were looking at a position at GTI for an instructor for the diesel mechanic school and she was trying to help them get that. She said the School Board did not necessarily need it but since they brought the company in and they were looking at training, that position was one that was really needed to train diesel mechanics.

Commissioner Hinson announced Don Vickers passed away yesterday and extended condolences to his family.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR A RESOLUTION FOR MR. VICKERS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**Receipt and File**

**20.** Letter from Duke Energy

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 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 AUGUST 21, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked that everyone make sure their phones were on mute or off and if anyone wished to speak on non-adagendaed items to fill out a Speaker Request Form. She then called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Morgan asked to add for discussion and action the County Administrator position.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO ADD FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION, COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked the reason for discussion. Commissioner Morgan said it was the same since they had been through the process, need leadership, confidence for the staff and citizens, and need to make a decision and was why he brings it up at every single meeting. He said it was for discussion and action. Commissioner Hinson asked if he wanted to start the process. Commissioner Morgan said it was for discussion and action he was ready to move and there should be a permanent County Administrator for stability of the County, staff, etc.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN CLARIFIED IT WAS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

Chair Holt asked for approval of the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. IBTS Disaster Recovery Presentation**

**Bob Dennis, Institute for Building Technology and Safety**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief presentation. He said they help provide counties with disaster recovery assistance that they may not have the staff for or the resources. He said they are a Non-profit organization established

to provide unbiased professional services, while enhancing the communities. He gave a menu of disaster services that are available.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked him for following up and said he saw this service at either a NACo or FAC conference.

#### **CONSENT**

Chair Holt asked for approval of the Consent Agenda.

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

- 2. Approval to Accept the FY 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report**
- 3. Approval of Audit Engagement Letter**
- 4. Ratification Memo**

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Chair Holt asked if there were any citizens that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Chair Holt passed out documentation concerning the name changing of Atlanta Street to Barack Obama Blvd. She said there were questions and comments as to whether citizens were notified regarding the name change and if there were costs to the citizens. She provided a letter from the County to the residents notifying them of the change; a letter from the Post Office and one from the Tax Collector showing there would be no charge to change their driver's license. She said E911 also followed the Post Office.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**5. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-Havana Springs, LLC Special Exception Use (SEU-2018-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Special Exception Use to allow alcoholic beverages to be served to guests and patrons at 200 Coca Cola Avenue, Havana, FL.

Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. Ms. Jeglie gave a brief description of the item and said it was for a special exception use to allow alcoholic beverages to be served at the above location. She said the new owners, Jennifer and John Heal, have recently purchased White Dog Plantation and was previously known as the Nicholson Farmhouse and they plan to continue providing lodging in the cottages and having events in the Shady Rest Event Center. She added that they would like to eventually open the restaurant, first for Sunday setting and then eventually open it on a daily basis. She added that they met all the setbacks for an alcoholic beverage license, have addressed the special exception findings, have had a Citizen Bill of Rights meeting, approximately 18 attended and the comments were supportive, and the Planning Commission recommended approval 10-0. She read the options aloud.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing.

**Garvin Bowden, Esquire, Gardner, Bist Firm**, appeared before the Board, introduced himself and said he was present in case anyone had any questions and there were none.

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

**6. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of transmittal of LSPA 2018-04 to Amend the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board consideration of the transmittal of amendments to the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board and gave a brief description of the item. She said there were two options to transmit which amends the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan to the Department of Economic Opportunity and the second was to transmit an amended version of it which would amend the Recreation and Open Space Element to the Department of Economic Opportunity. She said the third option was to not approve and the fourth was Board direction.

Chair Holt announced this was a Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how the transmittal of this amendment would be successful or would there be anything to prevent the approval of the transmittal when sent to DEO and would it restrict approval of the master planned community and planned unit to come in the future and would it restrict the approval of DEO without it. Ms. Jeglie said it should not restrict the County's ability to adopt those land use categories.

Commissioner Morgan asked why they were adding two new land use categories. She said for several years the intent has been that the County adopt zoning and if adopted, when they go to the zoning map it would allow a little more flexibility. Commissioner Morgan asked what they would be listed as and Ms. Jeglie said one was the Master Plan Category and the other...he asked if it was for planned communities and she said yes.

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

**7. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of transmittal of LSPA 2018-009 to Amend the Infrastructure Element of the Comprehensive Plan**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of the transmittal of amendments to the Infrastructure Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Jeglie said this Element had not been updated in many years and the recommendation of the consultant was to delete the previous Element and adopt a new policy.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak on the item and there was no-one.

Chair Holt asked if this would affect the interchange exits and was told it would not affect them.

Commissioner Morgan said there was no recommendation from the Administrator's office and asked if she would recommend this and she said yes.

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

**8. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-010 to amend Chapter 2 of the Land Development Code, Definitions and Interpretations (LDR 2018-03)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of amendment of Chapter 2 of the Land Development Code regarding the inclusion of new definitions to the document, and the amendment to current definitions to provide certainty and clarification as it applies to the interpretation of the Land Development Code.

Ms. Jeglie said this agenda item recommended amendments to definitions and mostly additions of new definitions and said they would probably see this section again as they go through the Land Development Code and do more revisions. She said the recommendation on this was 9-1 and changed to 10-0 and was after satisfying some of the questions and amendments to the Power Plant definition and some discussion on open space.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from audience and there was none.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the deletion of residential park definition and asked if it was replaced with different wording. Ms. Jeglie said when they went through the Recreation and Open Space Element, there were changes to the way parks were handled and this was taken out because it did not reflect the current terminology used and it should not stop or hinder anyone from having a park.

Chair Holt said this would help their Tourist Development Council because of agri-tourism eco-tourism and there was now a category for it.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9. Approval of Actuary Services for 2018 Required Optional Post Employee Benefit**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was to renew the agreement with Stanley, Hunt, Dupree & Rhine to provide Actuarial Services for the preparation of the required 2018 OPEB report.

Mr. Weiss said they have the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 but it actually ends September 30, 2018 and it does make a caveat that says money was an estimate and may be subject to change.

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

Mr. Weiss suggested if the Board was inclined to approve, to approve the contract as a fixed price for services listed in respect to the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018 and any additional amounts would have to be approved in writing.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if, in the motion, read it into the motion to be specific to approve for \$5750 without any adjustment and Chair Holt said yes, make the motion specific to \$5750 and the end of the fiscal year would be September 30, 2018.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE STANLEY, HUNT, DEGREE & RHINE TO PERFORM ACTUARIAL SERVICES FOR THE FIXED AMOUNT OF \$5750.00 ENDING FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval of Extension of Contracts for J.B. Coxwell Contracting and D&J Enterprises, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an extension of agreements with J.B. Coxwell and D & J Enterprises, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services for one year.

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

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

**11. Approval of the Professional Services Agreement for Engineering Consulting Services for Gadsden County**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the professional services agreement for Engineering Consulting Services and authorization for the Chair to execute the contracts.

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

**12. Approval of Purchasing New Chassis for Brush Truck**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for the purchase of a new chassis for the County-owned brush truck located at Chattahoochee Volunteer Fire Department and was budgeted in this fiscal year and would be coming from the Fire budget and not from the General Fund.

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

**13. Approval to Accept the State funded Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant #19-BG-XX-02-30-01-XXX and Federal funded Emergency Management Performance Grant #19-FG-02-30-01-XXX**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to accept the State Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant and the Federal Emergency Management Performance Grant and authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

**14. Approval to Award RFQ No. 18-12 to Provide Profession At-Risk Construction Management Services for the Budgeting and Construction Phase on the Proposed Gadsden County Courthouse**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said she wanted to amend this and said she was always encouraging staff to shop locally and was not sure the will of the Board but she recommended they choose Option 1. She said there were two local companies and she strongly recommended the Board chose one of them.

Mr. Weiss said they had nothing in the Procurement Policy that required or in the Bid documents that allowed them to consider giving local preference and was true that anything that came before the Board for consideration did require Board approval, but they still had to base their decision on their Procurement Policy as well as the bid documents when deciding.

Commissioner Morgan said before he saw who was selected, he looked at the evaluation forms and could not understand how the committee decided and understand why there may be heartache with the ranking and suggested revamping the committee and bring this back before the Board.

Mrs. Jackson said it was the goal of Staff was for the Board to move forward and it would hold up the Courthouse renovations. She said there were four companies, Allstate Construction, Inc., which was recommended by the Committee, Cook Brothers, Inc., Ram Construction and CSI Contracting. It was pointed out that RPCC, Inc. was also one of the companies.

Chair Holt said it was probably better to do this the old-fashioned way-copy the apps and the scoring committee score them and they can look at everything.

Commissioner Morgan said his issue was the ranking committee that was put together.

Mrs. Jackson said Staff was working with the attorney to create a policy that would address how the ranking committee would be comprised in the future.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney what the legal ramification would be of not going with the one chosen.

Mr. Weiss said the issue was, as Chair Holt had pointed out, the evaluation committee was set up to look at all proposals and give their scores. He said the Board makes the selection but in order to make a selection that was not in accordance with what the evaluation committee had made, there needed some basis for it. If they select someone else, they need a basis to do so and local preference was not in the policy.

Commissioner Morgan said he was saying to the Administrator to comprise a qualified committee to look at the rankings or provide the Board with the information for them to look at it and make a decision at the upcoming special meeting that was scheduled the next week.

Chair Holt said she had no problem in moving forward with this but had a concern with them

bringing up a situation with the Board in the meeting. They should be ready to go, but they do not have the applications before them and was having to go on the recommendation of the committee.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Taylor said she was not trying to go with anyone tonight, put this back out for bid and they would not have the legalities of making precedence.

Mr. Weiss said they have the discretion to reject the bids and put back out for bid if that was the will of the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he had no problem doing that but felt they should go with a local person and he disclosed that he talked with one of persons who name was listed, Finley Cook of Cook Brothers, Inc.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the County administrator how many times they had asked for an extension and she said one extension and they have until June 30, 2019. He asked if there was any legal ramification if they went with another company other than who had been recommended.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they re-bid, change the committee and follow the Procurement process they adopted, it could not be challenged because they would have a process in place.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood when local companies apply and glad to see that, but he was concerned with the make-up of the committee and why he made the motion to not approve.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO HONOR THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE, OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.**

**15. Approval to Award Bid No. 18-13 for HVAC Services to Air Mechanical & Service Corporation**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval to award Bid No. 18-13 to Air Mechanical and Service Corp to provide HVAC services for the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the term of the contract and Mrs. Jackson said it was for a one year term from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was only one vender that responded and Mrs. Jackson said yes. He asked if the County had done business with this vendor in the past and Mrs. Jackson said no. He asked if this could this be rebid or of there was a concern that there was only one bid. She said it could be rebid but was of no concern because of the demand the County had lately. She said there was a need for a company that could respond immediately and had the needed inventory.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt it was fair to reach out to others.

Mrs. Jackson said staff was open to rebidding this particular item and they have a list of vendors that are used for smaller projects.

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

**16. Approval to Opt-in to Class Action Lawsuit for PILT Act Recovery Funds**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to opt-in to a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Act (PILT) class action lawsuit and for authorization for the Chair to execute all related documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked the Attorney if he saw a reason for them to not do this and Mr. Weiss said with any class action lawsuit, the benefit was there was no out-of-pocket expense for the County. He said the downside was they had no control over what happened. He said there would either be a settlement or a trial as to the underpayments.

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

**17. Approval of SimplexGrinnell Service Agreement Renewal**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to continue the service agreement with SimplexGrinnell for the annual Fire Alarm Detection at the Gadsden County Jail.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for clarification if this was the end of the second five year term and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

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

**18. Ratification of Inv. 1049763; Elections System & Software, LLC for the Purchase of Elections Equipment & Software**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the ratification of Invoice number 1049763; Elections System & Software, LLC for the purchase of Elections Equipment & Software purchased by the Supervisor of Elections, which was required by state law.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked where the funds were coming from and Mrs. Jackson said there were sufficient funds budgeted and asked Jeff Price to speak on this matter.

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

Jeff Price appeared before Board to address their question and said there were funds available in



her budget, she knew this was coming and she put off some other expenses to ensure the availability of the funds.

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

**19. Agreement for Video Recording Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval of the service agreement with Southerland Enterprises, Inc., the current provider and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

**20. Task Order for Professional Engineering Services with Dewberry for the Pat Thomas RV Park Expansion**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of the task order to Dewberry to provide professional services for the design of the Pat Thomas RV Park project.

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

**21. Discussion on New Agricultural Extension Building Financing**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for discussion regarding project financing for the new Agricultural Extension Building. She asked for direction if they still want to pursue and said bids have come in over the \$1 Million that was received from the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the \$2 Million was for design and construction or just the design. Mrs. Jackson said it was for everything.

Commissioner Morgan said he did a little research on this item and discovered that the USDA, in their offer, required a dedicated funding source for the repayment of this Note and the terms of the Agreement in the opinion of the former County Administrator were not favorable, the interests rates at the time and due to the fact they had to have a dedicated source of funding and was why he did not accept the agreement and Commissioner Morgan stated he thought it was a good decision at that point. He further stated as important of a project this was when they first acquired the funds through the Legislature and the grant, the economy was in a different state and they had the opportunity to complete the project at a lower amount of money, closer to \$1.3 Million and were now looking at \$2 Million. He said he felt the appropriate course of action due to the current financial conditions they were in; he would not recommend going into debt \$700,000 at this point and time to complete the project. He said this would require them to make some very wise decisions on how they were spending the revenue that was coming in, they could not keep spending in the fashion they were if they wanted to complete this project. He said there was an extension on the dollars that were presented to them through the Legislature and he had been advised they could still have another extension is they pursued that. He felt they needed to think through this before committing to \$700,000 in debt.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Commissioner Morgan alluded to this this was for discussion and

direction to staff. Commissioner Viegbesie asked about staff exploring other sources of funding to see if they could locate a financing entity that would charge a much lower fee that they could work with and was glad to know they could get another extension on the project.

**Shep Eubanks, County Extension**, appeared before Board and said he was told under no uncertain terms June 30, 2019 was the drop-dead date and there would be no more extensions. This had been rolled over three times and was told there would be no more extensions. Commissioner Morgan asked who he had spoken to and he responded Craig Christ who handles all the building construction grants with Florida Department of Agriculture. He added that he was told they had given the County more extensions than they normally do anybody.

Commissioner Hinson said he was biased because he did his internship with the Extension Service when he was in college. He said he had received a lot of phone called and he hated to slow down the process. He said Dr. Grant said a few years ago they almost lost this opportunity to do this and felt this was a good thing for the County and thought the community would love this and the farmers would benefit. He then made a motion to approve and then said they could not make a motion today and last when the last day was.

Shep Eubanks reappeared before Board and said the money from the Department of Agriculture would expire in June. He said he thought the bids that had gone out expire in the next week or two.

Commissioner Hinson asked how long the process would take.

Joel Sampson appeared before the Board and said they have nine months in the project for completion. He clarified they had 60 days on the bids, they run out but does not mean that the number goes away but the contractor was not held to that number anymore. He said they could raise the figure if they rebid. He said the figure he gave them a year ago hit pretty much nail on head at almost \$2 Million.

Commissioner Hinson asked if could go on next Agenda because this was for discussion only.

Commissioner Viegbesie said from his understanding they were given a grant of \$1 Million from the Florida Department of Agriculture as well as a grant of \$200,000 from the US Department of Agriculture to build the Farmers Market and have already spent \$50,000 and looking at \$770,000. He said even if it was at 2.7% and they finance that for 15-20 years and amortize the payment, whatever the payment was annually could be written into the operational part of their budget and was his recommendation to staff to find a lending institution to amortize the payment for the longest time possible the annual payment could be worked into the budget and would be fiscally manageable and be the only way that they could go to get project done and to not let the money slip through their fingers.

Commissioner Morgan said again, this was a very important project and he had been asking the progress of it for two years and he wanted to see it come to life and was something the citizens deserved and should be prioritized; but they had to have a dedicated funding source within their budget to pay for this and hopefully sooner than later, but the way they were spending money on so many things is why County's budget was in the shape it was in with all these different payments and no revenue to support. He said this was intended to give Staff direction on what to do and he

wanted to be able to do that but he wanted to see in the recommendation where the dollars were coming from to dedicate toward this project, was it cutting summer youth program, eliminate a position; what where they doing to support this payment.

Joel Sampson reappeared before Board and wanted to clarify that it was \$2 Million for construction but the design not in that amount; the design was approximately \$122,000.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt they needed to make a motion to have this agendaed and give Staff direction on two things: 1) look for a lending institution that could get the County below the 2.75% if possible, and 2) find a source that they could obligate to pay the loan back. Commissioner Viegbesie said he would second that.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO AGENDA THIS ITEM AND GIVE STAFF DIRECTION TO LOOK AT A LENDING INSTITUTION THAT COULD GIVE THEM A RATE BELOW 2.75% AND FIND A SOURCE THAT THEY COULD OBLIGATE TO PAY BACK THE LOAN.**

Commissioner Morgan pointed out the 2.75 interest rate they were throwing out was in 2016 and did not want them to think that number was accurate and they needed to do some homework.

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

**22. Approval of Off System Bridge Project Agreement #50032-Salem Road over Swamp Creek and Resolution 2018-008**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Off System Bridge Project Agreement for bridge #50032 over Swamp Creek.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID HE WOULD SECOND WITH A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said this bridge was able to put on the FDOT replacement and this bridge was in very bad shape. He said CRTPA put it on FDOT for 5 years and would be in 2022 and the Attapulgis Creek bridge next to it and is the one that construction started on Monday and they are going to totally replace that bridge. He said upon his re-election, he hoped, the other bridge he would push on FDOT was on Attapulgis Highway next to BASF. He reminded them if they had bridges or roads that need to be replaced, right now he was currently he is the County's representative on the CRTPA Board but the good news was, upon re-election he was currently the Vice-Chair and would be the Chair next year of CRTPA.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the bridge on Iron Bridge Road and knew there was a lot of traffic coming through it now and asked how it was holding up.

**Justin Ford, Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board and said every year the State commissions a company to evaluate bridges in the County and they give a report back to the County and said Iron Bridge did not ring a bell as one in poor condition but would check on it as far as deficiencies and would get them an answer.

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

**ITEM.**

**23. Health Insurance Renewal 2018-2019**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Health insurance.

Commissioner Hinson said he was serious and not sure if they had a union and asked if it was properly advertised and if there was a union if they were properly informed because they just received this today and it was not properly advertised.

Mrs. Jackson said this was provided last week on line and at the time it was due the insurance committee had not met but they needed to meet the timetable in order to get insurance started during open enrollment.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the information stated.

Mrs. Jackson said they were going up on rates and she strongly opposed and she was very adamant with the company that they would like better rates and their advocate also advocated for them to try to get better rates and these were the best they were able to get. She said she instructed staff to go out for next year and look for a different provider with better rates for next year.

**Lonyell Black, HR**, appeared before Board and said as Mrs. Jackson indicated, they did reach out to have this looked out to other agencies for better rates and what they were provided was there was no-one comparable to what CHP offered. She said to insure that staff had insurance coverage; they brought it to the Board. She said CHP provided them with a renewal with renewal rate of 5.9%, which was what was before them and the insurance committee chose to accept that rate. She said last year the renewal rate was much higher at 7.4%. She said the insurance committee agreed to keep the same split-out as last year.

Commissioner Hinson asked who was on the insurance committee and Ms. Black said the committee was compiled of a representative from every constitutional office because every constitutional office was under their group.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the annual increase of \$138,000 if that amount was after the shared costs and to be absorbed by Board and Ms. Black explained that amount was the total increase for the Board and all Constitutionals and the total annual amount that the Board would incur was \$68,000. Commissioner Taylor then asked if the funding source had been identified and Ms. Black said it had been budgeted already.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his health insurance was thru his primary employer and asked if there was a reason why the County did not have CHP, Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Metlife so the employee could choose their provider and might force CHP to drop their rates to have more competitive rates.

Ms. Black said the County was considered a large group with 51+ employees but there had to be 70% of the workforce enrolled in the insurance to be a part of the group and even though they were considered a large group, they were actually a small group. She then said in order to have another provider come in, they had to have almost every employee enrolled and 70% of the group

had to be enrolled in CHP to keep CHP.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many employees were currently with the provider. Ms. Black said right now inclusive of all the constitutionals and the Board employees, they had 156 single, 39 employee and spouse, 37 employee and dependent and 37 under family coverage and totaled approximately 270. He asked if they could join with the School Board and other entities to try to find ways to bring down the costs. Ms. Black said that question was addressed last year during the renewal process. She said it was presented to the County Attorney and there was a legal issue that they were not allowed to join with the School Board.

Mr. Weiss said he had not looked at that in some time but remembered looking into it and under the statute that regulates insurance, they could not be grouped with another entity and was prohibited by statute.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when this conversation came up last time, the reason why this body cannot go into a group with other entities that was tantamount into forming a cartel and would make them the only buyer of the service and was not fair to the provider.

Commissioner Hinson said they were all in Florida Retirement System and was under the State and if that was the case, it could be the argument that they all work for the State.

Chair Holt said when Mr. Weiss brings it back, whatever the State Statute said was what they would have to follow.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could send a letter to someone that the County's position was they were all under the FRS and therefore was all under the State, it was something to think about.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **24. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said she had a couple of items:

She requested a Proclamation for Quincy Kiwanis Club to be presented at a future meeting.

**CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR THE QUINCY KIWANIS AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST,**

Mrs. Jackson said the County was able to get FRDAP grants because they attend those meetings and use them on the FRDAP grants and was grateful for the work they do.

2) She said they previously planned the Budget meeting for August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 but several were unable to attend and asked if August 27<sup>th</sup> or the 29<sup>th</sup> would be a good date. No-one was available

on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00.

3) She said September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 would be the first public budget hearing.

September 13<sup>th</sup> will be the BOCC/Planning Commission workshop @ 5:00.

September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 is the second public budget hearing.

Mrs. Jackson said the bid award would be on the next agenda for the Ag center. She asked if the Board wanted her to move forward with putting that on the Agenda since the item did not move tonight as far as the funding source.

Chair Holt said yes and Mrs. Jackson explained that the quotes came in higher than the funding they had. Chair Holt said they could change some things in the project and there were some things they did not have to have. Commissioner Hinson there might be more competition, if they re-bid and have them by the first of October, they should be fine. Mrs. Jackson said her only concern was after speaking with other contractors, they believed the bids might come in even higher. Chair Holt said to place it in the agenda and would give them time to contact the contractors. Commissioner Taylor said she did not see how they could move forward if there was nothing on paper and no funding source and to put on the agenda was a moot point when don't have funds.

Mr. Weiss said if bids had been submitted, at some point and time the County needed to act on it before the bids expire, they could not act on it after the fact.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the bids were high and there was no funding to cover it, could the Administrator then send a letter to those that submitted a bid stating that based on the bids that came in there was no funding source to move forward or did it have to be entertained in a Board meeting. Mr. Weiss said if they solicited an invitation, they needed to take action on it at some point and the action could be to reject and re-bid.

Mrs. Jackson said it was brought up tonight about shopping locally, she asked if it were the will of the Board to bring back a policy that showed a local preference, not that they automatically give anything to local vendors but maybe a 2-5 points like other Counties do in their scoring. Chair Holt said to do research and let the Board look at it. Commissioner Taylor said once they put that it, it would make others to not want to apply. Commissioner Morgan said he would not recommend they do that. Chair Holt said she recommended for them to do research.

She told the Board they received a letter from FAC President that they would like Commissioner Viegbesie to be on the Leadership team as a policy leader of the Finance Tax and Administration Policy committee.

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

##### **25. Updates**

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **26. Updates**

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

Chair Holt said she had a meeting in her district last week regarding a private road and she had the attorney write an opinion because they were having a hard time because people were wanting them to pave their roads and she has told them and the attorney wrote an opinion that they could not do that with public dollars and she wanted to say that in the meeting. She said there was a process they have to go through and she hoped they understood that they were not helping because they did not want to, it was because of what the law said. Mr. Weiss said they could blame him but they could not use public funds to improve private property.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he knew there was a petition for a private road in District 2 and would like to have a copy of that opinion so he could make it available to ones in his district.

Commissioner Taylor said this Board adopted procedures for adopting roads and if they wanted, they could look at what was put in place.

Commissioner Morgan said one could tell it was political season when they talk about roads and there were certain requirements they needed to have in place with very good reasons for the requirements they have. He said there was enough of an issue managing the current roads in the County, not just from an expense standpoint but from logistically everything else. He said it would be great if everyone's private road could be paved but they did not want to accept every private road into the County and absorb the costs of maintaining those because they would have to drastically raise taxes and was already talking about not being able to handle the budget they currently had, there were shortfalls in place.

Commissioner Taylor said she had been there for 10 years and have not campaigned and in all 10 of those years have asked for private roads to be adopted from day 1 and to say this was a political sway one way or the other, this was consistent with what she has asked for from day 1.

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said there could be some tweaking, it comes down to costs and a lot of folks have fixed income and was difficult for them to pay for that costs.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make a motion to bring up roads in the September meeting to they could have a discussion.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was an Ordinance in place for roads and they may need to look at revising it.

Commissioner Morgan said if this was something the Board wanted to look at fine but they were in the middle of budget season and have important issues to deal will first after the budget season was over and Chair Holt agreed.

Commissioner Hinson said they could bring it back in November.

Commissioner Hinson said every year this was near and dear to his heart and asked if they were prepared for the hurricane season. He wanted to make sure culverts were clear and said there was always an issue in Hampton Heights, near the elementary school had issues along with Richbay community and Dupont Road.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator, a few years ago the County accepted a Beautification Grant and they received and installed some County Gateway signs and Wildflower signs. He said he had received several inquiries about the status, have there been any changes. Mrs. Jackson said there had been no changes made, she had been working with the County Engineer on that project and would get him something. He asked if they were all still in place throughout the County and she said yes. Then she asked if he meant the actual signs and he said yes. She said some of the signs were torn apart and they were going after the same funding again. He asked if they were still there, she said some were and some were messed up and Public Works was taking them down as they speak and they had a slogan on them that was no longer adopted by the County.

Commissioner Hinson said he left one thing out, he said they need to look at the Budget booklet and go through it a couple of days before the meeting. He said he asked why there was a shortfall and had not gotten an answer yet and felt they would find it quite interesting to see what was in there. Chair Holt said for her to give them all a new copy of the budget.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

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

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE GADSDEN COUNTY HEALTHY START COALITION FOR THE “PROUD DAD” CONFERENCE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said she mentioned to Mrs. Jackson earlier when they were talking about sewer and water, in looking at the Chattahoochee exit, it was in the County and when looking at the exits, it was easier for the County to get grants for infrastructure than the municipalities, and Highway 90 East and West outside of the city limits need water, sewer and electric.

Commissioner Hinson asked how they could help with infrastructure in Midway/I-10 and how they could help Midway. Chair Holt said she met with FDOT approximately 2 weeks ago regarding the beautification of that intersection and they told her that they were against cutting down those trees.

She then thanked Administration, Staff and Road and Bridge for help on the Barack Obama Blvd dedication.

**Receipt and File**



Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
August 21, 2018 – Regular Meeting

28. July 13, 2018 Letter from FDOH  
July 30, 2018 Letter from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
August 1, 2018 Email from the Florida Department of Transportation  
July 31, 2018 Letter from Mediacom  
July 21, 2018 Letter from Mediacom  
Waste Pro Summer Newsletter

UPCOMING MEETING

MOTION TO ADJOURN

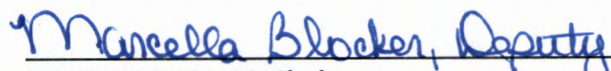
THERE BEING NOT FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:37 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:

  
BRENDA HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

  
NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked that phones be placed on silent or mute. She called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Chair Holt asked for roll call for the attendance. Commissioner Viegbesie, Commissioner Hinson, Commissioner Morgan and Chair Holt were present and Commissioner Taylor was absent.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda and there were none.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution Recognizing Mrs. Janice Maxwell**

Chair Holt asked Commissioners to step forward and Mrs. Janice Maxwell appeared before the Board. Commissioner Hinson had a few words to say, read aloud the Resolution and they posed for pictures.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**2. Ratification Memo**

**3. Approval of Minutes  
August 7, 2018**

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

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Gerald McSwain, 600 Sparkleberry Blvd., Quincy  
Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL NAACP/DEC  
Ed Allen, Item 8  
Derrick Elias  
Lori Bouie

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**5. Sheriff's Deputy Training Request**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was seeking funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training, boarding, per diem, and equipment costs for two deputies to attend the Institute of Police Technology and Management (IPTM) Marine Enforcement Operations-Level 1. She said the course was scheduled for October 1-5, 2018 in Jacksonville, FL. The primary purpose of the training was to provide the deputies with knowledge, skills and abilities in law enforcement within a marine environment and boat operations and would increase their capabilities to provide public safety within the marine environment of Gadsden County.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked where the funding was coming from and Mrs. Jackson said LEEF.

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

**6. Sheriff's Deputy Training Request-Florida SWAT Association 2018 Advanced Sniper Course**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for funding from the LEEF fund to pay for training, boarding and per diem for a Gadsden County Deputy to attend the Florida SWAT Association (FSA) Advanced Sniper Course occurring October 1-5, 2018 at the Lakeland Police Department Firearms Range.

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

**7. Approval of Participation in the Application Process for the FFY 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to participate in the application process for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and to designate a coordinator responsible for preparation of the grant application.

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

**8. Adoption of Resolution No. 2018-009 requesting the Supervisor of Elections to place questions on the ballot for the November 6, 2018 general election regarding housing density in land use categories, voting requirements on certain land use approvals, and potential repeal of the Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights in order to obtain non-binding expressions of elector sentiment; providing for severability, modifications, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board consideration of Resolution 2018-009 asking the Supervisor of Elections to place questions on the ballot for the November 6, 2018 general election regarding housing density in land use categories, voting requirements on certain land use approvals, and potential repeal of the Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights in order to obtain non-binding expressions of elector sentiment.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to read and said there was a huge difference between chartered and non-chartered counties.

Mr. Weiss said Gadsden County was a Non-Chartered county and have to rely on any authority that was set forth in Constitution or Statutes in order to do anything. He said Non-chartered Counties could have all the authority to do anything as prescribed by general or special law. He further stated that Chartered Counties, in addition to the authority, have the authority that also was given to them by virtue of their charters.

Chair Holt asked if he was saying that the non-chartered Counties did not have those special exceptions or special areas because they were completely under State Statute because they had not provided anything to the Legislature saying that they wanted to be chartered. Mr. Weiss said that was correct.

**Gerald McSwain, 600 Sparkleberry Blvd., Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he was sure they had talked to their constituents and his speaking tonight was to really hope that they would put this on the ballot and only the commissioners could do it. He asked them to vote and not leave here without it being placed on the ballot.

Mr. Weiss said this was not for referendum but for an expression of elector sentiment or straw poll. He explained the referendum would be a binding vote, something on the ballot that said an ordinance shall be amended as follows and there would be a legislative strike/add changing the ordinance. He said there was no statutory or constitutional authority for the citizens, electors of the County, to amend County ordinances by referendum but there was authority under Section 125.01(1)(y) to put propositions on the ballot at any election when it was agreed to by a majority vote of a total membership so as to obtain a non-binding expression of voter sentiment, also known as a straw vote. He further explained what was on tonight for consideration, this Resolution would be to direct the Supervisor of Elections to put the straw ballot questions on the November ballot.

Chair Holt said what he was saying was Gadsden County is non-chartered, if they were chartered and had something in their Charter that said they could do these things, the Charter would have to be approved by the Legislature, and then they could possibly do that. She said with them being

non-chartered, they did not have a charter that they could present to the Legislature with this information. She said she had spoken with other attorneys and they said the County could have a straw ballot and see what the sentiment of the citizens wanted them to do and was not binding; but would let everyone know what the citizens wanted them to do. She said the other thing was if the citizens did not agree with what the Board does, to vote them out.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the attorney and he had an extensive discussion on this item; he called the Florida Commission on Ethics and they gave their opinion that this was nothing ethical and had no authority to discuss; he called the Department of State Division of Elections and spoke with an attorney and he came to understand what the County Attorney was saying about putting an initiative of that nature on the ballot; he spoke with two municipal attorneys and they said the same thing, that neither the Board or the citizen has the statutory authority to put an initiative of that nature that would alter the County Ordinances on the ballot, but they could do a straw poll and they decided Chapter 125 and 163 Section 125.01(1)(y), Florida Statutes and was the same communication that the Attorney provided. He said the Attorney referred to the case of the Gadsden racetrack and was the reason why it was not going anywhere because neither the County nor the Citizens have the statutory authority to alter because of the Charter. He said he understood all they could possibly do was the straw poll, which was non-binding.

**Ed Allen** appeared before the Board. He stated he was opposed to the Resolution. He said he was sure they have seen on TV what has happened in South Florida with the environment, the scum on the lakes, rivers and creeks and some were caused by septic tanks. He said when there is a one acre lot with one septic tank per lot; the more septic tanks, the more cause for pollution on the environment. He said if they go into a wetlands area and put septic tanks there will be problems. He said the State has spent thousands of dollars trying to clean up Wakulla Springs and will have to spend more money and we are here putting in more septic tanks in the wetlands. In addition to that, under State Law, it was legal to put one item on the ballot and they have three items on the ballot. He said Chair Holt had said something about “voting them out” and she has refused to redistrict the County in close to ten years. He stated “If you don’t redistrict, you can’t vote anybody out.”

**Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he was representing the NAACP and DEC and was also a veteran, Chief Master Sargent of the U.S. Air Force. He said he commended his comrade McCain for his insight, his service and he valued that. He said he lived in the city but had land in St. John area. He said the Citizens have spoken, they have concerns and he thought the Commissioners have listened to them. He said after conversing with several people, he concurred with the Resolution as a non-binding Resolution. He asked that the Commissioners let the citizens have their say and if the citizens said they wanted to have this done, he felt they should get together and try to do it. He said his concern was whether or not the citizens vote for or against it, he felt they should have a committee set up to address the land use. He said there was no reason whatsoever that anybody should lose their land for any reason unless they could not pay their taxes. He further stated it was the County’s responsibility to bring jobs here and they have not done that. HE also stated there was one item on the Agenda-the Citizens Bill of Rights and those things come under the Bill of Rights. He said this should be a democratic society where the majority should rule, a 3-2 vote not a 4-1 vote and the citizens should have a right to express their wishes.

**Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Avenue, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said he was

in favor of the Resolution and believed in Government for the people, of the people and by the people and also believed if it comes a course in futility to have individuals go out and get the signatures to have a non-binding vote and also understood the letter of the law and the letter of the law, Section 125 Florida Statute said that it would be non-binding, but the Board has the opportunity and responsibility to change this and not go this route. He said someone was very crafty when they were able to get this passed and say the only way it could be changed was with a super-majority vote and also with the knowledge if taken to the people with a ballot, the best that could come out of it would be just an opinion, a straw poll. He said personally he found that a waste of time, felt they should just call their Commissioners and tell them their opinion as opposed to going this entire process. He said he imagined various people had various reasons for supporting or not supporting this. He said he heard someone mention environment and that was a new one on him that it would be an environmental issue.

Mr. Ed Allen wanted to speak and Chair Holt said they had heard all the comments from audience and said they were going to have Board discussion.

Commissioner Morgan encouraged them to approach this in a positive manner and have productive discussion. He asked if the attorney had seen the signatures and he responded that he had not seen all the signatures, he was aware of the petitions and has seen documentation from the Supervisor of Election to show a count of the petitions. Commissioner Morgan asked if there were a certain number of signatures required and Mr. Weiss said no, if the County Commission wanted to do it, they could do it. Mr. Weiss said the blank petition that was signed was on page 8 in the packet. Commissioner Morgan asked if the citizens were told that the initiative would “supersede and make Gadsden County Ordinance 2016-009 null and void”. Mr. Weiss said that was in the ballot summary language. Commissioner Morgan said in reality that was not what this would do. He said they were being told that what was being supported with the signature was not entirely accurate. Mr. Weiss said that was correct. Commissioner Morgan said that was the issue he had with this, not that they could not have a discussion and move forward but they were talking about an item that would impact the entire County and was something they wanted to make sure to protect the environment, preserves the rural character and nature of the County and protects the right of information, awareness and communication and was primarily what the Citizen Bill of Rights was for. He said he could not support this.

Chair Holt said she had no problem with the straw poll, they could take out the language Commissioner Morgan mentioned and let the citizens decide what they want.

Commissioner Hinson asked when the deadline was and Chair Holt said today. He said he thought they needed to spend a few seconds, talk with the attorney and make it clear that everybody would be ok with it. He said he also believed when he went to business meetings, Hoover and other companies came, they said the biggest complaints were the CBOR. They said it was hard to penetrate into it. He said he was truly the biggest environmental person on the Board and this was not an environmental issue. He said when the representative from 1000 Friends of Florida came, they said this was not what they were talking about and was totally opposite and Gadsden was the only county in Florida that was doing this. He said he believed if the citizens want it, they should vote to get rid of the citizen bill of rights so two people run the county not three, that was a dictatorship. He said he supported they talk about this, get it the right way so it could be parallel to what they have as well as what the community wanted.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the question they needed to address first was how and why they got here. He said this Ordinance a/k/a CBOR, was drawn and adopted by Board. He asked Chair Holt when it was originally done and she said 2010. He said the revision to remove some of the elements that impede the development and land use and management has been voted down by two commissioners consistently to review it and felt that was why the citizens decided to take the steps of making it a ballot initiative for the citizens to speak on. He said while they were on the straw poll decision, if the citizens want it and have collected all the needed signatures, this Board should go with it. He said the other concern he got from a citizen was some part of what these three questions addressed that did not include this citizen's concern. He asked if this straw poll would impact all land use or was there a specific category of land use that this would refer to.

Mr. Weiss said it was intended for all categories that allow residential development.

Commissioner Viegbesie said nowhere in the three items that includes lands that need to be preserved and conserved from use.

Chair Holt said there were provisions within the Land Development Code that allowed cul-de-sacs and that would reduce the amount that would be reduced. She said she was ready to vote. She said there were some things about the CBOR she likes and had not heard one commissioner in the Association of Counties or the 38 small counties that believes a super majority vote was necessary.

Commissioner Morgan said he politely disagreed with Chair Holt regarding the CBOR and said it had not impeded growth in Gadsden County and there had been no companies that had been through the process and chosen not to move forward with Gadsden County. He said they needed to make sure that the citizens and potential businesses understood that currently this was a part of the process that may require an extra step in planning but it also could be viewed as a way to ensure that a business would be a good corporate partner with the County. He added that the CBOR has never impeded growth in the County.

**Lori Bouie, 4237 High Bridge Road, Quincy, FL** (Planning Commissioner) appeared before the Board. She said the Planning and Zoning Commission did vote on the item in considering the CBOR and their vote was to keep the CBOR less the super majority vote. She said she has had businesses that have gone to Leon and Jackson County to tell her the reason they did not come of Gadsden County was because of the fearful things they would have to go through because of the super majority and said it did lead potential businesses to believe that this County was unorganized and did not have a standard set of procedures that they could follow and be assured that they are processing and progressing to have a business in this County. She further stated the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that they keep the CBOR, they want to hear from the citizens, and they represented the citizens as volunteers and want to hear their opinions but did not believe it needed to be a super majority vote on every issue regarding land and business development. She added that some of the issues that were brought up tonight led her to believe the super majority vote could be used selectively when it should be considered and when there was an issue that would affect a small group of people. She said they were concerned about the County and its rural development and not to be bombarded by some large company that would be a detriment to the rural environment. She concluded by stated the super majority vote was hindering their progress and asked them to vote tonight and as County Commissioners they could vote as to whether or not to have the super majority vote.

Chair Holt said they were going to move on this item.

Commissioner Viegbesie said on the Agenda was an item that the citizens requested and the request was not what they had on the Agenda but felt it was a first step. He said he would, in his personal vote, approve this as the Attorney has interpreted it due to the home rule restriction that they had in regards to putting a ballot initiative as introduced by the citizens on the ballot. He said he had no reason to oppose it because he believed in democracy. He said he was not born here and had a choice of which country to go to, but because he loved democracy he chose to come to America. If the citizens want this and the attorney says this was the method that should be put out for now, then he was going to vote for at least the straw ballot as currently presented within the legal ramifications of this body. He added that the citizens elected them and they are the ones that have spoken, collected all the petitions needed to put that item on the Agenda to be approved to go on the ballot but the Attorney told them there were some legal ramifications and this was the process and how far they could go right now.

Commissioner Hinson said someone said it did not hinder the growth in the County, the reason they did not have the solar farm was because of the CBOR because once they had everything together, they did not realize there had to be 4 out of five votes to make it happen and they lost out. Hoover purchased land first then found out they needed 4 out of 5 votes to make it happen and almost left the County as well. He said Sicamu purchased the property (former Printing House property) and they almost left as well to go to Madison County because of the CBOR. He said to be honest; it did impede growth and was a hindrance. He said you could not see it, but if you knew you had to have 4 out of 5 votes, it was hard to purchase 300 acres of land and hope there were 4 out of 5 people to vote. He said WalMart was not coming here because they knew they had to have 4 out of 5 votes and that was the issue he had with the CBOR.

Chair Holt said they were voting on the straw poll initiative that was in their packet.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his only concern was and she referred to it in the Comp Plan and the Land Use Management Code for the County but the way this was presented did not address the concerns that the citizen sent to him with the specificity AG 1, 2, & 3 not included in it.

Chair Holt said that should not be a concern and would let the Attorney address that.

Mr. Weiss asked if the concern was that it could implicate conservation lands and silviculture, which allowed for 1 residential unit per 40 acres and if that was the concern-a) it was a straw ballot and was non-binding, this could be used to guide future changes. If they wanted to make it specific to agriculture/land use categories it would be a pretty easy change that could be made and was not changing the nature of the ballot question.

Chair Holt said she did not think they should do that because of AG 1, 2, and 3, had public lands and everything was out there and all that had to be looked at and if the straw ballot was non-binding, all they wanted to know was what the citizens wanted, they could express what they wanted and may vote to not even want it but would be given the opportunity to look at the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Holt asked the will of the Board.



**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**9. Approval of Fuel Services Inter-local Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Fuel Services agreement with the local municipalities, constitutional officers and state agencies for the dispensing of fuel.

Chair Holt asked if Mrs. Jackson had discussed changing from .6¢ to .8¢ with them and Mrs. Jackson said yes and have gotten no pushback. Commissioner Morgan asked if she had individual conversations with each one and she said she personally had conversation with three of them but they were all sent a letter and did not get any negative response back and was significantly lower than what it was two years ago, it was .20¢ or something like that, .10 or .20¢ and was lower. She said the purpose for the increase was because next year, if not next year will be the following year, they will have to completely replace the whole fuel system, roof and all, and would give them a little extra money to put toward that so the Board will not have to put up a lot of money when comes for that.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.**

**10. Approval of Interlocal Agreements with Local Municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Interlocal Agreement with the six municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board for road maintenance and special project activities.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked how this has changed from prior agreements they had.

Mrs. Jackson said there was no fiscal impact, they were keeping the same fees that they usually do and was not out of anything, they pay for all the services they offer.

Chair Holt asked if everything had been taken care of as far as payments and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely, everybody was up to date.

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

**11. Appointment/Reappointment to the Gadsden County Industrial Development Authority**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to appoint or reappoint members to the Gadsden County Industrial Development Authority (GCIDA). She said when this agenda item was prepared they did not have current information and since then staff has been able to contact two of the Board members that will need to be appointed or reappointed. Larry Clayton responded that he was willing to continue to serve; the other two, Mr. Barry Haber lives in Leon County now and will need to be replaced and have not heard from Mr. Dawkins.

Chair Holt asked since this Board traditionally appointed members to this Board, this was an Industrial Board and thought they would be able to get some help as far as economic development; any communication with any companies and said this was a separate entity. Mr. Weiss said the Board does appoint members and was where they had some authority over the Board; they are an independent body and they have their own by-laws and there were a number of things they could not do but one thing they could do was appoint the members. She said they were looking as positive growth and they were an Industrial Board and they could use some help from them to do some filtering, whether it was marketing or whatever. They only meet once a year and was not helpful if they only meet once a year.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it would help to have industrial folks on the Board like Coastal Lumber and Hoover have partnered together and someone like that on the Board or someone like Talquin or Waste Pro that was not trying to slow down growth.

Mr. Weiss said one of the statutory requirements for appointing members was they had to be residents and electors of the County.

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

Commissioner Morgan said he was not sure they were ready to have this item before them, two of the three whose terms have expired that are not able to serve us and there are no other names presented to them.

Mrs. Jackson said the process they have been going by for the Boards were residents could go on-line and fill out an application for whatever Board they would like to participate in. She said that have put an ad in the paper this week, not just for this Board but for all Boards to re-energize the community to serve on the various Board but as of now, there was no-one that was interested.

Chair Holt said they needed to look at the process of the Board.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **12. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said she had dates for upcoming meetings:

Wednesday, September 5 at 6:00 for a special budget meeting that includes outsourcing EMS;  
Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 6:00 first budget public hearing;  
Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 5:00 the Workshop on Planning;  
Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 the second budget public hearing;  
Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:00 regular BOCC meeting.

She said the Permitting/Building Department will not close the Department but wanted to stop permitting activities at 4:30 starting October 1<sup>st</sup> because it was causing overtime in the department.

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

Chair Holt said they need a second building inspector ASAP and Mrs. Jackson said it was not budgeted but is in the next fiscal year. Chair Holt said they had Clyde Collins that was in there. Mrs. Jackson said currently they have not filled the Building Official position. It was currently advertised and closes next week and will see where it goes.

Chair Holt asked about Planning and Zoning Director and Mrs. Jackson said that is being advertised and would close the next week as well and a Planner position. She said the Planner would start this fiscal year but the other position would not start until the next fiscal year.

Chair Holt asked about Housing. Mrs. Jackson said that was a different story and they were doing something different. She said they have someone that is in the SHIP program and did not want to use General Revenue funds for the Housing Department and there was a contractor on Staff and that was a significant savings for the County who is revamping the entire department. She added as far as SHIP dollars, they do have someone in that position but had to be creative in how they spend the money and get a full-time position on the General Revenue budget. Chair Holt asked about the contractor. Mrs. Jackson said currently they had secured someone who would be presented to the Board very soon. She said he had already gotten over 30 lenders for the first time homebuyers program as well as people who needed repairs done to their homes. She said he was also experienced and was developing a program so they could decrease their waiting list.

Commissioner Morgan asked for an update regarding the Ag Center. Mrs. Jackson said it was moving, she had brought up about the USDA loan and everything is moving forward. She said there will be a presentation tomorrow and everything is on schedule.

Commissioner Hinson said the Clerk stated last week that they had \$300,000-600,000 that they had yet to spend on the Housing grant. He said the fiscal year was almost over and asked if they would lose the funding. Mrs. Jackson said she looked at that video of some of the things the Clerk said and "all I will say was some of the things that he said those funds can't be used for what he said they could be used for and I will leave it at that". Commissioner Hinson asked if they would lose the funding and she said some of the funding exists and some do not and some can be used for one purpose and some cannot be used for purposes that were stated.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the same question about the Ag Center because he knew they lost out a couple of years ago and asked her to keep them updated so they would be on task. Also he felt they could look at 2-3 years down the line regarding the County Administrator and hoped they make a decision quick because they will be in for some major lawsuits in the future or they will not be able to get the top candidates. He said that once they remove the interim tag and that person came in, they have 6 months and to keep down lawsuits, it should be on an interim basis. He said they also did not have an Assistant County Administrator anymore and if someone came in as an Assistant County Administrator, when the County Administrator came in, they may want to bring in their own person and the Board has no control over who they hire. He said to protect the Board he felt that a lot of the directors should be on an interim basis so they would know at any given time they could be let go.

Chair Holt asked if there was something in their hiring process that gave them some type of

notification and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely, no-one in their policy that was exempt from having due process. She said they also had a labor attorney who also advises staff as to anything that could be done no-one could be let go just because they did not like them.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was grace period or probationary period where they could be let go. Mr. Weiss said he thought there was but was but was not sure of the length. Mrs. Jackson said it was a 6 months period. Mr. Weiss said he thought so.

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

#### **13. Updates**

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

#### **14. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions and there was none.

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said he was glad they did something for Mrs. Maxwell and asked them to mentor kids at school.

He then asked if they were prepared for the upcoming hurricane season.

Olivia Smith said there was information on their website regarding sandbags, she also had spoken with Tashonda Whaley and Major Wood regarding updates.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked where would citizens go to get sandbags because he has received calls today that citizens that were not able to get bags because they had not been released yet and also asked when they could get them and what the limit was.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director**, appeared before Board and said the Post Plant pit opened at 3:00 p.m. today.

Commissioner Hinson said there were issues in his area around Hampton Heights and said it was embarrassing when going down the road and grass was as tall as you. He added it made the commissioners look bad. Mrs. Jackson said there were extra crews out and the rain has been a problem. She added that it would be before the Commission soon, but she was bringing a continuing services contract before them so they could reach out to them at any time when the crews need extra help. Commissioner Hinson said he had spoken with his constituents and some said it had been 6-8 months since anyone had been out there. Mrs. Jackson said there was a mowing schedule that she could send to the Commissioners and there was talk between Commissioner Hinson and Mrs. Jackson at the same time. Chair Holt interrupted and said they were going to stop the conversation and they were going to have civility. She told him he was not going to address anyone in that fashion.

Commissioner Hinson said folks were frustrated with culverts being stopped up. He asked about the work program and said they did have about 200 in the program and asked if they could use them and it would help offset the costs.

Chair Holt said they all were receiving calls and she refers them to Mr. Young at Public Works.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan asked to verify the dates for meetings and Mrs. Jackson did that.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Chair Holt asked if Commissioner Taylor called and Mrs. Jackson said no.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie made a motion for a Resolution.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR A RESOLUTION HONORING THE HAVANA NORTHSIDE CLASS OF 1968 ON THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CLASS REUNION AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND.**

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

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt asked for a Resolution for Shanks High

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HOLT FOR A RESOLUTION FOR SHANKS HIGH MEGA CLASS REUNION AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

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

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR ROBERT GREEN FOR A PROCLAMATION AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**Receipt and File**

- 16.** Letter from Talquin Electric  
Letter from Mediacom  
Letter from DEO 8/15/18  
Letter from DEO 8/17/18  
Letter from FEMA 8/13/18  
Letter from FEMA 8/14/18  
Invoice from Ausley & McMullen

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:49 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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked that everyone either turn their phones off or place them on vibrate and if anyone would like to speak on an item to please fill out a Speaker Request form and give it to the Deputy Clerk. She said the Attorney was running a few minutes late and they would go ahead and start. She asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION TO THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

Chair Holt said there was a request to add an item to the Agenda, a request regarding the straw ballot amendment to be brought back before the Board and for it to either be altered or not be placed on the ballot.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADD TO THE AGENDA DISCUSSION OF AN ITEM THAT WAS REFLECTIVE OF THE FLORIDA STATUTORY AUTHORITIES GIVEN TO THE STATE AND CITIZENS TO ADD ITEM RELECTING THE LANGUAGE ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

*Mr. Weiss arrived at 6:04 p.m.*

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was a request that the language for the initiative that the citizens collected signatures on, the attorney said did not meet statutory authorities and as a result there should be some initiative added on the ballot and was coming back now so they could approve the language that was within their statutory limits and his motion was for that discussion to be added to the Agenda. Weiss said if for discussion

Chair Holt said it was to be added for discussion and not for approval or disapproval and told the attorney this was for the straw ballot to go on the agenda for discussion and the group has asked that it either be altered to be one question or be taken off the ballot.

Mr. Weiss apologized for running late. He said if it was for discussion purposes it would not alter any

action that has been taken. He said their Ordinance generally stated that they could not add things unless it was an emergency or grant items that would not impact general revenue and if the Board considered this to be an emergency on the basis this would be the last opportunity to potentially make a change before it went to print on the ballot, that would be the basis for making this an action item.

Chair Holt said from what she was told that was the reason for adding it to the Agenda, they wanted to see if it could be one question or other than that, remove it from the ballot.

Commissioner Viegbesie said whether it was one question or three questions, Florida Statutes states all they could do was a straw ballot, did the language need to be reflective of a straw ballot and Mr. Weiss said whatever questions were placed on the ballot, it would be a straw ballot and not for a binding referendum.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood their request to potentially have this removed and understood the reason for having it removed was because of the timeline due to the printing of the ballot. Beyond that there was no emergency for further discussion on how the wording is to be done or how many questions are to be asked. He said if they were going to do that, they need to properly place it on the Agenda and have further discussion. He asked if that was the understanding.

Mr. Weiss said that was generally correct.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his motion was to discuss it as to the number of questions.

Chair Holt said there was a deadline with the Supervisor of Elections office.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO ADD THIS TO THE AGENDA AS ITEM 8A.**

#### **AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution Honoring the National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.-Gadsden Chapter**

Mrs. Jackson said there was one presentation for National Hook-Up of Black Women and was requested by Commissioner Hinson.

Commissioner Hinson asked that everyone step forward, he read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to the group and they posed for pictures.

#### **CONSENT**

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

**2. Ratification Memo**

**3. Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Annual Report**

**4. Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP**

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**



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

M. H. Allen, 61 Clearwater Street, Quincy, FL – CW Roberts, Item 8

**Georgia Ackerman, 145 B 5<sup>th</sup> St., Executive Director of Apalachicola Riverkeeper** appeared before the Board. She said they were founded 20 years ago by a group of concerned community members and their focus will continue to be an outreach in education efforts and they do a lot of collaborative research work, working with the University of Florida.

**Rebecca Jetton, 3126 Camelliawood CI W, Tallahassee, FL - Apalachicola Riverkeeper**-appeared before the Board. She said since the Apalachicola River runs through a six county region, Apalachicola Riverkeeper stays abreast of local issues that could affect the water quality and the volume of flume involving the river. She said the honey and seafood production economy has fallen drastically and there is now another threat of potential oil spills to the River. She said Calhoun County was now allowing oil drilling within the agricultural district. She said the first well produced no oil but there were currently applications for six more in front of the Department of Environmental Protection. She said they were concerned that the oil spills into the wetlands and floodplains could further damage the river's ecosystem. She said the Riverkeeper began examining the Comprehensive Plans and they have gone to each County and asked that they amend their Plan and Code to prohibit oil drilling in the wetlands and floodplain along the river and prohibit the underground disposal of toxic chemicals. She said Gadsden County was the only one out of six that has already addressed the issue.

**John Coffman, Armada Ammunition, Inc., 2230 Greensboro Hwy, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and invited everyone to the First Annual Veteran's Assembly Day and said they would be hosting Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA) at the Florida Public Safety Institute on Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Coffman for bringing this item and said this had been in the planning phase for many months and was a great event and would highlight the County. He added that Mr. Coffman was a relatively new business owner in the County and this was a way for him to give back and he applauded him.

Don Stewart, 102 Timber Row, Land Use Poll on Ballot

Ed Allen, #8

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had a doctor's appointment earlier today and was given some medication and he may be leaving the meeting early and wanted to state that.

**5. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-011 to amend the Traffic Circulation Element of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2018-02)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a legislative public hearing for consideration of adoption of Ordinance 2018-011 to amend the Traffic Circulation Element of the Comprehensive Plan and renaming of the element to the Transportation Element, which was last amended in 2001.

**Allara Gutchner, The Planning Collaborative**, appeared before the Board and explained the item.

Chair Holt asked if there were any comments from the audience and there was no-one.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Ms. Gutchner if she was bringing back the language that was sent to DEO for approval and if it was the same and she stated yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked that Ms. Gutchner give an overview.

Ms. Gutchner stated it had not been updated since 2011 and there were quite a few updates required pursuant to Florida Statutes.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for updating all this and asked if this met all State Statutes and she stated yes. Commissioner Morgan said the way he understood this, all new businesses would be required to provide at least one bicycle parking area within the development site, by including a bicycle parking rack. She stated that was not a State requirement, it was a policy that was decided at the local level.

Commissioner Taylor said Commissioner Morgan brought up a good point and wanted to make sure regarding bicycle racks that they would not take up parking space.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he recalled with CRTPA, they are now requiring motorcycle parking that would take up less space than a car.

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

**6. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-012 to Amend the Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2018-03)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a legislative public hearing to consider the adoption of Ordinance 2018-012 to amend the Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan to update specific policies for clarification purposes.

Ms. Gutchner appeared before the Board and explained the Ordinance.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

Commissioner Hinson asked if she could list the changes. Ms. Gutchner read over the changes and said there were no comments or objections from the State regarding the amendment. She listed the changes and it was pointed out there would be a correction to the numbering in Objective 8.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they were going to adopt with the correction of the numberings or leave like they were. She said she thought the way Mr. Weiss had the Ordinance structured in

Section IV, they were able to correct scrivener's errors.

Chair Holt announced again this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

Commissioner Taylor said there was a letter addressed to Chair Holt from DEO and had questions concerning same. Ms. Gutcher said they had no comments regarding the County's amendment.

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

Mr. Ed Allen appeared before the Board and had a question. He said he was trying to understand, and Ms. Gutcher reappeared before the Board and stated they had no comment on the amendment they reviewed.

**7. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-013 too amend the Comprehensive Plan by deletion of Chapter 9, Concurrency Management Element (LSPA 2018-05)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of the adoption of Ordinance 2018-013 to amend the Comprehensive Plan by deletion of the Concurrency Management Element, also known as Chapter 9.

Ms. Gutcher said this was an amendment that was transmitted in July and was an existing element of the Comprehensive Plan referred to as the Concurrency Management Element. She said the request was to delete this Element of the Comprehensive Plan and let the Land Development Code govern the Concurrency Management in Gadsden County.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

*Commissioner Viegbesie left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.*

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Gutcher to explain for the public why this was important. She said it was an element that had to do with how developments impact the systems that were in Gadsden County and primarily would be the transportation network, parks system, school system, which was another element altogether and was not a part of this element.

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

**8. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-014 of an Amendment of the Future Land Use Map +/-145 Acres from Agriculture -3 to Conservation and Mining of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2018-07)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and stated this was a legislative public hearing for consideration of adoption of Ordinance 2018-014 for an amendment of the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Gutcher re-appeared before the Board and explained the item for an amendment of the

Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan for approximately +/- 145.5 acres on Highway 267 and was seeking to change from Agriculture-3 to Conservation and Mining. She said approximately 65.65 acres would be classified as Mining and 79.85 would be classified as Conservation. She said this was the same information that was transmitted in July and the State agency had no objections and the recommendation was for approval.

**Bob Flowers, President of CW Roberts**, appeared before the Board. He said they had a public hearing at the Bear Creek facility and no-one showed for the hearing.

**Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental Land Services**, appeared before the Board. She said she did not have new information to present but was available for questions. She said no concerns were raised about project.

Chair Holt asked about the recommendations. Ms. Peppers said there were three; to get a gopher tortoise relocation permit; provide bear-proof trash cans; and during construction if a Florida Pine Snake was seen to allow it to move out of the way.

Chair Holt asked if anyone wished to speak that opposed the item to step forward.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:12 p.m.*

**M.H. Allen, 61 Clearwater Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. She said no-one showed up for meeting because no notice was received by them. She read aloud a prepared statement and resented it for the record.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:14 p.m.*

Mrs. Jackson said for the record, if she was referring to the meeting at Country Boys, it was advertised. Ms. Allen said it was mentioned there was a meeting at Bear Creek and she had no notice of that meeting.

**Ed Allen, Lake Talquin**, appeared before the Board and distributed a packet for the record. He said he understood the Department of State was concerned about burial sites, historical value and archeology sites and asked if they did not recommend that another survey be done.

Ms. Gutcher re-appeared before the Board. She said he was referencing a letter from the Florida Department of State dated July 17, 2018. It stated that the project area had not been surveyed and was unsure of what could or could not be there. He said it was recommended "that the project area be subjected to a professional cultural resources assessment survey." He said he would like to recommend that also.

Mr. Allen said at the last meeting, he stated land had not been mined in over 20 years; it had been an asphalt plant. He said after that statement, Ms. Peppers said it was mining property. He said another sand pit was not needed there. He read several statements from previous Agenda Requests regarding this item. He told the Board if they supported this item, they would not be supporting their own Ag Use.

**Vinette Godelia, Esquire for CW Roberts**, appeared before the Board. She thanked Ms. Gutcher

for her staff analysis that looked at the policies that worked and found that this was consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan. She said there were comments were made about illegal mining and said the Ag-3 category was the category under which mining took place and then the Comprehensive Plan came into effect. She said there had been a history with the property; it had been used for mining and used for storage of materials. She said there was a request to remove storage that was on the site and come back for a process to get the correct land use on it. She said there were also several comments about compatibility; to be clear what Ag-3 allows is mining, logging and what the Plan allows.

Elva Peppers reappeared before the Board. She said she spoke with Ryan Phillips and he went through recommendations with her, he did not request to get onto the site. She added there would not be a big hole in the ground when they finish but would be a lake after the mining was completed.

Chair Holt asked about areas where timber was clear-cut and if there were any plans to re-plant. Ms. Peppers said the logging was on another piece of property.

Commissioner Taylor said she had comments to make at the appropriate time.

Chair Holt asked if there were any more questions or comments from audience and there was none. She then said regarding the comments made about campaign contributions, (that were mentioned in M.H. Allen's statement that was read aloud), it did not matter who gave her a campaign donation, she works for the citizens of the County and had been doing so for years. She added that CW Roberts knew how she felt about this project from the beginning years ago.

Mr. Allen said took them five years to get the asphalt removed from the property. Chair Holt said she understood their concerns and wanted the project to follow all guidelines they were supposed to follow. She added that she wanted this to move forward, follow the Comprehensive Plan, the Stipulations, make sure they make the recommendation there and if there was to be any re-planting, wanted that done also. She said the County could also inspect and not wait for the State.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this would require a super majority vote and was told yes.

Commissioner Taylor said she appreciated the comments made, have known M.H. Allen and Ed Allen for a long time. She said a meeting was hosted at Country Boys and was well attended. She learned from the majority of people at the meeting was they did not mind the company coming. She said yes, she indicated she was interested in the application moving forward but it was really a meeting so the citizens to get CW Roberts to provide some amenities while they were there to make the mining not intrude on their property and privacy. She said to CW Roberts in that meeting: they wanted a buffer and they agreed, they wanted a buffer where the mining process was not visible from the street; they wanted regular meetings to make sure they were only mining for sand; they asked for a turning lane and the number of trucks were discussed and it was concluded was impossible for that many trucks to come and go within an hour. She said they had to think about economic development and growth. She also said to CW Roberts, if they do not hold true to what was asked of them, they cannot come to her for anything else.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Commissioner Taylor for her leadership in the community.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN REQUESTED A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>

**ITEM PASSED 4-0**

**8a Straw Poll Ballot**

Chair Holt asked that the item be pulled up from the previous meeting regarding this matter and it was done.

Mr. Weiss explained at the last Commission meeting, the Commission approved a Resolution to adopt a Resolution requesting that the Supervisor of Elections put three non-binding straw questions for expression of voter sentiment on the ballot for the November election. He said he understood from the motion to add this item to the Agenda this evening, there was now potentially concern over the questions, interest in maybe rescinding that motion and Resolution or an attempt to change the language of the questions that were approved by the Commission by the Resolution.

**Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He said the NAACP and DEC were the ones that sponsored this initiative and said they did not sponsor for a non-binding Resolution but after they got into it, they found out that the Statute dictated that it had to be a non-binding Resolution. He said they felt that basically the information was there, but things there that they did not request and to put an opinion on the ballot was not what the citizens signed for. He asked that the initiative be deleted and said they will come back before Commission to deal with concerns of citizens. He added, as the committee, they do not want a straw vote or a non-binding vote and recommended they do not approve this to go on the ballot.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to approve.

Mr. Weiss said the appropriate motion would be a motion to rescind the Resolution. He said in crafting the questions, his intent was to put on paper what he thought the intent was.

Chair Holt asked for a rescission of the motion.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND MADE A MOTION TO RESCIND THE RESOLUTION AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

**Don Stewart, 102 Timber Row, Havana, FL**, appeared before the Board. He said he was also a member of the Gadsden DC, was not at the June meeting and did not vote on the Petition when Mr. Palmer put that forward. In the July meeting, they had a State Party person there and that consumed the meeting and he knew nothing about this until he read it in the Herald and started conversations between him and Mr. Palmer. He said he would have been a descending vote and

did not think it was a good idea to do away with the CBOR but they did agree that they did not want this on the ballot but to have citizen workshops regarding this. He said they would like to go back to the drawing board and work with the Commission. He said he did look forward to working with the Commission.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 8:09 p.m.*

**9. Approval of the Inter-Local Agreement for Animal Control Services between Gadsden County, FL and the City of Midway, FL**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an Interlocal Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Midway and for authorization for the Chair to sign the documents.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval to Award Bid 18-19 to Lease Space in the Gadsden Memorial Hospital Building to Eye Associates of Tallahassee**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Bid 18-19 to lease space in the Gadsden Memorial Hospital to Eye Associates of Tallahassee, P.A. in the amount of \$1,000 monthly.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**11. Funding Request from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for Less Lethal Instructor and SWAT Less Lethal Courses**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it sought funding from the LEEF fund to pay for a less lethal munitions training package to the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office by Amtech Less Lethal Systems (ALS).

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

She asked the fiscal impact and Mrs. Jackson explained the funds would come from the Sheriff's LEEF fund.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR QUESTIONED WHO MADE THE SECOND AND WAS TOLD SHE DID WITH A QUESTION AND SHE STATED SHE DID NOT, SHE HAD A QUESTION. CHAIR HOLT THEN MADE THE SECOND. THE VOTE REMAINED 3-0.**

**12. Funding Request from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for Basic SWAT Course**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of funding from the LEEF fund to pay registration for 16 deputies to attend a National Tactical Officer Association Basic SWAT Course.

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

**13. Funding Request from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for Tactical Carbine Operator Course (TCOC)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was also to seek funding from the LEEF fund for registration costs for four classes of the Tactical Carbine Operator Course provided by Talon Training Group, LLC.

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

**14. Funding Request from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for Firearms Training Ammunition**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was also to seek funding from the LEEF fund for firearms training ammunition to be used for in-service training.

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

**15. Approval of the Fall 2018 E911 Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval and signature on the Fall 2018 E911 Rural County Grant.

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

**16. Approval of the Annual Contract Between the GCBOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the Operations of the Gadsden County Health Department**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of 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 2018-2019.

Commissioner Morgan asked how this had changed from the previous year and Mrs. Jackson explained there were no changes.

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

**17. Approval to Award Bid No.: 18-15 for the Replacement of the Second Floor Windows of the Edward J. Butler Governmental Complex**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid No. 18-15 for the replacement of the second floor windows of the Edward J. Butler Governmental Complex to Bill Bond Construction, LLC.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE**



**BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18. Approval to Award Bid No.: 18-16 for the Supply and Install of 4 Split Heat Pumps and Duct Work in the Stevens School Building**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid No. 18-16 for the supply and installation of 4 split system heat pumps and duct work in the Stevens School Building.

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

**19. Approval to Award Bid No. 18-17 for the Demolition and Replacement of the Electrical Wiring and Fixtures at the Stevens School**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid No. 18-17 for the demo and replacement of the electrical wiring and fixtures with 600 amp 3 phase 280/120 service upgrade in the Stevens School Building.

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

**CLERK OF COURT**

**20. Updates**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**21. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said she had no updates but was available for questions.

Chair Holt said the Planning Board met with the County Commission. She said the Planning Board consistently requested for education opportunities and wanted to visit some of the developments. Chair Holt said she asked if they wanted to plan a bus ride to look at some of the commercial and neighborhood developments. She said they also came up with the idea to go to the plant in Mississippi and were willing pay their own way and would only be responsible for the Planning Commission and the BOCC.

Commissioner Taylor asked if it should be agendaed and Chair Holt said she was getting to that.

Commissioner Hinson said the BOCC travel budget was cut in half and they will have problems regarding travel.

Commissioner Taylor said one of commissioners brought up a concern and they probably need to move forward and put language in the Policy and Procedure regarding representatives on the Planning Commission in districts. She said she thought they needed to formalize that and she also understood they have had attendance issues, and need language regarding the number of absentees and the Commissioner needs to be notified when they have attendance issues. She added she wanted to make sure there was a Representative from each district and the number of absentees before there was a red light.

Chair Holt said they could bring back the travel information; one thing did address was attendance and felt if they had direction, it would improve the attendance level. She said also there was no pay, this was totally volunteer and consisted of quite a bit of work.

Commissioner Morgan said with the discussion he heard, he thought it was important to have equal representation across the county. He said there were resources they could find available through FAC and felt they should pursue that. He said he was against a stipend; it was a chance to give back to the community. He said he had no problem with travel to certain areas and it would need to be discussed.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **22. Updates**

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said he had a few concerns; basically about the budget and hoped they could amend and bring back some of the programs that were cut. He said they cut \$82,000 from the Summer Youth Employment. He said they now had 40 something jobs and in past had 120 jobs.

He said it was also hurricane season and they cut \$100,000 from emergency housing repairs. He said he received a phone call today and they need to help seniors as they are on fixed incomes.

He said they also cut nearly \$50,000 from Veterans Services and thought there were a few things they needed to amend.

He said he met with two students that were former FSU football players and others to see how they could connect to give them experience in the County.

He said they needed to figure out a way to help people.

#### **Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said there was a Veterans event for November 3<sup>rd</sup> that was mentioned by Mr. Coffman and hoped the Board and the public could find time to support it, not just with attendance but with the specific request for support that he asked for.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE DISCUSSION AND ACTION FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION TO THE OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> AGENDA MEETING. COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID IT WOULD NOT WORK BUT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION FAILED. CHAIR HOLT AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

#### **Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor made a motion

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO PUT THE PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUE ON THE AGENDA AND DIRECT THE ATTORNEY TO COME UP WITH LANGUAGE FOR AN ORDINANCE TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BOARD FROM EACH DISTRICT FOR FAIR REPRESENTATION AND LANGUAGE FOR ATTENDANCE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND.**

Chair Holt asked if they wanted it for discussion or an Ordinance because they had had to discuss the Ordinance first.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted an Ordinance.

Mr. Weiss clarified that this would not be to actually adopt it, but to put some proposed provisions to the Ordinance on the Agenda.

Chair Holt asked Mrs. Jackson if there was something in place and she responded they had some draft By-laws but was told they had been operating from understood rules.

Commissioner Hinson said also the Florida Association of Counties put Commissioner Viegbesie on a committee for Finance and thought it was "cool".

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE FOR THE PREVIOUS MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Taylor mentioned abandoned houses and said she mentioned they needed to start a program to tear down some of the "raggedy" houses.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.*

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said anything in the budget could be worked and could be done, did not mean there was the money to do it and felt they should come up with a funding mechanism outside the budget such as grants.

She said they needed to look at the grant writer position. Commissioner Taylor asked about Mrs. Jackson and was told she was doing the Interim County Administrator job now.

Mrs. Jackson said she currently holds the position and two grants were submitted last week.

**Receipt and File**

- 24. August 22, 2018 Letter from DEO  
Proud Dad Fatherhood Conference 2018 Resolution  
Resolution Honoring Ms. Janice Maxwell**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

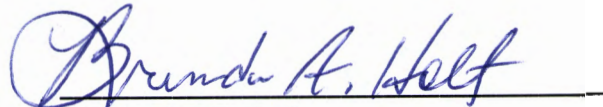
Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
September 18, 2018-Regular Meeting

25. October 2, 2018 Regular Meeting-6:00

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

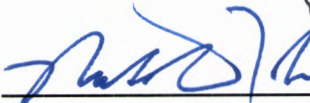
THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:41 P.M.

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 2, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5 – arrived late  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. She asked that phones be placed on vibrate or mute, asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Holt asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda and there were none.

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

Hinson/V 4-0

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution honoring the Quincy Kiwanis Club**

Mrs. Jackson said Commissioner Taylor has requested a Resolution to honor the Quincy Kiwanis Club. She then read the Resolution aloud, everyone posed for pictures and the Resolution was presented to the group.

**2. Resolution honoring Mr. Robert Green**

Mrs. Jackson said Commissioner Hinson had requested this Resolution.

Commissioner Hinson had a few words to say.

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:07 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Resolution, Mr. Green said a few words, they posed for pictures and the Resolution was presented to him.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **August 21, 2018-Regular Meeting**
4. **Ratification Memo**
5. **Approval and Authorization for Signature on Audit Compliance Certification-Attachment J-Project Breaker**
6. **Approval and Authorization for Signature on the SC731 Contract Amendment Request**
7. **Approval of Lease Terms for the Communication System**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Larry Ganus, 2174 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL

Michael Dorian, 145 Alligator Run, Quincy, FL

James McNaughton, 367 Ashton Ct., Quincy, FL

Shynettia Maynor, 255 Silver Oak Drive, Havana, FL

Janette Duprey, PO Box 514, Havana, FL

**Joann Hulls, 270 Tranquility Lane, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board and said she was part of **TNVR** and they trap, neuter, vaccinate and release feral cats.

Morgan returned at 7:56 p.m.

She said there are a number of colonies in the County and now Gadsden County Animal Control is baiting, trapping and euthanizing them.

Chair Holt asked if they were interested in moving them and she said they were in the process of moving them when Animal Control came to her home and asked her not to go feed them and also threatened her with jail.

Mrs. Jackson asked her to contact her and they could further discuss this matter.

Geneen Simmons, 426 Silver Oak Drive, Havana, FL

Arthur Bodison Simmons, Silver Oak Drive, Havana, FL

**Pastor Charles Morris, Trunks of Treats** appeared before the Board. He said he was here on behalf of the Trunks of Treats and the County has helped to sponsor that in the past. He said he was before them to make sure the County would still partner with them on this and it would be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Hinson said sometimes people do things that no-one knows being done.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **8. Public Hearing-Silver Oak Drive Petitions for Private Road Acquisition**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration for the Board to adopt a private road, Silver Oak Drive.

Chair Holt asked about the evaluation of the road and Mrs. Jackson said currently the road did not meet the conditions for the County to adopt the road.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board. He said Road and Bridge currently keeps the road scraped for the citizens and they are currently paying for that to happen. He explained what was needed to bring the road up to County standards before the County would be able to adopt it.

Chair Holt asked if anyone wished to speak.

**James McNaughton, 367 Ashton Ct., Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said he was opposed to this item. He explained he lives in a development that Mr. Wasdin previously developed and the road was never taken care of.

**Michael Dorian, 145 Alligator Run, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and asked if he could give his time to Larry Ganus.

**Larry Ganus, 2174 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said he was interested in this proposal and lived in one of the developments on Frank Smith Road that was done by Mr. Wasdin and Mr. Hatcher in the 1980's. He said in the 80's the County discontinued the dedication of private dirt roads to the County and the developers came up with a plan to have Restrictive Covenants in the subdivision, which called for a property owners association. He added that there were a total of at least five of these types of developments done during this time and there were a lot of complications with a Homeowners' Association, one being to keep it active. He said out of the five, he was involved in the only one that was still active after 30 years. He said the Restrictive Covenants did not require and dues were not enough for keeping the road up. He said the problem he has with the whole thing, the original owner still owns over half of the lots and he did not know that it was fair for a developer to come back after 30 years and look for a "second bite out of the apple". He said the Comp Plan now required a paved road and it was not cost effective to get their road up to standard for the County to adopt and did not believe the Ordinance was developed to benefit developers. He stated there was several options to resolve this issue: 1) reinstate the Restrictive Covenants (which have expired after 30 years and the Property Owners Association has been defunct since the mid-90s) ; 2) Pave the road according to the current code; 3) Since there is a gray area as to whether a developer is able to use the Ordinance, hold a workshop to determine these things and gain background information.

**Shynettia Maynor, 255 Silver Oak Drive, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board and said the road was terrible and did not understand it being a private toad. She said ambulances were not able to get down it when there is a bad rain, school buses have hard time getting down it and they need

help. Chair Holt asked if she knew when she bought the property it was a private road and she said she did not.

**Geneen Simmons, 426 Silver Oak Drive, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board and asked that everyone that lived on the road to please stand and they did so. She said it was mentioned about a Homeowners Association and dues and a lot of the people were older and could not afford to pay homeowner dues. She said they have become weather experts and when it rains, they have to move their cars so they would be able to go to work the next day. She said her concern was for the older residents that lived on the road. She said she was here to plead for her community and they would appreciate anything the County could do.

Chair Holt thanked her for her passionate comments.

**Janette Duprey, PO Box 514, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board and said she has lived there since 1991 and the Homeowners Association has not been in existence since 1991. She said there were older people that lived on that road and they were unable to pay \$3-4 a month and they were unable to work on their road like ones did in the subdivision that spoke earlier. She said they have called the Sheriff's Office out in the past because cars were unable to travel the road and the County came and did an emergency blading of the road so it could be driven on. She added that water pipes from the Town of Havana were exposed because of the erosion. She said she knew that Gadsden County was a poor County and Silver Oak Road was probably the poorest road in the County. She said the road was now a lot worse than it used to be. Chair Holt asked what happened to the Homeowners Association and she said she had no idea. She said she was not aware the road was considered a private road. She said they were willing to do what they needed to do to help the County.

**Betty Clayton, 426 Silver Oak Drive, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board. She said there was a Homeowners Association but people stopped paying the dues and some folks moved out. She said there was an account at Capital City Bank in Havana and someone withdrew money from the account and it closed the account.

Chair Holt said the reason they were requiring a Homeowners Association was because the developers would come in, build houses, have a tract of land and they would put the roads in and they had to be maintained because they were not County Roads. She said it should be on the Deed if the road is a private road as to whether it was a public or private road.

Mr. Weiss spoke on what the requirements were to adopt a road. He said it was important to remember the County could not expend any public funds to improve or maintain a road unless and until it was in the condition to be accepted by the County. He said tonight was for the County to consider if wanted to accept the road or not.

Chair Holt said this was the fifth or sixth road attempt that has been made and explained again that County equipment could not go on private property without funds being paid to the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this road was in his district and the Ordinance that governed the body was enacted before he became a Commissioner. He said he scheduled a meeting with the citizens in December 2014 and asked Mr. Young and his lieutenant to come to the meeting. One complaint the citizens had, they were unsure if Mr. Wasdin would do anything to bring road up to



par. He said the other road that has been brought to his attention was Frank Smith Road, half of it was paved and the other half was unpaved and a private road. He reiterated the Commission was unable to spend public money on private roads. He added that he hoped they could work with the Developer to bring the road up to standards to enable the County to adopt the road.

Commissioner Hinson said he knew Commissioner Viegbesie had been working hard to help with this. He said in 2014 he was Chair and said this was a different Board and they could adopt different Ordinances. He said last he checked everyone paid taxes and was embarrassing and they had paid for the road a 1000 times. He said the Board could change Ordinances.

Commissioner Morgan said it was good they were having this discussion and there were many roads that were in similar conditions. They have to understand the requirements and why they were there. He said a lot of funding comes from the State, SCRAP, SCOP and there were requirements from the State in order to receive those funds. He said there was still a number of roads in District 4 and 3 that were still unpaved. He said they could have done a "pay and pave" program where roads could have been addressed over a period of time.

Commissioner Taylor disclosed she did have a conversation regarding this item. She said she was more in-line with Commissioner Hinson and in 2014 she mentioned adopting private roads. She said everyone has to pay taxes and everyone in the audience were voters. She said they could resolve the 60 foot easement, the property owners could agree to give up enough property to obtain the easement and make this possible. She said they could have a meeting next Wednesday and address this. She said she wanted the roads adopted but knew she would not have the numbers. She said there were ways to change this.

**Arthur Bodison Simmons, Silver Oak Drive, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board. He said they knew in the beginning when the man sold the property it was a private road. He said the owner caught the road scraper out there scraping the road. He said when the money was taken out of the account, it stopped the road scraping. He said Mr. Wasdin had someone come in and scrape the road and the ditches were higher than the road and there was nowhere for the water to go but down the road. He said they needed a hardener on the road and it would help the folks to get in and out.

Chair Holt said they needed to have a workshop regarding the roads. She said the property would have to be deeded.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Viegbesie if the developer was still on the road and Commissioner Viegbesie said no.

**Ed Wasdin, the Developer**, appeared before the Board and presented them with a copy of a plat. He said the road was surveyed in 1986, the engineer work was done, a 60 foot easement and people owned half of the road. He passed his copy of the plat to the Deputy Clerk and it was given to the Interim County Administrator. Chair Holt said their property went to the center of the road and the property would have to be surveyed to deed to the County a 60 foot easement.

Commissioner Taylor said he was the "angel" they have been asking for, the property was already surveyed and he did a very good thing and would save time in this process. She said this man provided the ammunition where it could be deeded to the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie said it was an honor to meet him and said it had been a concern of the citizens as to whether they were willing to bring the road up to par because he and his son owned the majority of the road. Mr. Wasdin said from what he had heard tonight, he could spend \$40,000 to bring the road up to standard and the County would still not accept the road. Commissioner Viegbesie said Mr. Wasdin's concerns were he was unsure if the Board would accept the road even after the money was spent to bring it up to standards. Mr. Wasdin said he was concerned with that along with the people that lived on the road. Commissioner Viegbesie said if that road was brought to current Ordinance standards, and other roads such as Frank Smith Road, when Commissioner Taylor made the motion he would make the second. He said to have the workshop and see what could be done to improve the quality of life for the residents of that road.

Chair Holt said once he deeded the property to the individuals, they must deed the property to the County. She said she would also like this run through the Planning Commission.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO WORKSHOP THIS ITEM, HOPEFULLY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND THAT THEY COULD GET AS MUCH INFORMATION POSSIBLE 1) WITH REGARD TO WHAT STATE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SO THEY COULD MAINTAIN FUNDING ONCE THEY ARE ADOPTED; AND 2) HOW COULD THEY MINIMIZE THE ORDINANCE SO THAT PEOPLE COULD WORK THROUGH THE DETAILS TO GET THE ADOPTION PROCESS MOVED AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked for a day certain and Chair Holt said they had to have advertisement time. He said it was hurricane season and asked about it being advertised in the Tallahassee Democrat. Mr. Weiss explained the Ordinance and said it would have to be advertised in papers unless it was an emergency item.

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

Mr. Weiss said the motion was related to looking at the Ordinance and with respect to the item that was actually before them, would that be tabled until after the workshop and Chair Holt said it would have to be.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE TBLING THIS ITEM.**

Chair Holt explained this item would be tabled and workshopped to they could look at it and see what could be done. She said it would be advertised in the paper and they could check the website for the date of the workshop.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:55 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor said they could also call the County Manager's office at 850-875-8656 to inquire about the workshop.

**\*\*Chair Holt then addressed Speaker Appearance Forms that were turned in after that part of**

**the meeting had passed. Please see above\*\***

**9. Approval of Bid 18-20 to Lease Space in the Gadsden Memorial Hospital Building to North Florida Thyroid Center, LLC.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to award approval of Bid 18-20 to lease space in the Gadsden Memorial Hospital Building to North Florida Thyroid Center in the amount of \$1.00 annually.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said he felt this was a great idea and was needed but asked if they could get more than that amount from them.

Commissioner Viegbesie said services that were provided by them were for diabetic patients and the doctor was not charging the patients for her service.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed with services coming but she asked about overhead costs there would be and if they would be responsible for utilities, etc. Mrs. Jackson said they were working out of the same space the Board approved for Eye Associates last meeting

**10. Approval of Book Check and Detention Device Agreement with Bibliotheca/3M Library System**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to purchase Bibliotheca/3M Library Systems Book Check and Detection Devices for the William A. "Bill" McGill Library.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was budgeted and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval of Mosquito Control Agreement with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) & Annual Certified Budget**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Mosquito Control Agreement with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this fiscal impact was any different from the previous fiscal year and Mrs. Jackson said no.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if the \$49,000 bid was something they had to do by process and Mrs. Jackson explained it was not a bid process but a match was a requirement for the grant. Commissioner Taylor asked if the County's portion was budgeted and Mrs. Jackson stated yes.

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

**12. 2018-2019 EMS County Award Grant Funds**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to apply for the 2018-2019 EMS County Award Grant funds from the Florida Department of Health.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval of the Geographical Information System (GIS) Services Agreement with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the continuation of the professional services agreement with The Apalachicola Regional Planning Council for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) services and to authorize the Chair to execute the documents.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was sole sourced item and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of the City of Quincy Fire Department Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement between Gadsden County and the City of Quincy Fire Department.

Mr. Weiss said the Interlocal Agreement that was before them was slightly different from the one that was attached to their Agenda packet.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 8:15 p.m.*

Commissioner Morgan asked for more discussion. He asked if this had been before the City and had they approved it. Mr. Weiss stated yes, the amount was different. He asked how they came up with these figures. Mrs. Jackson said they sat down with the City Manager and other representatives and they came up with the figures.

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

**15. Appointment/Reappointment of Gadsden County's Representative on the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an appointment or reappointment to serve as the Chairperson of the Gadsden County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and the selection of an alternate.

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

**16. Law Enforcement Advanced Programs Robbery and Burglary Investigations for the New Detective**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training, boarding, per diem, and equipment costs for Gadsden County Deputy Delwyn Hall to attend the Law Enforcement Advanced Programs course *Robbery and Burglary Investigations for the New Detective*.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**CLERK OF COURTS**

**17. Updates**

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**18. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson reported the Gadsden County Public Library was the top reading library for the summer.

She said the Courthouse was lit pink in observation of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and gave a special thanks to the Gadsden County Chapter of Delta Sigma Beta for the ribbons around the Square.

She said the first Fall Festival Touch a Truck event was held in Havana at the Public Library and the next will be held October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Quincy Library.

She said free computer classes have begun this week at the Library and will be held Mondays at Chattahoochee, Tuesdays in Havana; Thursdays in Quincy and classes would be between 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and they were free.

The Library is collecting canned goods and non-perishable items in exchange for over-due fines for books and DVD's.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 8:20 p.m.*

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**19. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions and there were none.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said it was mentioned this was Breast Cancer Awareness Month and he has family members that have been affected by this.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 8:21 p.m.*

He said that was the reason for the jacket he was wearing tonight and the tie was given to him and was the reason he was wearing pink tonight. He said he had been out of commission for last 10 days and had to have a root canal done today.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 8:24 p.m.*

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 8:24 p.m.*

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked Mrs. Jackson for an update on old Stevens School. Mrs. Jackson said they were working on getting a continuing contractor agreement and will be on the next meeting; the HVAC and electrical contracts were being completed and the work will soon start. She said they do not currently have a person with a Contractors' license currently employed and that has put a stop on a lot of things.

Commissioner Taylor said she was gravely disappointed in how projects have progressed and Stevens School has not progressed; with Dogtown/Greenshade fire station could not be called a fire station but more of a skating rink with no sides up. She said something needs to be done, there was a lot each meeting of "getting ready to go", not blaming Interim Administrator but asking her to put before Board so they can help out with some. Have talked with contractors who said they take on numerous projects, hire and outsource various companies to take care of different things that need to be done on some of the sites, things that there is no expertise in-house and why that has not been brought before them especially after the building inspector part, they should have done something immediately to get projects underway. Said hard to face some people in her district with regard to Stevens School.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like to put the CBOR on the agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR FOR THE CBOR TO GO ON THE NEXT AGENDA AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. CHAIR HOLT HAD A COMMENT.**

Chair Holt said she wanted to make sure the group that pulled the straw ballot off was invited to the workshop.

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

Commissioner Taylor said she thought they did need to entertain what they were going to do moving forward regarding the County Administrator position and things did not need to be in limbo. She said she did not want to put it on the agenda at this point and time because she did want to have a conversation with the Interim beforehand.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said his suggestions were for the next Crappie tournament, TDC should work with the Parks and Rec Advisory Board to explore a youth component to the tournament.

He also suggested that Staff work with the City of Quincy Commission with their Parks Department to explore a collaborative youth sporting event during the summer using the City parks and recreation facilities to keep kids out of trouble in the summer months and getting them involved in athletic competition.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said a group called her regarding Stevens School about selling bricks for a fundraiser and told them she would bring it up and mention it to Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Hinson asked about contracts and what was coming up next. Mrs. Jackson said she will send a list out tomorrow to the Commissioners.

**Emergency Housing Repair** He said this was near and dear to his heart and he wanted it agendaed. Chair Holt asked Mrs. Jackson about the person in Housing – Mrs. Jackson said an extensive plan was in place for housing initiatives that have never been introduced at this caliber before.

Chair Holt asked if they could meet with him and find out what he proposes.

Commissioner Hinson wants to put Summer Youth Employment on Agenda and Chair Holt said for the second meeting in November.

Chair Holt mentioned they need to look into moving \$800,000 from roads into EMS-need to make sure have funding for it.

Commissioner Hinson said to put Emergency housing on agenda for next meeting; also Summer Youth Employment and \$50,000 that was taken out for Veterans Services.

Chair Holt said if this was spread out she could vote for them.

Commissioner Hinson said he was putting it out to see if it passed. With Emergency Housing repairs, put the money back into the coffers; make sure they fully fund Summer Youth Employment; and Veterans and he started talking about an Uncle that had Agent Orange.

Chair Holt said for him to make his point.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to put \$50,000 in for Veterans Services; put Emergency Housing repairs back in; and fully fund summer youth employment. Commissioner Taylor made the second.

V asked if that needed a motion or if a Commissioner could add to the agenda without a motion being made. Chair Holt said that was how they used to do it and did not know when they started making motions.

**Receipt and File**

- 28. Proclamation honoring the National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.-Gadsden Chapter  
Ausley & McMullen Invoice for Services Rendered dated September 12, 2018**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**October 16, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE  
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:41 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 ON OCTOBER 16, 2018 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  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m., asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence, and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson announced she would like to pull Agenda Items 1, 2, 11, and 15 and she had two items that needed to be added, an Update of Hurricane Michael and Approval of Updated Resolutions Declaring Gadsden County to be in a State of Emergency and would be added as Items 7a & 7b.

Commissioner Hinson had a question; he said he asked two weeks ago for three things to be added; Veterans Services, Emergency housing repairs and Summer Youth employment.

Mrs. Jackson addressed that; two of the items would require budget amendment and Veterans Services was on the agenda for discussion. She explained there were special advertising requirements for budget amendments and there was not enough time for it to be placed on this meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked why Veterans Services was on the agenda and Mrs. Jackson explained it was on the Agenda for discussion. She added that \$50,000 was allocated previously for a Veterans Monument to be placed on the Courthouse lawn and unless it was the will of the Board to spend another \$50,000 for a monument, they could proceed with it. Commissioner Hinson said that was very clever and they had been talking about this matter forever and this was the first time hearing this explanation and he was impressed by it. Commissioner Taylor pointed out this request was from two meetings ago so the timeline should not have been an issue and she was talking about the Planning and Zoning Board members. Mrs. Jackson explained that was the Public Hearing that is on the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

- 1. Resolution Honoring the Havana North Side Class of 1968-50<sup>th</sup> Reunion**  
Item pulled
- 2. Resolution Honoring James A. Shanks "Be Out Day"**

Item pulled

**CONSENT**

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

3. Ratification Memo
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. May 8, 2018 Workshop
  - b. September 4, 2018 Regular Minutes
5. Approval to Sell Surplus Equipment/Vehicles at Auction

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

6. **Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance 2018-017, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, FL, amending Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, regarding the membership of the Planning Commission; 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.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article V, Division 2 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, regarding membership of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his question was if they would be able to add a member of the commission given the fact that one in his district has decided to no longer continue and could he add another member of his community.

Chair Holt said her tow appointees did not live in her district but she appointed not by address but by intelligence.

She announced this was a Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not think the audience had clarity on this item and asked the Administrator to explain and she did so.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood Commissioner Taylor's position.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt first they should discuss the importance of this Planning Board not only to this Board but to the citizens of the County and felt it extremely important to have equal representation across all five districts and thought they needed to appreciate the folks

willing to serve and understand that not just the district they represent but the impact their decisions made across the entire county.

Commissioner Hinson said 42 years ago Henry McGill and NAACP fought against single, at-large seats in Gadsden County and if they go opposite that it would go against what they fought hard for.

Chair Holt said her two that they were discussing did not live in her district was Ed Dixon and Gail Bridges-Bright. She said if they were going to address this, the substantiation of attendance of their Commissioners were not stated; some have not been to a meeting and said if they were going to do this, address everything at one time of the ones that have not met the criteria of four regular meetings in a year, they would not be on the Board also.

Mr. Weiss said this impacted appointments but not existing, sitting members. He said once their term was up, the next appointment would have to be in accordance with the Ordinance. He said there had always been a provision in the Ordinance that stated “The County Commission...may remove any member for cause after written notice and public hearing. Cause for removal shall include, but not be limited to, misfeasance, malfeasance, or neglect of duty, where unexcused absences from more than two consecutive regular meetings or four regular meetings in a year shall constitute neglect of duty.” He said he added a couple of sentences that defined what cause for removal would be. He said it would still require this Board to take action to remove them. Mr. Weiss stated that in *Section 2-174-Membership* it read that the County Commission shall appoint two members from their district. Chair Holt pointed out her two Commissioners had 100% of attendance and did most of the legwork on the Planning Board.

Commissioner Hinson said they had people displaced, injured, everything else and wish they could come back to all of this unless it was something real pressing because they had real issues they needed to deal with. Chair Holt said if they wanted to table it, to table it.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED.**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7. Approval to Confirm the Growth Management Director**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for confirmation of employment of Suzanne K. Lex as the Growth Management Director, formerly titled Planning Director.

Suzanne K. Lex appeared before the Board and spoke a few words.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was conflicted with this item because she was the FDOT liaison and was sad that she would be leaving FDOT and would be an asset to Gadsden County.

Commissioner Taylor said she heard briefly about her background information from the Administrator and had been here 10 years and have seen 4-5 Planning Directors and most did not match Gadsden County and one was the desire to see growth. She said there was so many obstacles there that were placed in the way of businesses for them to open their doors seemed to

take forever.

Ms. Lex said she was a small business owner before going into the public sector and understood growth needed to be managed but also understood permits should be gotten in a timely manner and should be a very efficient and cost-effective.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the contract that the former Planning Director now had and Mr. Weiss explained. Commissioner Hinson said he thought Allara Gutcher did an excellent job and was a great person. Mrs. Jackson said the person before them had more experience.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought she would find a good opportunity in Gadsden County.

Chair Holt said everything was dictated by them.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**7a. Update on Hurricane Michael and the Aftermath**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the item and said Gadsden County declared a local State of Emergency and ordered a mandatory evacuation from mobile homes.

She started with an update from the Town of Havana.

**Howard McKinnon, City Manager**, appeared before the Board and gave a Town of Havana report, said the day after the hurricane Havana brought in 4 crews to help with their electrical problems and by mid-late afternoon Saturday they had all the damage that they could see with inspecting the lines repaired and the main transmission line from Duke that served the Havana Substation was down and did not restore that service to them until late Saturday night and was too late for his crew to safely start turning people on. He said early Sunday morning they began a deliberate process in restoring by sections the electrical grid in Havana. He said by 5:00 Sunday they were 100% restored. He said not everyone was receiving power, they had 12-15 customers, because of the ferocious winds, their service was ripped off their house and was the property owner's responsibility to get that repaired. He said they were probably down to less than five today. He said with the Water system, the back-up water generator worked as it should and they never lost water pressure. He said when power went off; they had issues with the sewer system. He added there would be food/water distribution at East Gadsden on Saturday.

Jack McLean appeared before the Board for the City of Quincy report. He said they were dependent on Duke Power to get their system into position so they could deliver power so the City could then convey power to their citizens; they had more than 60 poles that were taken out; many roads were blocked; trees were entangled in their above-ground system and were difficult to remove them. He said there were 30 individuals that came in to help them and after bringing in an engineer, it was decided to bring in additional crews to assist.

*Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 6:51 p.m.*

Mr. McLean said they will have 33 additional crews come into town tomorrow to help; they were having problem with housing because local hotels being down; they opened up the Rec Center and

they did cooking out of the fire station to serve everyone. He said they will have available 44 rooms tomorrow, with 2 beds in each room. He said they had 35% of the town up and by tomorrow night should be up to 45%.

*Commissioner Hinson returned at 6:53 p.m.*

He said with the additional crews coming in, it will cut the restoration time in half; they have supplies and resources needed and said it was an expensive undertaking. He said they were now turning to the FEMA program and have been educating everyone to get them money regarding the hurricane. Ice had been Distributed and there will be a feeding program at Shanks on Thursday.

Mr. Tracey Beasley from Talquin Electric appeared before the Board. He said there has been a historic restoration effort by TEC and they had 99% of their system down in four counties. He said they began working on the facilities getting the transmission system up. Duke started bringing their substations up on Friday evening and as of now there was around 36% restored in the County and overall approximately 72%. He said they have 63 crews working in Gadsden County and bringing in additional crews tomorrow and had approximately 1000 broken poles system wide and approximately 400 broken poles in County. He said he felt they would hit the 90% number by the week-end.

**Mr. Gerard from Charlotte County** appeared before the Board. He gave a list of people that traveled here to assist.

**John Elias, Charlotte County**, appeared before the Board. He said the Debris team has done a phenomenal job with clean-up. The initial push is road clean-up for vehicles to pass and debris pick-up should start tomorrow after being certified. He said there will be PSA's on things public will need to know.

**Wes Holden, Thompson Consulting Services, Contract Debris Monitor for Gadsden County** appeared before the Board. He said they will be providing monitoring and documentation oversite of debris removal operations that D & J Enterprises will be providing and will be hiring local residents to help perform jobs, they were already looking to hire 100-200 local in this community. He said the phone number for the recruiter is 850-661-6166 and they will utilize CareerSource as well.

**Chip Starr, D&J spokesperson** appeared before the Board. He said they will bring in large, self-loading grapple trucks to handle the downed trees and will try to give resources in every area. The website is [Admin@DJEnterprises.net](mailto:Admin@DJEnterprises.net)

Mrs. Jackson said Gadsden County will not have to pay for anything.

#### **Structural Damages**

Mrs. Jackson said the Butler Building has roof damage; St. Johns Park had fence damage and trees down; Greenshade Fire station has roof and side damage; Facilities Maintenance Warehouse is completely destroyed; Chattahoochee EMS Building has roof and window damage and trees down; Lamar Massey Building has roof, walls, lights and parking lot have damage and trees down and Quincy EMS has been deemed unsafe to occupy and was a total loss and cannot be occupied. She said they have been in conversation with the insurance company and they are advancing \$1

Million and will speak further about accessing other damages. She also said there was significant damage to the historical Courthouse.

**Beth Kirkland, Gadsden County Development Council**, appeared before the Board. She said with regard to the Emergency Support Function 18 for business and industry, the GCDC has been in communication with the Department of Economic Opportunity, Small Business Development Center, CareerSource Capital Region and the SBA to put together a mobile assistance center. She said they would be able to get a mobile assistance vehicle and they will be bringing that over in the next couple of days. She said they were responding to requests for commercial buildings where supplies could be temporarily held; they were requesting a list of short-term residential rental properties for displaced families; and having discussions with Department of Economic Opportunity and other communities within the Panhandle to see how CDBG Disaster Recovery funds could be utilized for a Grant to put together a tourism and economic development marketing campaign.

Mrs. Jackson spoke of some of the assistance program: FEMA has a team of seven people going door to door in Gadsden County; three sites daily in Gretna, Chattahoochee and Havana; and USDA Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP, a program for those that do not traditionally qualify for SNAP) is setting up their program; from now until November 2, 2018 there is help for home clean-up.

#### **County Housing**

She said this was a hot topic and had received quite a few calls for emergency housing. \$740,000 is currently available through the SHIP Program to be prioritized for SHIP Disaster Relief Litigation Strategy pending current program commitments.

She said there were already currently approved Housing activities: \$1.5 Million from the Housing Finance Corporation that will be available after the SHIP fund has been exhausted for emergency housing as well as \$15 Million that could possibly be tapped into from the FHC. She said the person will only have to submit the traditional application that is done for SHIP and will operate just like the traditional emergency housing and will be quick, no waiting list. She listed things this would cover. She also talked about the Rapid Repair Program and explained it.

She said the National Guard has delivered meals and water, they would not be accepting any more food trucks; the County was still under a 10:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m. curfew; a looting task force has been created to prevent break-ins to local businesses and advised (!! be called if suspicious activity was seen; there has been an issue with price-gouging; She asked that if anyone received a “door-hanger” as she did, to please be leery of it and call 1-866-90SCAM; the County was currently under a burn ban; and a boil water notice was issued for the Pat Thomas RV Park. She gave list of special thanks to ones that have provided some type of assistance.

Commissioner Hinson added that Karen Wells and Sherrie Taylor donated food.

Chair Holt thanked the Stark family for their help in clearing roads; CW Roberts dropped off heavy equipment on Highway 267 North past the power plant to help with clearing roads; she thanked Florida Association of Counties and Davin Suggs for their assistance.

Commissioner Hinson thanked BOCC staff for everything, TEC; Town of Havana; City of Quincy

among others.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 7:37 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said it was a team effort and thanked everybody for everything.

Chair Holt wrapped it up by thanking Sheriff Morris Young.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 7:40 p.m.*

Chair Holt said they needed to get questioning out of the way in order to beat the curfew. She then thanked Public Works, Fire Department and asked if there were any questions from the audience and there were none.

Commissioner Taylor said she was glad this was pulled together and was valuable information, said she was asked if private roads would be assessed and was told they could go on private roads.

**Mr. Gerard, Charlotte County**, reappeared before the Board. He said the two official distribution Centers were at the Jail and in Chattahoochee. Mr. Gerard said they were closing the Quincy POD because people were no longer coming to get items since stores were opening.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious if there were a way possible to find a spot in Midway, Havana, Chattahoochee, Greensboro and Gretna to be more convenient for citizens' pick-up.

Olivia Smith appeared before the Board to give a Communications update.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a timeline for schools. Mrs. Jackson said people were still in shelters.

Johnny Croley appeared before the Board. He said he was all over the County every day moving heavy equipment and there are lines down all over and not marked. He said he just came off Shaw Farm Road and there are wires across the roads and no ribbons to mark it and it was bad.

Mr. Tracey reappeared before the Board. He said they had to be notified to do something and have already notified someone to check that road. He said they could use a non-lineman to check and if they were one of their lines, then the crew would need to take care of it. He added that cable and telephone lines were not their lines and technically they could not touch them but were easy to mark.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out 8:15 p.m.*

Mr. Tracey said they had put a notice out on their social media that Cycle 3 & 4 disconnects were canceled for this month and Cycle 1 & 2 will be evaluated next week; there would be no penalty fees attached to late payments associated with the following cycles and due dates: Cycle 1-October 12<sup>th</sup>; Cycle 2-October 19<sup>th</sup>; Cycle 3-October 29<sup>th</sup>; and Cycle 4-November 5<sup>th</sup>; and they will offer flexible payment arrangements for members in need.

**7b. Approval of Updated Resolutions Declaring Gadsden County to be in a State of Emergency**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for updated Resolutions declaring Gadsden County to be in a State of Emergency.

Mr. Weiss said this was intended to sort of allow a “rolling declaration” of emergency and he was concerned with the way the statute read on this in terms of their ability to do that. He said the Statute said they had to re-up the Declaration every seven days.

*Commissioner Taylor returned 8:30 p.m.*

Mr. Weiss said by adopting a Resolution now and for it to be effective every 7 days, he was not sure if they could do that. He said the purpose of the Statute was to re-evaluate every 7 days to determine whether or not it was needed to be extended.

Mrs. Jackson said she was unsure if the Board was interested, and asked if the Board would be willing to entertain to designate the Chair the ability to declare the emergency specific for Hurricane Michael to keep the Board from meeting every 7 days.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the State Statute required the Board or designated person to do it and Mrs. Weiss said it stated to request State assistance in both emergency related mutual aid assistance by declaring a State of Emergency, it said each political subdivision shall have the power and authority to declare this State of Emergency. He said it did not say Board or Chair, but political subdivision, meaning County. He asked if they could delegate that authority to adopt a Resolution to the Chair or the Administrator. HE said the purpose of the Statute is to suspend formalities that were specifically associated with County Government. He said was unsure with any certainty, his concern would be if not done the right way, they might be jeopardizing or compromising their ability to recover funds that otherwise they would be able to recover. He said if they want to adopt tonight for next 7 days and take action to delegate the authority to the Administrator or Chair to evaluate in the next 7 days in order to potentially make that declaration on behalf of the County, he thought they could do that and wanted to check in the meantime to make sure they were not doing anything to not be reimbursed. He added they had to have a new Declaration every 7 days and re-evaluate to say they wanted to continue the State of Emergency. He said his recommendation would be in order to try to avoid having to come and meet every 7 days to re-up the Declaration, they could today adopt the Resolution and then delegate the authority to whether it be the Chair or the Administrator to re-evaluate in 7 days and potentially extend the Declaration and let him check on it in the meantime so when 7 days were up and if they need to have another meeting, they will.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought they should follow the advice of the attorney and Chair Holt said if they missed deadlines with the State and have to meet and do not have enough people, they would be in trouble. Commissioner Morgan said with that being said, could they adopt the Resolution with changes eliminating the wording passed 7 days in the final paragraph and Mr. Weiss stated he did not think they could, they were limited to 7 days by Statute and there had to be a re-evaluation every 7 days. He said what they were trying to do was to delegate the authority to extend the Declaration after the initial 7 day period to either the Administrator or the Chair if deemed necessary. Commissioner Taylor said she was concerned with the legality of everything because the Chair and the Administrator had to be careful speaking on behalf of the Board when authority had not been given. She added they needed to do it the right way so they were not penalized and not given reimbursement. Commissioner Morgan said his concern was



this to be done in the proper way and if they have to meet every 7 days, so be it.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL WITH THE CHANGES AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROV THIS ITEM.**

**8. Adoption of a Resolution Approving a Gadsden County List of Lands Policy per Florida Statute 125.379, and Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Gadsden County List of Lands Real Estate Ordinance (or Amend Existing Policy)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the adoption of a Resolution approving a Gadsden County Official List of Lands Policy Per Florida Statutes 125 and Section 125.379 guiding Florida Counties to maintain a listing of County properties owned, creating a special designated list of those properties appropriate for affordable housing, and providing direction for disposal of properties once designated appropriate for affordable housing.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to deny. Commissioner Taylor asked why. Commissioner Hinson said it was the wrong time to be trying to take property from people.

Mrs. Jackson clarified this item and said this was asking for the ability to look at all property that the County owned and identify which pieces of property could be used for low-income housing.

Commissioner Viegbesie said that was his understanding of this item and the City of Tallahassee does it.

Commissioner Hinson then said “what is understood sometimes is not understood. Let me just say this real quick, it was a young man, a family of brothers and, and, they had their house there, and the County had the property. But someone wanted the property; this happened recently as a matter of fact, someone wanted the property. What the Board did, I mean, what the staff did, they arrested to get rid of it quick so someone else could get that particular property, right, all because of a certain issue that occurred. That person no longer has that property no more. Now, they talking about Tallahassee, since you want to talk about Tallahassee, if you want to be in Tallahassee, stay in Tallahassee, right? Because Gadsden County is not Tallahassee.”

Chair Holt said this was not taking property from people, this was property already owned by the County.

Commissioner Taylor said he was right; they were not making any more land. At the very beginning it did belong to someone else, it was abandoned or taxes were not paid. It was turned over to the County and the County now owned the property.

Chair Holt said if the property was there and was able to be gotten back, she was for it.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was a result of the individual meetings they had with Mr. Kemp and was told yes. Commissioner Morgan asked if Mr. Cunningham was in favor of this and was told yes. Commissioner Morgan asked why they were in favor. Mrs. Jackson said right now there was a lot of property and it was a loss to the County because of not receiving tax value from it; it will increase ad valorem taxes and revenues for the County.

Chair Holt said this would also apply to someone who used to own the land to apply for low-income housing and may be possibly able to get their property.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they could table this and have a workshop and take it from there.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM. CHAIR HOLT SAID THERE WAS A PREVIOUS MOTION FROM COMMISSIONER HINSON TO DENY THIS ITEM AND THERE WAS A SECOND AND NO VOTE TAKEN. CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THAT VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**9. Approval to Award RFQ No. 18-19 to Provide Construction Management Services on a Continuing Service Contract for County Capital Projects**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award RFQ No. 18-19 to Allstate Construction, Inc., Bill Bond Construction and Riley Palmer Construction Company to provide professional Construction Management Services on a Continuing Service Contract for County Capital Projects.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENTS AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said this did not have the Bid Tabulation form attached, his showed Eye Associates. Mrs. Jackson said it was on the back of that.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not supporting this item.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

Commissioner Morgan suggested they correct the contract ending date-there is no September 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Jackson asked for suggestions on how to get local bidders.

**10. Approval to Outsource EMS Billing to EMS Consultants**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to outsource EMS billing to EMS Consultants and request the Chair to sign all related documents.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked about the fiscal impact and the 5% of what is collected.

Mrs. Jackson said it was what it said and currently they do not collect that money and they end up

with a deficit every year.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out 8:58 p.m.*

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:59 p.m.*

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

**11. Approval of Library Strategic Long-Range Plan 2018-2023**

Item Pulled

**12. Approval of the 2019 Holiday Schedule**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the 2019 BOCC Holiday Schedule.

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

**13. Approval to Accept the 2018-2019 Mutual Aid Operations Plan between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service and the Gadsden County Fire Departments**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the 2018-2019 Division of Forestry Mutual Aid Operation Plan between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service and the Gadsden County Fire Departments.

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

**14. Discussion of Veteran Services FY 18/19 Budget**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion regarding the Veterans Services budget for FY 18/19. She said for the past five years, Veteran Services budget has been about the same every year. There are 2 full time employees and 2 part-time employees with a cost of approximately \$130,000. Since January 1, 2018, they have provided transportation around the area for appointments over 900 trips, with a total mileage of over 48,000 miles. Staff helps Veterans complete any and all paperwork they need completed. Expenses for fuel and office items average out to about \$30,000. She said during the FY 17/18 budget, the Board approved a one-time purchase of a monument for the Veterans and included \$50,000 for the cost of acquiring the monument in the Veterans Service budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they put a one-time fee on something, how it could be implied that they were cutting \$50,000.

Mrs. Jackson said it did show in the budget from last year to this year that this amount had been moved over and she apologized and said she had tried to explain this to him several times and in the meeting she was not allowed to; she tried to talk to him after the meeting and he asked when. She said it was on Facebook Live. Commissioner Hinson said he was not trying to debate with her, he just wanted clarity. He said when he asks questions, he did not talk to her too much and was

asking simple questions and maybe he was looking at this wrong. He said if they budget an item \$50,000 more for 2017/2018 for a one-time fee for one particular thing that was one time. He said he was trying to figure it out; how could the following year it be deducted. Chair Holt said they deducted it from the total amount of money that was there. Commissioner Hinson said for them to not get offended when he asked questions because that was why he asked questions and something was just clarified to him. When it was broken down, he understood. He said not everybody could be a quarterback.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was for a monument he requested and when he saw the reduction in the budget, he knew it was for the one-time increase and services were not cut.

Commissioner Hinson said that was why they needed clarity. He said when he asks questions, he never attacks anybody; he was just asking a question. He said if you look back 2-4 meetings, he has been asking this forever and this was the first day that someone ever broke it down and explained and the memorial was never mentioned. HE said his reputation stands strong for 14 years, he shoots straight and he understood pressure in his position. He said when it was broken down, he understood; why did it take 4-5 meetings to tell him when he had been asking for so long. He apologized for hurting peoples' feelings and said was unsure why he was apologizing.

Commissioner Taylor said to Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Viegbesie, the argument was correct, for clarity, if they had a one-time funding source and it was used, the only thing that could be carried over would be if any funds were left over. They were also correct in this was the first time the monument was mentioned.

Chair Holt said the Manager tried to explain at a previous meeting and every time she spoke, an argument broke out so she left it alone and they moved on. Chair said he was correct, received the clarity and it was now put to bed.

**15. Approval to Confirm the Growth Management Director**

Pulled-duplicate item.

**16. Approval to Extend the Lease Agreement with the Gadsden County School Board for Dental Equipment**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the lease for the dental equipment that was currently located at the Havana Magnet School to the Gadsden County School Board.

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

**17. Approval to Award Bid No. 18-06 for the Construction of a New Multi-Purpose Facility located at 2140 West Jefferson Street**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval and acceptance of the low bid and for authorization for the Chair to sign and execute documents with CSO Contracting, Inc. to construct a new Multi-Purpose Building on the site of the UF/IFAS Gadsden County Extension Office.

**UON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIOENR MORGAN, THE**

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

V/Morgan 5-0

**CLERK OF COURT**

**18. Updates**

Nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**19. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said there was a report from CRMC with their response from Hurricane Michael.

They have moved EMS staff to the back area of the hospital since their building was destroyed.

Mrs. Jackson said when this meeting started, she was told they were taking her baby to the hospital; last week she spent the entire time at EOC, slept there while her baby was at Shands; today was the anniversary of her Grandmother's death and she has worked her whole life to build a life of integrity and for people to see her in a certain way. She said she hoped everyone believed that she was doing a good job for the County and it hurts that her integrity to be been questioned at every meeting.

*Mrs. Jackson stepped out of the meeting at 9:14 p.m.*

Chair Holt said for them to give her a break and to move on to the County Attorney.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**20. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said this was a stressful time for a lot of people; a lot of things have happened this weekend to a lot of other people and a lot really need help now, more so than ever before. He said he was at his lowest this week as well and had to figure out how to get out of it because people needed his help. He said so many people lost their lives in the hurricane and needed them to be strong to work with them now; people lost their homes. He said he never tried to hurt anyone's feelings but when his constituents ask questions and they are tough questions, which was why they put him here. He said he has never done anything to hurt a person or anybody else of that magnitude; this is a tough job to be a County Commissioner and takes guts. He said Tallahassee Commissioner Proctor reached out to him to see how they could partner. Chair Holt said for him to get with the Administrator. He thanked the Emergency Management people and the citizens for being strong and helpful. He thanked all the Commissioners for what they did during the hurricane.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to say and a lot to do.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she knew at times the job could get hectic. She applauded Olivia Smith for the informative posts

*Mrs. Jackson returned at 9:20 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor told Mrs. Jackson she knew she had massive responsibilities on her and at times, pressure comes.

She said she wanted to have a workshop and with that wanted to take information to the public with all the information that was on the screen.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie asked where they were with a conversation with CRMC with the contract with the County Hospital. Mrs. Jackson said the Hospital Board asked to wait until after the election to address this matter.

He said he thought it was time to stop posturing, grandstanding and do work.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said they have a problem with Building inspections, when meters were torn from the home, it was up to the homeowners to have it placed back on, and needed to be inspected before the power could be hooked up and turned on. She said they had extra inspectors, code enforcement officers and people to help with permitting coming. Chair Holt said as soon as Talquin was threw getting people connected, they are going to want to be online. She also said the Baptist Church Association planned on bringing in foods and goods on Thursday. Chair Holt also said Mrs. Jackson did an outstanding job; trying to get the debris contracts, two of them were bumping heads; had consultants having them look at different things; and was pressure that experienced managers have a hard time with but she was able to bring those people in through the Association of Counties and they were pulling one after the other and there was no time to even move. She added that the ones seen here was not even the half of them; not to mention the National Guard. She said what was needed was a little more civility and stop talking so much and go to work. She said they were laughing and cutting the fool and it hurts peoples’ feelings and when it is seen on television, people ask. When it’s put on Facebook, it’s said that they argue and play too much and not taking care of business. She said they had to get it done correctly. She said they needed to think about this and come back and have no disrespect in the room and told Mrs. Jackson she had no reason to feel bad but wanted her to know that they were going to clean up their act and no matter who the manager was, thought they could do better.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
October 16, 2018 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:31 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 NOVEMBER 6, 2018 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-left meeting early  
Eric Hinson, District 2-appeared by phone  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked that phones be placed on vibrate or mute, asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to add Item 9a-Approval to pay County Employees During Hurricane Michael.

Commissioner Hinson said they had received an email and information from the Sheriff regarding Resource Officers. Mrs. Jackson said she had received the information but not in time to add to the Agenda and did not want to bring incomplete information to the Board. Chair Holt said she had met with the School Board two to three times and thought they needed more information before bringing it to the Board. Commissioner Hinson asked for an emergency meeting next week.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution honoring the Havana North Side Class of 1968-50<sup>th</sup> Reunion**

Mrs. Jackson said this was a Resolution honoring the Havana Northside Class of 1968.

Chair Holt asked that everyone step forward, Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to them. Everyone then posed for pictures.

**2. Resolution honoring James A. Shanks High School "Be Out Day" Committee and Classes**

Asked to reschedule.

**CONSENT**

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

**3. Ratification Memo**



4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **September 18, 2018 Regular meeting**
5. **Ratification of Resolution 2018-015 and Resolution 2018-016**
6. **Ratification of Interlocal Agreements between Gadsden County and Municipalities for Disaster Debris Removal Services**
7. **Ratification of the Thompson Consulting Cooperative Purchasing Professional Services Agreement**
8. **Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between the Gadsden County Health Department Facility and the Social Security Administration**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Linda Ritchie, 3899 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL**-Road Debris Ms. Ritchie appeared before the Board concerning the road debris and said the biggest concern is for the health of the residents and the mosquitos.

**Reva Marshall, 2575 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL**-Road Debris. She said they were here because they were concerned about their gated community.

Commissioner Taylor said she had constituents with the same problem and thought this was resolved. She said at a previous meeting, one of the representatives from D&J was present and said the private roads would be included in the debris pick-up.

Mrs. Jackson said they just needed to go through the proper channels.

Commissioner Morgan said he asked the same question and was told because of the hurricane, they could go down private roads but it has to be moved to the end of their property.

Commissioner Taylor said she could feel her concern, she asked if there was a timeline as to when they would hear from FEMA so they could answer concerns of the citizens. Mrs. Jackson said she has not heard but has made phone calls.

**Pastor Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL** – Trunks of Treats; Hurricane Michael; Souls to the Polls Pastor Morris appeared before the Board. He said under the conditions recently experienced he was proud of our County and the Chair for being a source of stability throughout the whole crisis. He thanked Chair Holt, Commissioner Viegbesie, Dee Jackson, Olivia Smith, Roosevelt Morris and others for their assistance during the hurricane. He added they needed to be paid.

Thanked Laurel Bradley for her help in securing the place and everyone else involved in Trucks for Treats. He said this was the biggest ever crowd.

He said the Souls to Polls were the largest effort ever. He thanked them for the use of the Courthouse grounds.

**Lisa Randolph, 7041 Havana Highway, Havana, FL**, appeared before the Board and said her father passed away in June. Has a huge drainage issue on his property and now has a huge mosquito issue and has concerns with the issues and asking for an answer.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **9. Update on Hurricane Michael and the Aftermath**

Mrs. Jackson gave an update regarding the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. She mentioned “Operation Blue Roof” where the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers will place a blue temporary tarp on the house but the deadline is November 11, 2018 and she provided a Situation Report from Gadsden County Emergency Management.

**Wes Holden, Thompson Consulting**, appeared before the Board. He said Thompson has hired 247 locals to work as monitors; D & J Enterprises have certified almost 300 hauling units for debris pick-up; have collected 463,838 yards of vegetative debris; over 55,000 hazardous hanging limbs have been removed; almost 12,000 hazardous leaning trees have been removed; close to \$13 Million in debris pick-up; estimated they were at about 20% completion; have not started mulch haul out, hope to start this week; and they foresee the debris operations to continue throughout 2018.

Commissioner Taylor asked on some of the areas they are picking up, will they go back and will there be second runs? He said yes, they will do multiple passes and have not considered them done with the first pass yet.

Pastor Morris reappeared and wanted to add Curtis Young and his crew to the record and said they needed to be paid also.

Chair Holt said Commissioner Viegbesie would need to leave shortly and with that, no-one else would be able to leave the meeting or there would not be a quorum present. Commissioner Morgan asked with Commissioner Hinson on the phone, did that not count and was told no, had to have a quorum present.

*Chair Holt stepped out at 6:30 p.m.*

**Olivia Smith, Public Information Director**, gave a Public Information update.

*Chair Holt returned at 6:31 p.m.*

*Commissioner Viegbesie left the meeting at 6:31 p.m.*

She said they had sent out DSNAP information, Operation Blue Roof; Crisis clean-up; information from the Health Department regarding mosquitoes; FEMA assistance; waiver of permit fees; burn ban; and information from DEO for small businesses, among other information that was sent out.

She said DSNAP in-person interviews will start tomorrow (Wednesday) at the Livestock Pavilion

and tomorrow would be the last day for phone registration.

**9a Approval to Pay County Employees During Hurricane Michael**

Mrs. Jackson explained that while the County was under a State of Emergency, there was staff in various departments that were required to work and the Administrator advised all Staff that they would be paid double time for every hour worked. However, staff was paid time and a half for hours physically worked over 40 hours. Staff who worked less than 40 hours received straight time pay. EMS staff received nothing.

Commissioner Morgan said he needed more information; obviously they had just received this and it was not advertised and asked for more background. He said the questions he was getting, if people were on administrative leave, they were already receiving pay and there just needed to be some explanation as to why she was thinking it was what it was and asked her to talk through it a little bit.

Mrs. Jackson said she would try her best. She said everyone who works for the County Commission were on Administrative Leave, everybody, offices were closed for two weeks. However, there was some key staff that had to come in to work. Those who had to come in to work, she did not feel it fair that everybody, regardless of whether they came to work or not, received administrative pay for two weeks when others were required to work. She said she felt those who were required to work should be paid double time for the fact that they worked.

Commissioner Morgan asked if she meant by double time, she meant receiving the administrative pay plus the regular salary and Mrs. Jackson said correct. Commissioner Morgan said the ones that did not work were not getting double time pay, only receiving administrative leave.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. IT WAS DETERMINED AT THIS POINT THAT COMMISSIONER HINSON WAS NO LONGER APPEARING BY PHONE.**

**10. Approval of Resolution No. 2018-18 Amending the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan (Technical Revision) for FY 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2018-18 amending the SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Morgan asked the overall intent of this item. Mrs. Jackson said it was previously intended to help families and this is for emergency repair.

Commissioner Taylor said that was the program they already had in place and wished it had remained and asked if there was an amount they were looking to add on or were they going to amend the language to the SHIP Program so they could use that. Mrs. Jackson said they were three other funding sources they were going after for housing but would like to use the \$600,000 in SHIP dollars.

Suzanne Lex appeared before the Board and said once the Board gave their approval to change the LHAP they would go through a process of applying for the additional funds and the grant would be

specifically for disaster recovery. She said they were seeking the maximum available amount available. Mrs. Jackson added they had received the funding for this fiscal year and the following year.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.**

**11. Consideration of Adoption of Resolution 2018-19 Governing FEMA Assistance to Individuals and Households for Placement of FEMA Temporary Housing**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Resolution 2018-19 to amend the Code to allow FEMA housing and temporary mobile homes.

Suzanne Lex appeared before the Board and said they have been working very closely with the State Intergovernmental Housing Representative with FEMA and this was one provision that will open doors should there be no other housing alternatives available. She said FEMA required that they inventory all available housing, all available locations and identify every resource available for the placement of the temporary structures or rental units that may be available. She said there was a housing shortage and critical issues here. She said a determination will be made by FEMA; this was a waiver to allow flexibility; there is a six month permit and the key point was they have to document they are making an attempt toward recovery.

Commissioner Morgan said it has been seen in surrounding counties, the temporary housing was set up and later sold and placed on properties to become permanent housing. Ms. Lex explained the benefactors of the temporary housing would have to reapply every six months and would only be for eighteen months. She added that these were investments that range from \$50,000 - \$100,000 per unit and they want to protect their investment and there will be monthly inspections. Commissioner Morgan asked if this would be a Resolution for families impacted by Hurricane Michael only and was told yes. He asked again that it could not go beyond 18 months and was told no. Ms. Lex also stated they would be looking for other resources to assist families to be able to get back into their homes. She also said this would be FEMA's last measure to assist with resident replacement and temporary housing.

Commissioner Taylor asked with regards to this Resolution, was there language that would allow anyone from neighboring counties to come in and set up temporary housing or was this restricted to Gadsden County residents. Mr. Weiss said it was restricted to Gadsden County regulations and someone would have to have a house that was damaged by the hurricane in Gadsden County in order for this to apply to them.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, CHAIR HOLT HAD COMMENTS.**

Chair Holt said FEMA representatives asked for them to look into available rental properties so trailers would not be brought in.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**12. Approval to House and Maintain State Generators**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for Board approval to partner with SERT

to house and maintain ten generators.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any fiscal impact and was told no.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked where they would be housed at and Mrs. Jackson said they would be housed somewhere where they could be plugged up and they would have State tags.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval of Library Strategic Long-Range Plan 2018-2023**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Gadsden County Public Library System's Long Range Plan 2018-2023.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of Library Annual Plan of Service 2018-2019**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was the second part of the 2018-2019 State Aid to Public Libraries application that was due by December 1, 2018 and required submission of a Board approved Annual Plan of Service.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**15. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-018 for the Amendment of Chapters 1 and 7 of the Land Development Code, specifically regarding the Citizen's Bill of Rights (LDR 2018-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was a Public Hearing to adopt Ordinance 2018-018 for the amendment of Chapter 1, Administration and Enforcement and Chapter 7, Development Orders, Development Permits, and Development Agreements of the Land Development Code, to amend the Citizen's Bill of Rights and move it from Chapter 7 to Chapter 1.

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if they had to have a super majority vote for this to pass and if there were not four present to qualify for a super majority, they could not go forward and Mr. Weiss said that was correct.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO MOVE TO TABLE THIS ISSUE. CHAIR HOLT ASKED IF THERE WAS A SECOND AND THERE WAS DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Morgan said they could not vote on this item and Chair Holt said since he put the motion out, she asked for a second.

Chair Holt asked if this would affect anything doing with the hurricane and the disaster and Mrs. Jackson said no. Chair Holt asked if they had to have four out of the five Commissioners and not a super majority of the ones present and he said that was correct. He said the way the Ordinance read, they need a super majority of the entire board. Chair Holt said they needed to have that language when it comes back.

Mr. Weiss pointed out since it was advertised as a public hearing, to ask if there were any comments from public. Chair Holt asked and there was no-one. She explained this item would not be voted on tonight since they did not have a super majority present.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a second on his motion and Chair Holt said she did not hear a second but did not think it was needed.

**16. Public Hearing-Creation of a New Fund for Hurricane Michael Expenditures and Transfer of Funds from the General Fund**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a Public Hearing for approval to set up a new fund and department number to address all payables associated with Hurricane Michael. She said further, the Board needed to transfer \$850,000 from the General Fund to supplement Hurricane Michael related expenditures for FY 18/19.

Commissioner Morgan said he no problem approving option 1, and asked if this was a request from Clerk's office and Mrs. Jackson said yes

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND FOR EXPENSES TO BE REIMBURSED TO THE COUNTY AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Chair Holt asked for public input regarding this item and there was none.

**17. Public Hearing-Approval to Increase the Summer Youth Program from \$50,000 to \$132,250 in the FY 18-19 Budget**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval to increase the FY 18/19 Summer Youth Program from \$50,000 to \$132,250.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Chair Holt said she had no problem with these items coming back; she just wanted to clear up all the things they are moving money and she was fine with bringing it back.

Chair Holt announced this was a Public hearing and there were no comments.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 2 TO NOT APPROVE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**18. Public Hearing-Approval to Restore the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY 18-19 Budget**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval to

restore the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY 18/19 Budget by transferring from the General Fund Balance.

Chair Holt said if they were going to go after SHIP money, they should wait on this item and apply for new money.

Chair Holt asked for public comments and there were none.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2 TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Taylor said this was one program that they needed immediately and felt this should be approved tonight to be able to help people out now and maybe they could be reimbursed.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO FOR OPTION 2 TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIOENR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

**19. Updates**

There was nothing to report from the Clerk's Office.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**20. Updates**

There was nothing to report from the County Administrator.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**21. Updates**

There was nothing to report from the County Attorney.

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

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
November 6, 2018 – Regular Meeting

**Receipt and File**

- 23. Ausley & McMullen Invoice – October 8, 2018**  
DEO letter – October 19, 2018

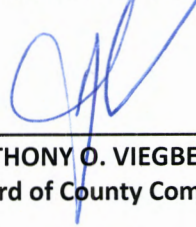
**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

November 20, 2018-BOCC Regular Meeting  
December 4, 2018-Regular Meeting  
December 18, 2018-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:27 P.M.

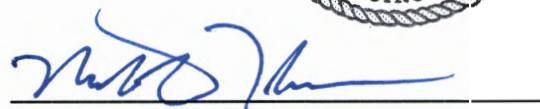
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, 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 20, 2018 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:**       **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**  
                  **Sherrie Taylor, Vice-Chair, District 5**  
                  **Eric Hinson, District 1**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                  **Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**  
                  **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Beryl Wood, Deputy Clerk**

**Swearing in of Re-elected Commissioners Brenda A. Holt, District 4 and Anthony O. Viegbesie, Ph.D., District 2**

Chair Holt said they would first hold the Swearing in of Commissioner Viegbesie and herself. The Honorable Barbara Hobbs, Circuit Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit was present and swore in both Commissioners that were re-elected to serve the Citizens of Gadsden County and they posed for pictures.

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Char Holt asked that everyone stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Item 2 and Item 15.

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

**Reorganization of the Board - Dr. V – Chair /Taylor – Vice -Chair**

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

Chair Holt said they would now have nominations for Chairman and she passed the gavel to Mr. Weiss.

Chair Holt nominated Commissioner Viegbesie for Chair.

Commissioner Taylor stated that was why she asked for the floor to nominate Commissioner Viegbesie. Commissioner Hinson made the second.

**MR. WEISS SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND SECOND TO ELECT COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS CHAIR AND ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS AND THERE WAS NOT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS CHAIR.**

The gavel was then passed to Chair Viegbesie and he presided over the remainder of the meeting.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE NOMINATED COMMISSIONER HOLT AS VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY AND HE THEN NOMINATED COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE FOR COMMISSIONER HOLT AS VICE-CHAIR.**

**Commissioner Holt - yes**

**Chair Viegbesie - yes**

**Commissioner Hinson – no**

**Commissioner Morgan – no**

**Commissioner Taylor - no**

**THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY ROLL CALL VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE FOR COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AS VICE-CHAIR.**

**Commissioner Holt – yes**

**Chair Viegbesie – yes**

**Commissioner Hinson – yes**

**Commissioner Morgan – yes**

**Commissioner Taylor - yes**

**THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AS VICE CHAIR.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, AND APPEARANCES**

2. ~~Library Award Top 2018 Reader~~  
Item pulled

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

3. Ratification Memo
4. Ratification of Resolution 2018-017
5. Ratification of Task Orders with D&J Enterprises
6. Ratification of Purchase Order with Thompson Consulting Services, LLC
7. Ratification of Interlocal Agreement between Gadsden County and the Town of Havana for Disaster Debris Removal Services
8. Approval of Minutes
  - a. October 2, 2018-Regular Meeting
  - b. October 16, 2018-Regular Meeting

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

- **Dwayne Smith, 3185 Atwater Rd, Chattahoochee, FL 32324** appeared before the Board. He came before the Board to discuss his property and events that occurred after Hurricane Michael. He said Talquin Electric came onto his property on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and he asked if they were going to turn on some lights and they stated yes, but they had to cut trees. He told them they were not to cut trees, they had no right-of-way and they left. He said they returned on October 25<sup>th</sup> and this time they had with them Gadsden County Deputy Sheriff Dick Locke and Deputy McPherson. They told him they were going to cut trees to restore lights to other residents and he advised them no. He stated he was going to his house to get the plat and then stated that Officer Locke told him if he went into his house he would be shot and then called him the “n” word and if he got in his way, he would be locked up. He then told them they had no right and was unsure how Gadsden County got involved in it. He said “God did the work and took the power lines down; they proceeded to put it back up anyway without my brother’s permission”. He said the Gadsden County Sheriffs enforced it and his complaint was with Deputy Sheriff Dick Locke and Talquin Electric. He stated they put the power lines up and they had no right. He said this would be straightened out through the Courts.
- **Eugene Sherman, 660 Sheline Drive, Havana, FL 32333, President of Lake Yvette Homeowners Association** appeared before the Board and thanked them for the collaborative efforts, especially in their neighborhood. He spoke of concerns on Bill McGill Road. He said some of their concerns were road repair in the area which they would address at another time.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:18 p.m.*

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**9. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-019 to Amend the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2018-04)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to amend the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Allara Gutcher, The Planning Collaborative**, appeared before the Board. She said this item was before them as an Adoption Hearing and would update the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan by Ordinance. She explained this was primarily to clarify language to help better implement the Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Viegbesie asked for public comment and there was none.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked they inform the public of the changes for clarity.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:21 p.m.*

Mrs. Gutcher re-appeared before the Board and directed them to page 7 of 12 and discussed the

changes.

Commissioner Holt thanked her and called the question if there were no other comments.

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

**10. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2018-020 to amend the Infrastructure Element of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2018-09)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Ordinance 2018-020 to amend the Infrastructure Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Gutcher re-appeared before the Board and said it was to update the Infrastructure Element Plan and was last updated/amended in 2001. She said this element was a pretty substantial overhaul. She added that since Gadsden County did not provide water/sewer services, they rely on the State system for the installation of septic tanks and potable water wells.

Chair Viegbesie asked if protection would also apply to a Talquin water tank that was providing water to communities. Mrs. Gutcher said it would apply to any potable well water.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there was none.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Attorney for his position. Attorney Weiss said it was fine.

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

**11. Public Hearing-Approval of Ordinance 2018-021 for the Issuance of Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds (Not to Exceed \$800,000) to Finance a Portion of the New Multi-Purpose Facility**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of Ordinance 2018-021 for the issuance of Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds not to exceed \$800,000 to finance a portion of the new multi-purpose facility.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked for a little more information.

Mrs. Jackson said on September 22, 2016, the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners received a Letter of Conditions from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (the "USDA") for loan approval of not to exceed \$707,000 for the purpose of providing funds to finance a portion of a multi-purpose facility (the "Project"). The USDA funding will only be a portion of the funding required to complete the Project. The other funding sources consist of \$1,000,000 from the Florida Legislature through the Florida Department of Agriculture and an additional \$199,999 grant was secured from USDA Rural Development for a Farmers Market. She said in order to consummate the loan from USDA; the County was required to issue a bond as evidence of the loan from USDA. She said USDA was offering favorable terms at this time, including an interest rate of 3.875%.

Chair Viegbesie asked for Commissioners' comments and there was none. He then announced it

was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the audience and there was none.

Commissioner Holt explained this item was to build a building in front of the Livestock building and they received the \$1 Million from the Legislature a while ago along with the funds from USDA and she felt this was a great idea because if not, they would not be able to go back and get the building and the one there was in disrepair.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked about the \$800,000 they were looking at to fund this and said at the time it was originally funded in September 2016; and then funding from the Legislature of \$1 Million and additional funding, have they double-checked the timeline to make sure funds were still available because it had been some time since this had moved forward.

Mrs. Jackson said yes, a letter was received as late as last week and instead of the \$707,000 that was previously referenced, they now need \$800,000 and if they approve this, they could move forward with construction immediately. Commissioner Taylor asked what the funding source would be and Mrs. Jackson said it would be from General Revenue. Commissioner Taylor asked if this was something new and Mrs. Jackson said this would be debt service. Commissioner Taylor asked how they kept doing this when the public was told they were in debt. Mrs. Jackson said this has been budgeted for this fiscal year but was coming from the General Fund. Commissioner Taylor asked if this was highlighted during the budget hearings and Mrs. Jackson responded yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it was budgeted for \$700,000 or \$800,000. Mrs. Jackson clarified in 2016, the original amount that was offered to the County was \$707,000 and there were different bids a few years ago and the previous Administrator did not feel they would need to get the loan, however prices were higher than they used to be so they would need the loan in order to complete the project and it was \$800,000 now instead of \$707,000. Commissioner Hinson asked if they budgeted for \$800,000 and she said yes.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like to see something of this magnitude come and knew they had been working on this for over two years and had difficulties in approving this because of some of the things that they let go and did not approve on this budget cycle. She said they had always had a County Extension Office and the repairs were needed but could not agree to do this after they had cut some programs that could have an impact on peoples' lives.

Commissioner Hinson stated he supported this but his problem was the interest rate of 3.875% and if a house was purchased, the interest rate was lower than that. He asked how many institutions were checked with. Mrs. Jackson said she was not sure how many, but they definitely checked with the local banks and a few others, but it had been a while ago, but they determined the best route was USDA. Commissioner Hinson stated they were about to vote on something that was \$800,000 and the information was not in front of them and was that appropriate to vote on something without all the information.

Chair Viegbesie said he would think that the interest rate on a USDA loan would be much lower than any conventional loan. He said they had been dragging this along and it went from \$707,000

to \$800,000 and if they kept dragging it on, the costs of construction would increase, the interest rate would keep climbing and they would get to a point where they would no longer be able to afford this.

Commissioner Holt said the conventionals were starting at 5-6% and Department of Agriculture was starting at 4-5%. She said they had taken the vote but had not gotten to the “nay” part and was unsure how to handle it at this point. Commissioner Hinson said to call the question and she stated usually the question was called before the voting.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Holt regarding the interest rate and did not know of any that was more comparable to what they were getting on this particular note. He said this was the argument he had a couple of years ago with the paving initiative, while asphalt prices and fuel costs were low, that was his point of doing that. He said to Commissioner Holt he was unaware they had actually taken a vote, he started to do that and there were questions. She said he asked “all in favor” but it was fine, she just wanted to let him know.

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

**12. Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2018-022, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL, amending Section 74-1 of the GC Code of Ordinances, to include emergency medical services operations and capital expenditures 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 GC Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener’s errors, and providing for an effective date.**

Mrs. Jackson said this agenda item seeks adoption of an ordinance amending Section 74- 1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to include Emergency Medical Services operations and capital expenditures as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax levied pursuant to section 212.055 (3), Florida Statutes.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a Public Hearing and asked for public comments and there was none.

Commissioner Morgan said when this originated, it was for public works infrastructure projects and felt strongly that was what the dollars should be spent on and would not agree on expanding and thought they were going in the wrong direction.

Commissioner Holt asked for more clarification for the public since this was a public hearing.

Mrs. Jackson explained during the budget process they discussed this a little and the question arose regarding the privatization of EMS services and the Clerk and the Business Manager got together and felt it was a good idea to split the surtax three ways. She said it was feasible because not all the money was typically spent from Fire or Public Works so if it were split three ways, nothing would go lacking and it would actually cover some of the deficit from EMS services.

Mr. Weiss pointed out an amendment of this Ordinance would require a super majority vote (4 out of the 5 votes).

Commissioner Holt asked if this was not moved, what the detriment would be to EMS. Mrs. Jackson asked Mr. Price, Office of Management and Budget to come forward.

Mr. Price appeared before the Board and commented that this would be a big hit. He said they were counting on the \$800,000 a year to help fill the gap where they were short approximately \$1 Million. He said between that and the other changes they were doing to the billing cycle, they were confident it would fill the gap for EMS and without this; they would have to go back to the drawing board. Commissioner Holt asked how it would affect Public Works. He said it would affect both Public Works and Fire by about \$400,000 a year less from each. He said currently they both carry about \$1 Million-\$1.2 Million in Fund Balance from year to year unless there was a storm. Commissioner Holt asked the attorney the length of time regarding this and he said it would be indefinite until they amended the Ordinance again.

Chair Viegbesie said if this particular item did not pass; was he hearing him say that would put a hit on EMS. Mr. Price said it would adversely affect and they would have to go into the General Fund Balance. Chair Viegbesie said they did not have a fund balance to attempt to do anything with from the last budget discussions they had. Mr. Price said that was correct and they had approximately \$3 Million. Chair Viegbesie asked if this did not pass, would it put a hit on Public Works and Mr. Price said if it did not pass, it would not affect Public Works, they would continue to receive their money the way they were. Chair Viegbesie said EMS, which was something that was very integral to the safety and operation of this County would be badly hit and Mr. Price said correct.

Commissioner Hinson called the question and Commissioner Taylor started to speak. He then rescinded so she could have an opportunity to speak. Commissioner Morgan asked if a motion had been made yet and was told no, so there was no question to call.

Commissioner Taylor said they were needed \$800,000 for services and thought they had planned to outsource and have they now put that back in and no longer looking at outsourcing. She asked if they were trying to figure out how to fund this service by taking from both Public Works and Fire. She said she had to agree with Commissioner Morgan and asked if the surtax was a discretionary fund and where the money was coming from. Mrs. Jackson said it would come from taxes. Commissioner Taylor said Public Works only had fuel tax and asked if that was correct and if they took from Public Works, what other surtax would they have to levy to fund this. She then said the question to the attorney was whether or not they could use transportation taxes to fund this.

Mr. Price reappeared before the Board and said it was a small county surtax; it was a sales tax and not a fuel tax. Commissioner Taylor asked if that was in the narrative and he was unsure. She stated it was not. Mr. Weiss replied it was a sales tax and Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes authorized the Board to levy this discretionary sales surtax, which the Board has done, and the statute also authorized the County Commission to use the surtax for any public purpose that was authorized under the Ordinance. He said what was on the table tonight was the amendment of the Ordinance to allow for the use of the surtax fund to be used for EMS and the statute did require four votes. She asked the Interim Administrator how they arrived at the sum of \$800,000. Mrs. Jackson said they felt they could take \$400,000 from Fire and Public Works without it hurting them and they were making additional adjustments at EMS to save the County money. She said they were quickly transitioning into Fire Safety and a lot of the staff was already trained in Fire;

they have transitioned the building and could not say yet how much would be brought in but could do that at the end of the quarter. She said they believe they would be able to recoup the rest of that money. She added they were estimated by the company that did the billing they could get the County an additional \$500,000. Commissioner Taylor said other companies had come in that they contracted with and it never prevailed. She said they do it this year, get \$800,000 from Public Works this year, based on history, which meant every year they would have this kind of deficit with EMS, was she saying year after year they would be taxing Public Works and Fire. Mrs. Jackson said yes, but one correction she wanted to make, they have contracted with a debt service company before to collect the billing, but never had a service to start on the front end and that was where they send the bill in their name versus on a letterhead that said Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Taylor said she did not think a different letterhead would make a difference in a person's ability to pay because if the income was not there, letterhead would not make that big of a difference. Chair Viegbesie recalled that Clerk Thomas suggested that they could split the surtax three ways and one of the reasons they had the deficit that they have this year that led to the reduction in the expenditures in some of the other projects that some were very "in love" with and wanted to see those one-time expenses that they had to have like the tower, would not be continuous. He said he did not feel they would be carrying an \$800,000 deficit on for other years and would be a one-year thing unless the Financial Manager has another understanding. He said they have a workshop scheduled with GHI and believed from that some additional revenue would be coming in because he has had conversations with CRMC as to some of the things they would be discussing. He said that would help generate some additional revenue to help offset the EMS expenses and would reduce the burden that EMS has.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought she was somewhat familiar with what he was talking about with regards to money coming back to them from Capital Regional, but they have indicated that those funds be earmarked specifically. She said she thought it had to do with money being put back into the building. Chair Viegbesie said when he met and discussed with them, the decision was not to earmark or have any restrictions on that money that would be coming in that they, as the Board, could use it for whatever for the wellbeing and welfare of the citizens of the County.

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to mention to the Board again the original intent of the surtax and what it was supposed to fund outside of infrastructure projects. He said he thought they all could agree there were plenty that they had and needed and not enough funds to meet those needs, along with fire protection water and sewer, and maintenance of the jail; that was what the surtax was originally intended for. He said when they start looking at EMS, he understood there were changes they needed to address, but it had been an ongoing issue because of the model they currently had in place. He said it was mentioned before about the \$800,000 shortfall and every year they have had a continuous growing shortfall and until the model was changed, that would not change. He said they have an opportunity to have new revenues coming in that they could apply and he understood what the Administrator was mentioning about changes in billing. He said he was against opening up this surtax because all that will happen is, as they continue down the same road with EMS and the expenses continue to mount higher each year, they will continue to pull dollars out of Public Works and Fire to fund it. He further stated until they change how they were doing things, it would continue to be there and they were putting a band-aid on something and will have another problem in the future. He said he strongly recommended they sit down to talk about how to fund EMS properly; have discussions with CRMC and holding off the surtax and did not think it would be in the best interest of the citizens of the County.



Commissioner Holt said there was nothing more important than having an ambulance show up at your house when there was an emergency and it was needed. She said they were not at a point where they decide who was going to show up or when; they have to say they want them to be able to show up. She said this was a poor county. She said she had no problem in voting for this but had a concern because they had two counties come in, Leon and Santa Rosa that presented how they were contracting out those services. She felt they shouldn't wait because ambulances were needed. She said she went to the reception at CRMC and they were saying they were going to give the money back and she started laughing. She said they needed to get this taken care of and had to do something because the billing process they were going to use would hopefully improve some things; need to market how they were going to let people know if they could not pay \$50.00, to pay something on the bills. She said marketing was important and something must be done to fill the gap in order to make sure that the trucks show up where they were needed. She said if money was needed to be taken from somewhere else and put it in some of the locations, they could do that but do not put peoples' lives in danger while they decide what to do.

Mrs. Jackson said they have done research as it concerned the mitigators that they have put in place for EMS. She said if they could have it for one year and never again for consideration she felt they would be fine next fiscal year and put enough measures in place where they would not have this issue again.

Commissioner Morgan responded to Commissioner Holt and said there was no-one on the Board that wanted to interfere with the quality of service that was being providing for EMS but they had to come up with a sustainable model to provide those services. He said there were other models that they could adopt now that would be effective. He said to him, when doing this, they were potentially opening this up for all these other services once they did this and there was another way to get it done.

Chair Viegbesie commented that while Mrs. Jackson was talking, he thought of a way they may be able to eventually satisfy everyone's concern on this item. He said for them to do what he thought she was suggesting, this item would have to be pulled and re-written to make it specific for only this fiscal year and then would not change the Ordinance for them to continue. He asked the attorney if that were possible.

Mr. Weiss said if they wanted to amend the ordinance to reflect that it would sunset after a year, they could do that without having to bring it back and it would not change the nature of the subject matter of the Ordinance. He said it would limit the amendment and be easy in this instance. He pointed out the strike-through language mentioned on page 7 of 21 where funds could be used for parks and recreational facilities, etc. and would be replacing some of the language that was there.

Chair Viegbesie said he would not want EMS to be stranded financially and not be able to operate and believed with the conversation, in the future would be able to mitigate some of the issues they had with the continuous shortfall. He said maybe within the year they could workshop to come up with a different model they could adopt that would be feasible for the operations of EMS for the County. He said he did not know if the Board would entertain an amendment for one year to sunset at the end of the year so they could move on with the item.

Commissioner Taylor said as a point of clarity, if they did not move on this item, EMS would continue to move and make their service calls; they had a reserve to make sure that happened. She asked for them to not think for one moment if they needed services, it wasn't coming because they were looking for a better way to fund it and to continue to fund it. She said making this model where they could continue services at a quality level and not compromise was what they needed to do. She said she wanted everyone to know, if they pull this and someone called for services, they would be there.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding was she had no problem with this item being pulled until it was properly written and she said she had no problem with this item being pulled but was concerned until she could see data that supported they were only going to do it for a year. She said right now it was a subjective opinion she was getting from the Interim and she felt in a year they would be fine.

Commissioner Hinson said they should vote on it and see what happened.

Chair Viegbesie said it was his opinion rather than doing that, he would lean towards what he thought Commissioner Taylor was saying with regards to pulling as opposed to voting on it because they needed four votes for the item to succeed. Mr. Weiss pointed out they could not pull it at this point, they would have to table it.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**13. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2018-020 Budget Amendments for FY 2018**

Mrs. Jackson said this item seeks Board approval of Resolution 2018-020 and authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director, and Sr. Management & Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for the Fiscal Year 2018 BOCC budget.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:09 p.m.*

She said this was a pre-close out process as conducted in conjunction with the Clerk's Board Finance Office and entails the maintenance of a balanced budget for the most recent ending fiscal year. These additional amendments are to move funds in to Departments in which expenditures exceeded amounts budgeted.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked for public comment and there was none.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:10 p.m.*

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

Commissioner Taylor asked if they could get an explanation as to why there were huge shortages in the accounts and its effect for the 17/18 fiscal year. She said she was seeing huge figures come from General Revenue (inaudible) and its impact in overspending.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood from Commissioner Taylor that there should be a sit-down conversation as to the reason for these discrepancies and the large transfers. Mrs. Jackson said she would send something out tomorrow.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**14. Approval of 2018 Area of Operation Resolution concerning Homeownership Programs provided through a partnership with Escambia County Housing Finance Authority**

Mrs. Jackson said this item was for approval of the 2018 Area of Operation Resolution concerning Homeownership Programs provided through partnership with the Escambia County Housing Financing Authority.

#### **COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL.**

Mr. Weiss wanted to point out the Resolution attached to the Agenda item has been revised and there was a revised copy before them and they could easily see the revisions. He said the reasons for the revisions were at his request to clarify and better protect the County.

Commissioner Morgan asked if someone was present that could discuss this program with them.

**Randy Wilkerson, Escambia Housing Authority** appeared before the Board. He said he initially stepped up to say he and the attorney had discussed this along with his Executive Director and their attorney and they were fully agreeable to the changes. He said it basically strengthened the fact that the County had no liability or obligation with respect to the bonds that they would issue. He said he was here last year with respect to what is called their TBA program, which was essentially where they use mortgage backed securities to pool mortgages in the securities market. He said that was the approach that the housing finance authorities have used since the housing meltdown of '07 and '08 to finance the programs and down payment assistance that they provided through their agency.

Commissioner Morgan asked what evidence they had that showed they had benefitted. Mr. Wilkerson said since he was here the previous year, they had done little over \$1 Million in loans, provided around \$57,000-\$58,000 in down payment assistance to those buyers and it was financed through their agency. Commissioner Morgan asked if those buyers were in good standing on the mortgages. Mr. Wilkerson responded the default rate across the program was about 1.5%. Commissioner Morgan asked if this was a different program from the PACE program for energy efficiency and he said yes. He said with this program, they essentially were working with lenders, Capital City Bank being the main one here, and they originate first mortgages through their financing allocation and they were providing up to \$7,500 down payment assistance and was a traditional mortgage.

#### **COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked about the money that they were lending was to those that had a difficulty coming up with a down payment and he said right. She asked if it was put on the back-end of the loan and he said it was. He said it basically was a 0% loan and rides for 30 years. They

do not have to repay it as long as they live there and it was their principal residence. He said if at some point they sold the property, they had to repay it.

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

**15. Approval of Comcast Contract for Fiber Connectivity**

Pulled from agenda

**16. Approval to Accept the FY 2019/20 Proposed Budget Calendar**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for acceptance of the proposed budget calendar for FY 2019-2020.

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

**17. BOCC 2019 Calendar**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the 2019 BOCC Meeting Calendar.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said normally they have given staff a break during the summertime because they have a budget meeting and they normally miss a meeting during summertime and knew that was the case this year. He said they changed it because of that and was not sure if they wanted to stick with the same schedule. He said Tallahassee was doing the same thing.

Mrs. Jackson said that the NACo conference was on July 15th and the meeting is scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Holt pointed out a budget workshop was scheduled for that week on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hinson said they needed to cancel that as well. Mrs. Jackson said they could move it to the next week to the 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Hinson said that would be great and would give staff a chance to go on vacation. He said they established that around 4 years ago and other counties did the same thing.

Commissioner Morgan said he was unsure of what they were discussing and asked for clarity and then said "giving staff a vacation?" Commissioner Hinson said he was not saying a vacation and it was a 5-0 vote last time they established this about 4-5 years ago. He said during the summertime they had so many meetings and they were going out of town to other conferences, like the Florida Association of Counties conference and have a budget workshop after that and they established 4-5 years ago that they would take one of those days off so "they" would be able to plan ahead for their families.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought what Commissioner Hinson was referring to, was when they were at the NACo meeting they were not here...

Commissioner Hinson said not NACo, the FAC meeting. Commissioner Morgan said when they are at the FAC meeting, they would not be able to have that scheduled meeting and what they have

done was eliminate that meeting but had nothing to do with vacation. Commissioner Hinson said no vacation, he was saying eliminate that meeting. Commissioner Morgan asked what that had to do with their staff. Commissioner Hinson said that was the purpose behind it. Commissioner Morgan said the purpose was they would not be here and they could not have a meeting. Commissioner Hinson said "Right and that was the reason we did it." Commissioner Morgan said it was because they were at a FAC meeting. Commissioner Hinson said no, they had discussed it in-depth as a Board. He said not him, it was the Board and he was listening and said he had no problem with it. He said every year they started doing that until this year or last year.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a motion and Commissioner Holt said she made a motion.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion and a second to approve and Commissioner Hinson asked to be recognized to make his comments.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to alter her motion and then withdrew her motion.

Chair Viegbesie said his recollection was when they were in Orlando for FAC or whichever meeting is held, the only thing done was to not schedule a meeting for that Tuesday they would be out of town and that did not mean the County Office was closed. He said if that was the issue, then that meeting should be moved or canceled for that particular Tuesday. He said other than that he did not see any other issue with the calendar.

Commissioner Holt said that was fine and she would alter her motion. She said on the second July meeting, they would not be back for that meeting. She said they could put that meeting on the next week on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the budget workshop to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR SUBJECT TO THE TWO CHANGES FOR JULY, SECOND MEETING ON JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> AND BUDGET WORKSHOP TO JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said he thought he misunderstood Commissioner Holt's point. He said he saw the NACo meeting scheduled but they return on Monday and the meeting was on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> and the budget workshop was scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with it, she was saying if they ran into any problems in traveling they would not make the meeting and why not just do it the next week. Commissioner Morgan said he was good with that.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they were moving the third Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday and they said yes. Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney about it.

Mr. Weiss said their Ordinance did state that regular meetings shall be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Commissioner Holt said if they canceled the meeting, it still would not be on the regular Tuesday, whether the first or third. Chair Viegbesie said they have canceled meetings before. Commissioner Taylor said they noticed the public in ample time.

Commissioner Hinson said they could cancel the meeting because there were so many workshops

during that time anyway.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with that; they could cancel the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR WITH THE CANCELLATION OF THE JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**18. Approval of Award Bid 18-23 to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Co., Inc.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for Board approval to award the County contract for the supply of asphalt-coated culvert pipe to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Co. Inc.

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

**CLERK OF COURT**

**19. Updates**

There was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**20. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said they had discussed EMS and changes to the model they had and if it were the will of the Board, she would like to have a workshop because they had already started changing that model and it was not what it was.

She said for consideration, the Housing Financing Authority that Escambia County passed, the list of lands was the first step, instead of Escambia County, Gadsden County will be able to keep that money in-house so that may be something the Board will want to move forward in the future.

She informed them the Thanksgiving Luncheon will be Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at Public Works and hoped the Commissioners could join them.

She said the GHI/BCC Workshop will be held Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Chambers.

She said the Christmas Parade will be December 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a County float and was their hope that all Commissioners will participate. The theme was a secret and would be revealed in private.

She said the County Christmas Party will be December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and the location for the party will be made known at a later date.

She said the last thing was the first meeting in January will be canceled due to New Years' Day.

She then stated she was available for any questions.

Commissioner Morgan said at the previous meeting, an Agenda item was added concerning overtime pay for during the storm. He said he knew there had been discussion that she and he had personally had and asked if those items had been addressed and corrected.

Mrs. Jackson said there was definitely an understanding that she had, when she looked at the Agenda item, she felt it was clear; however it was an add-in item but was sent out before time. She said that will not be an issue in the future, there was a policy that stated there was a historic storm and she hopes there will never be such a storm in the future.

Commissioner Morgan said he knew there was excellent response from staff but he was particularly addressing her situation. He said obviously they could not do it the way it was done, they were not allowed to do it that way and have to undo what they did. He asked if that had been taken care of or do they need to address it in his comments later. He said it needed to be rectified and he and she had personally discussed it. He said he just needed to know if it had been addressed or if she wanted to address it. He said he was good as long as it was rectified and then they could do what they wanted to do in the future as a Board in the form of a bonus, but they could not go forward how they did at the last meeting.

Mrs. Jackson said she understood what he was saying and felt she needed to state publically what they were talking about. She clarified on the last Agenda there was an add-in item regarding overtime pay. She said several staff that worked on overtime during the storm, specifically the overtime was the first 3-4 days. She said quite a few of staff had to sleep at the Sheriff's Office and was why they felt it would not be a comp time situation. She said the way the Agenda item was written up, it said "salaried and unsalaried staff to receive overtime compensation", which would also include the EMS staff because previously they had been neglected. She said none of the salaried staff had been given anything or the EMS staff. She said herself in particular, she received overtime pay and did not think that she needed to explain it only because there were 7-8 other people who were salaried who received pay as well. She said she felt if she was the only one, then she would have been deceptive if she had left that out. She said if it was the will of the Board, if they did not feel she deserved anything for that, she would figure out how to give it back.

Commissioner Morgan clarified and said he was not saying he felt it was not deserved. They received the item late and they did not have a chance to review it. It was presented that day and looked at as an additional item on the Agenda. He said he did not mean to imply it was not deserved, it was not handled correctly; she was a salaried employee. He said if they wanted to provide a bonus for her efforts, and she certainly worked very hard, he was good with pursuing it that way. He said what he was not good with was how they did it the last time. He said since he was in favor of doing that, he wanted to move that they undo that and if the Board chose to do it a different way, that would be great. He said that was what he was trying to make sure they understood. He said he wanted to be crystal clear that she understood and everyone else understood, in no way was he taking away the efforts she put forth in that or saying that she was undeserving of it; he was saying as the Administrator, she was a salaried employee, whether it was 24 hours a day or 4 hours a day. She had no set hours and that was where he was coming from. He thanked her for her answer and said they could move forward and talk about it under commissioner comments unless she had another way to rectify it.

Mrs. Jackson said she completely understood his point and felt like that was an extenuating circumstance, not just for her but for other salaried staff as well. She said typically they did

understand that they were paid to be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but that was a storm of historical proportion and she had several salaried staff, EMS director, the Interim Building Official, Public Works Director and several other managers were salaried and she did not feel it was fair. She said if it were just her, she would have accepted it, but there were several others and she did not think they would want her to delineate herself. She apologized for it.

Commissioner Taylor said on that item, her major concern was when the Agenda item was placed in front of them; she wanted to make sure Public Works got paid. She said they had received several phone calls and heard their concerns, and that night they did not have a breakdown of where the funds were going. She said she remembered \$129,000, a lump sum. She felt that was a deceptive way of doing what was done and would not have even thought that then because she still felt it was done with integrity until the very next day when she saw the Clerk walking across the Courtyard and he walked to her car and proceeded to give her the breakdown of the \$129,000. She said he left her with her face in awe; she did not know that and should have. She said if it had been brought to them and a request was made, she would have supported it because she knew it, even though she was there (EOC) for a short time, they (Department heads) were there. She said since it was done the way it was done, "I fold my arms and am dismayed because I felt that was hurting". She said she felt it could have been handled differently and she would like to see something, maybe they could discuss how they could bring it back and make sure people were taken care of and would have her support to make sure they would get some type of compensation, have discussions and then figure out a funding source and move forward. She said she would rather have it that way and did not see integrity in it. She said the Clerk said to her that made her even more concerned was that the \$129,000 may not be reimbursed by FEMA because it did not qualify. She said she did not know if it was still pertinent. She said she wished he had attended the meeting so they could have discussed some of the reimbursements. She said she agreed with some compensation but the Board should have been involved.

Mrs. Jackson said she wanted to be clear; the Clerk and this was in writing, had three different opinions and kept changing as to why Staff could not get paid. She said if it were the will of the Board that she did not deserve to get paid, she was fine with that; she wanted to make sure her staff was taken care of. She said everybody worked under circumstances that were beyond what anybody would have ever expected to work and she was still recovering from what they went through. She said when she recalls what they went through; it was still emotional for her. She said again if it was the will of the Board that she give what was received by her based on the salary that she makes, she would give it back and pay it back in payments. She said as they knew, she had a child at Shands and she has paid her bill. She asked that they leave the salaried staff alone.

Commissioner Holt said this was something that could have been taken care of without having to do this, discuss this in public. She said this was unnecessary and unprofessional. She said Policy and Procedure, they could go ahead and set Policy and Procedure for overtime pay and could have been brought back as an agenda item and they would not have to do this. She said she stayed down there those days and nights and there were a lot of others did as well. She said it was very dangerous for a lot of people. She said they had to send out one group to go after a person that had been killed and they could not get out to be able to retrieve him and there were others in the house. She added they went through a lot but this was not the way to end it. She said she understood what they were saying, they needed to look at how it was done; but this was making it worse. She said they could bring this back up and take care of it and they should have looked at this earlier; employees getting comp time. But in emergency situations, you have to be a little



more human than they have been in the past when it comes to this.

Chair Viegbesie said his question was he happened to not be present when that conversation took place at that meeting. He asked what has been the precedence with previous County Administrators during an emergency with staff, were they paid overtime. He said they need to develop policy and procedures as to how staff was paid overtime. He said he did not ask for overtime, or Commissioner Holt because that was their responsibility as policy makers, neither did the other Commissioners. He said he felt staff should be compensated for the work they did. He said maybe the presentation was not appropriate and was felt by some it was deceptive and that could be rectified. He said they could go back and itemize how the \$129,000 was determined and may make it qualify for reimbursement from FEMA when they submit the appropriate paperwork.

Commissioner Morgan said regarding Commissioner Holt's point, and he did not disagree with it, he tried to reach out previous to this meeting without having any discussion regarding this and when he opened his remarks about this item, he reinforced that position. He agreed specifics should not be discussed. He said he was discussing their employee, the Administrator, and how they move forward as a Board addressing it with her. She made the decision regarding staff and they approved it when it was brought to them. He said as they move forward, they should have a policy in place. He added they were not talking whether it was deserved or not, that was off the table. He said as the Administrator, they needed to address how they want to compensate her for those efforts. He said he felt it would be appropriate for them to have their own personal discussions with the Administrator and they should agenda an item for them to discuss the issue as it was and an item on how to compensate the Interim Administrator, but they were not talking about if it was deserved or not. He said lastly, it certainly was not an issue from his seat about whether they were reimbursed by FEMA that was unimportant when it comes to compensating the Staff for the response they gave on this.

Commissioner Taylor said for almost a year they were unable to have thorough discussions and she was glad they now had an opportunity to have those discussions so they could be transparent. She said anytime State or Federal funds were being spent, they had the authority to discuss them publically so they have transparency. She said there should be compensation for the work done and they had an agenda item that was before them that she trusted and now it has been compromised. She said another Commissioner stated how they could rectify since it has been expended. She said they have authority over no-one other than the Interim. She said she had the right to ask questions at any point and she understands that, but going back to what happened and how it unfolded, it did look to that. She said her issue now was not so much paying it back, but moving forward with integrity being intact and them being able to discuss these things. She said her intent was not to point fingers or belittle but to state facts and get clarity to move forward.

Commissioner Hinson commented he was unsure how to approach this because two weeks prior to that, he asked to put the Emergency Housing Repair and \$100,000 to be able give back to the community and the comment from the Interim County Administrator was they could not do that because the Agenda item affected the budget. He said he asked about the 125 jobs for the Summer Youth Employment program as well. He said the Interim told him they could not do that because it was not properly advertised. He said these matters were personal to him and it was told it could not be done because it was an agenda item and was not advertised; then she referred to the attorney and he stated it was not properly advertised. He said he was unable to appear in person, (he appeared by phone) and was unable to review the item. He asked the County

Attorney how he agreed to allow this to go through because two weeks prior it was said it could not be done. He said it could not be done for the kids and the senior citizens, but they did it at that meeting. He asked for it to be explained how they came up with it, it was no emergency for the money to be gotten right away. He said he was for the Public Works employees receiving the money but was curious how they made that happen without it being properly advertised.

Mr. Weiss responded that the Agenda item did not come from him and he saw it the same time as everyone else. He said it did state in the item that a budget amendment was not required because there were sufficient funds available. He said with respect to advertising requirements, if it was a budget amendment, there are certain statutory requirements related to advertising, if not a budget amendment, it did not have to be advertised by statute. Commissioner Hinson said it was not a budget amendment and Mr. Weiss said that was what he understood from the Agenda item.

Mrs. Jackson said that was correct, it was not a budget amendment; there were already funds within the Personnel budget to cover those funds.

Commissioner Holt said as they knew, they were trying to get several of the employees paid for working because they also did not have lights, they did not have food, and had other concerns; a couple of them lost their homes, etc., and they needed their money and that was the next meeting that they worked. She said she did not see where this was such a big issue, she did see the point in them rectifying it, just as the Sheriff's Office did two years ago and was how they were paid. She said she did not realize that policy was still in place, staff could not eat comp time and their staff worked and needed to be compensated. She said in emergency situations, you do emergency things. She said they had to look out for their people. She said they could now take care of all this and have a workshop and take care of this matter.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **21. Updates**

Mr. Weiss stated he had no comments and wanted to congratulate Chair Viegbesie on the election and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and was happy to answer any questions. There were none.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson congratulated Chair Viegbesie on becoming the Chair, both Chair Viegbesie and Commissioner Holt on winning the election and Commissioner Taylor on becoming the Vice-Chair. He then thanked the Board for their civility shown tonight.

He discussed the debris pickup in the County moving slowly.

*Chair Viegbesie passed the gavel to Commissioner Taylor and stepped out at 8:01 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said he talked to them and they were able to address and explain things to

him and FDOT took over and it made things a little slower. He said he wanted to ask that question again with people listening.

Mrs. Jackson said they have two different debris companies, one being D & J that was present. She said according to the State, Gadsden County was being cleaned up faster than anywhere else in the State. She said the average load they were picking up is not comparable to any other company in the State and was doing a great job. She said 95% of the first pass-through was complete and they will continue until all the debris had been picked up.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:03 p.m. and Commissioner Taylor returned the gavel to him.*

She stated in some cases, they were seeing areas that have previously been cleaned and more debris has been brought to the roadside. She said there was another issue with the State roads and Highway 27 was one of the roads. She said that company was BRC and they have no control in who is chosen. She said this company was charging more and not doing as good a job as D & J. She said there had been quite a few of citizen complaints regarding them and she had been in contact with the state regarding that matter. She said as far as the private roads, they have made tremendous strides and she was looking for confirmation from FEMA as to when they could start picking up on the private roads. Commissioner Hinson thanked her and said for the record, she was speaking on behalf of herself and not the Board regarding FDOT not doing a good job. He said he did not want to upset people at the State. He asked about minority contracts and local people being hired and they needed to continue pushing that.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the Interim Administrator mentioning the debris removal and has received complements as recent as this afternoon on how well they were doing. He said this would be a continuing effort and would be a number of pass-throughs until all the debris was removed.

He said Commissioner Holt mentioned a workshop, as they knew he very seldom requested workshops, but regarding the earlier item (policy on overtime during an emergency), he felt it was appropriate to move forward on that matter on how they wanted to proceed.

He then stated he would like to request an item on the upcoming Meeting Agenda to discuss and move forward with the County Administrator position and was in form of a motion.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION TO THE UPCOMING MEETING AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION. CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED A QUESTION.**

Chair Viegbesie asked the Attorney if a motion was necessary to add an item to the Agenda. Mr. Weiss said that historically they have done that.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

Commissioner Hinson apologized and stated he had a few more items to discuss.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 8:10 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie said he would allow him a few minutes to quickly discuss the remainder of his items.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the dogs and cats problem at Winn-Dixie and Mrs. Jackson said that issue had not been resolved. She explained the problem and whom she discussed it with.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:11 p.m.*

She said Winn Dixie was concerned with the number of animals behind their store and the problems it was creating. She said traps have been set to catch the cats. Commissioner Hinson commented he needed one or two of the cats for his community. He said someone asked about dogs (a pit-bull) at the Shelter and asked how they were monitoring the animals. He discussed the condition of the shelter and who monitors it. He said he did not want to be in a position where they have to defend themselves.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a schedule for the debris pickup or a cycle that she could share with people that asked.

A gentleman appeared before the Board and said the procedure with that was if someone wanted to report something, it could be done through the Admin address or to the County and their directive would come from there. He said there were project managers in the field for that but as far as a schedule as to when the next pile of debris would come out and when, it was much to forecast. Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a concern from the community, they could contact them or the Administrator and he said yes. She asked if they were on schedule and he said yes, he believed so, they were 95% complete with the first pass. She asked about the hiring of locals and he responded they had meetings with locals and some showed interest and some did not. He said this type of work was not for everyone. She asked how long he anticipated before the process was complete and he said his goal was to have it done by Christmas. She asked for an update at the regular meetings to inform everyone. He said that he would get with the monitoring consultants and the County Administrator and will have some solid numbers with a presentation at the next meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said he had noticed how trucks were passing some piles to pick up others and asked him about a uniform effort. He said each truck has a monitor with them and that truck was not to leave that street until the street was complete. He said if they have witnessed trucks skipping piles, it would be addressed if they would let him know the streets with the problems. Commissioner Morgan asked if they start a street, should it be finished before moving to another and he responded they should. Commissioner Morgan said he knew of no street where that has been done. The gentleman asked if this was in Chattahoochee and Commissioner Morgan said yes and he has seen that in several other areas as well. He said that was the procedure but there were different variables that could cause a truck not to collect, whether it is a car parked in the road, a power line they could not reach under, etc.

Chair Viegbesie asked if part of the problem could be the type of debris that was placed there and he said yes. He said currently they were only picking up vegetative waste until they could get the

final destination for the construction & demolition debris, which would probably be the City of Quincy landfill. He said they also are not collecting the black bags because they did not know what they were collecting. He said they were getting the word out how to place debris curbside through calls and Facebook, etc.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there were citizen complaints, could they call.

Mrs. Jackson said Ms. Smith would create a flyer they could put out to inform the citizens.

Commissioner Hinson asked about a phone bank regarding issues with the debris to relay messages to the public. He then asked if they would start back with the large item pick-up. Mrs. Jackson said they did not have a timetable but would restart that as soon as they could. She said they were still in a state of emergency and trying to replace signs and guardrails.

Commissioner Taylor said in one of the meetings they agreed they would meet every seven days following the storm to get direction and she has been unaware of that happening.

Mrs. Jackson said no, Commissioner Morgan had stated if it was allowed by FEMA it could carry on and if not then they should meet every seven days. Commissioner Morgan said that was during the state of emergency. Commissioner Taylor said they should look at that again because she was adamant about being kept in the loop and not to give authority to one or two and others not know. She asked that the minutes be pulled from that night to see exactly what was said and if they were still in that emergency state, see what was said.

She asked about the Housing Authority and said there were citizens in the community that were not being taken care of and the rights were being compromised. She mentioned there was one place (federal housing) that went without electricity because fixtures that was not put in place by the housing authority so the lights could be turned on. She said she was unsure about their authority and asked that research be done and placed on the agenda.

She mentioned the Budget Amendments and the amounts. She said if they were doing these amendments to the different departments after they have given them their budget and they go over, was it out of compliance and that they ask the departments to show up the following year to show why they were short. She said if they continue to give them money at the end of the year with no repercussions, then the requests will continue to come.

Mr. Weiss said they have budget authority and have an obligation to fund such that the County operates. He said with respect to certain budgets for Constitutional Officers, there were limitations on that and potentials for challenges related to budget reductions.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said with regard to the Housing issue on private property, she said she had challenged this before with the NAACP, there are issues with the housing authority that provide multi-unit rentals and could be taken care of through the complaint system at the federal level.

She congratulated the efforts of Staff during the storm.

She wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.

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

Chair Viegbesie said he had very little to say and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to sit in the Chair. He asked that the Commission have civility with one another to better serve their citizens of the County.

He then asked the Attorney what type of relationship did the County have with entities like Mediacom and others with regards to services that provide TV and internet. He said he had received calls concerning their services and knew they had a contractual agreement with Mediacom. Mr. Weiss said it may be a franchise agreement and he was not sure what action would need to be taken and could look into it.

He commended the citizens that volunteered during the storm. He mentioned the churches such as Greenshade AME and others in his district that went over and above to help citizens.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION TO SHOW THANKS TO THE CITIZENS THAT PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO OTHERS AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

Commissioner Holt said they still needed to encourage citizens to apply to the organizations, FEMA especially. She said once those numbers were collected by FEMA, it meant the County’s numbers would go up and they have an opportunity to receive assistance from other State and Federal programs, one mentioned was “Rebuild Florida”. She said several people have received Small Business loans with low interest rates.

Commissioner Hinson commented on contracts and mentioned WastePro’s contract that was not dealt with in a timely manner a few years ago and they had to renew it for 5 years. He asked for a list of all contracts by next meeting so they could avoid that situation again.

**Receipt and File**

- 23. Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Deliverable & Financial Activity Form**  
**October 30, 2018 Letter from DEO re: Ordinance No. 2018-011**  
**October 30, 2018 Letter from DEO re: Ordinance No. 2018-012**  
**October 30, 2018 Letter from DEO re: Ordinance No. 2018-013**  
**October 30, 2018 Letter from DEO re: Ordinance No. 2018-014**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- 24. December 4, 2018-Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:43 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, 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 4, 2018 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:**       **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**  
                  **Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5**  
                  **Eric Hinson, District 2**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked Pastor Clarence Jackson to step forward for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Roll call was asked to be done by the Deputy Clerk and all Commissioners were present.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to add two items to the Agenda: Item 6a-Little Sycamore Road Resurfacing Project CEI Bid Award and Item 6b-Approval to Confirm the Emergency Medical Services Director.

**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.       Library Award-2018 Top Reader**  
          **Tabitha Washington, Director of Gadsden County Public Library Systems**, appeared before the Board and said she was elated to share the award that the Library received from Scholastics. She said this summer the Gadsden County Public Library received an award for being Top Leading Library for 2018 and a total of 2,478 minutes were read.

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

- 2.       Ratification of the Interlocal Agreement between Gadsden County and the Town of Havana**
- 3.       Ratification of the Interlocal Agreement between Gadsden County and the School Board of Gadsden County**
- 4.       Approval of Minutes**
  - a.   June 21, 2018 Workshop**



- b. **September 17, 2018 Budget Final Hearing**
- c. **November 6, 2018 BOCC Regular Meeting**

**5. Ratification Memo**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Freddie Tennell, 343 S. Cleveland Street, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board concerning a traffic accident that he was involved in. He presented a copy of the Accident Report to the Commissioners and stated a County vehicle hit him and was found at fault and now the County's insurance has refused to pay for his vehicle to be fixed. Chair Viegbesie asked if a meeting could be scheduled with the Interim Administrator and the County Attorney.

Commissioner Holt said he did call her and she referred him to the Interim Administrator and asked to hear the response from her.

**Lonyell Black, HR Director**, appeared before the Board and said she spoke with the Claims Adjuster that represents the County and they indicated they were denying the claim. She said they told her they have that discretion to deny the claim and there was another vehicle that was involved that caused the Public Works vehicle to sway to get out of the way of an oncoming ambulance and collided with him.

Mr. Weiss suggested this was not an appropriate conversation to have, having just heard about this and receiving a copy of the accident report, and he would not be able to render an opinion. He added typically they do not hold conversations at this point of the meeting. He stated he will be happy to meet with the Administrator and staff later.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Approval and Execution of State Aid Grant Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval and execution of the State Aid application.

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

**6a. Little Sycamore Road Resurfacing Project CIE Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the construction, engineering and inspection services for the CR 269 (Little Sycamore Road) to David H. Melvin, Inc.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6b. Approval to Confirm the Emergency Medical Services Director**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board confirmation of the employment of Keith D. Maddox as the Emergency Medical Services Director.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not mind approving this but was concerned that this item was not properly advertised and the public should be able to have input on this item.

Commissioner Holt asked if this item was advertised and Mrs. Jackson said was not in the newspapers but was placed on the County's Website and was emailed to all the Commissioners as well.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked about the process and if it was not advertised. Mrs. Jackson said it was advertised on the County's website; there was an interview team, it was that the advertisement of this item did not occur.

Commissioner Taylor asked, for clarity, the position was properly advertised per HR procedures and Mrs. Jackson said yes, it was advertised for 2 weeks. Commissioner Taylor said since she had been there, there had been 3, maybe 4 EMS Directors in the past 12 years. She asked the reason for the turn-overs. Mrs. Jackson said the last EMS Director left because of personal reasons, sickness in the family.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was opposed because of the way this item was advertised and was no reflection on the individual.

**7. Approval of Notice of Termination with North Florida Educational Development Corporation due to Hurricane Michael**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the termination of the lease agreement with North Florida Educational Development Corporation due to damage from Hurricane Michael.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked about the past-due utility bills and Mrs. Jackson stated they consider that bill to be the County's. She said the previous contract was for Stevens School and was her building 24/7 and she assumed the utility bills, but on Cone Street, the County's facilities use it 24/7 and Mrs. Ford is only there 1 day a week for 2 hours. She said they did not feel it was fair for her to pay the utility bill.

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

**8. Approval of Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements and Interlocal Agreements for Human Senior Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Non Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements and Interlocal Agreements for Gadsden County Senior Services for FY 2018/2019.

Commissioner Morgan asked why this item and the next item were split. Mrs. Jackson said there was no reason; they just felt it important to delineate the seniors but it was budgeted.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said during the budget process, they did indicate that funds for the Gadsden Senior Services were to be geared toward activities for the Seniors. Mrs. Jackson said she has a meeting scheduled with the Senior Center on Wednesday and she was refusing to sign their match letter until she knew how they planned to use that money.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought they have their own Board of Directors and Mr. Weiss said that was correct. Mr. Weiss said with the County providing funding, they may be able to tell them how the County would like for them to spend the funds the County was contributing.

Commissioner Holt said if there were concerns, they could meet with that Board. She called the question.

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

**9. Approval of Non Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements for FY2018/2019**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Non Profit/Human Services funding agreements for FY 2018-19 and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval to Convey Property located at 1007 South Atlanta Street, Quincy, FL**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item. She said in April, the owner conveyed property to the County for construction of a roundabout. Due to a design change, the property was no longer needed.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any questions from the attorney, he said the engineering design changed and he had no concerns.

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

**11. South Adams Street Sidewalk Design Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the item and said it was for Board approval to award the design bid of South Adams Street Sidewalk to Consolidated Design Professionals, LLC.

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

**12. Havana Middle School Sidewalk Extension Design Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the design bid of Havana Middle School Sidewalk Extension to Dewberry Engineers, Inc.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Discussion and Action Regarding the County Administrator Position**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion and action regarding the County Administrator's position.

Commissioner Morgan said this was an item he had asked regularly to bring back before the Board over the past year and felt they should move forward on it.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO HIRE THE CURRENT INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:32 p.m.*

**IBTS Update**

Chair Viegbesie said he meant to add this at the start of the meeting and Dana Johnston, with IBTS was present to give a presentation.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 6:33 p.m.*

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:33 p.m.*

**Dana Johnston, Development Manager with IBTS**, appeared before the Board. She said they were a non-profit and NACo was on their Board and in partnership with them. She said they were available to all members of NACo. Information that she provided was handed out to the Commissioners and their services were explained.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:35 p.m.*

**CLERK OF COURT**

**14. Updates**

There was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**15. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson thanked them for their vote of confidence in appointing her in the permanent position as County Administrator.

She informed them that Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 will be a joint workshop with GHI and BOCC.

Willie Saucier will retire on December 31<sup>st</sup> after 17 years of service to Gadsden County; John Perkins, EMS, retired effective November 13<sup>th</sup> after 25 years of combined service with Gadsden County and FRS.

December 14<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas Parade and asked for Commissioners to participate.

Pictures with Santa will be at the Quincy Library on December 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The Staff Christmas Party will be December 21<sup>st</sup> at Creek Entertainment.

She said she placed in front of them the November highlights.

Commissioner Morgan asked about permitting fees and the process for acquiring permits and asked for clarification.

**Susanne Lex, Planning Growth Director**, appeared before the Board. She said the first decision to waive fees was to allow people to get what was needed as far as repairs, get electricity restored and get inspections. It was then revisited and extended to the end of the year and the intent was to continue with the life safety emergency, electrical and she asked that they include demolition of lawful structures so they could go to the Property Appraiser if their house was demolished and not on site and ask for relief and the documentation will benefit them. She said she has talked with individuals that expressed concern that people do not have the money to pay for these and they will work with anybody, they just need to come talk with the Building Inspection office. She said they have found a number of outside contractors are coming to the area, pulling permits, charging the clients for the permits and when the County waives the fees, it is not being passed onto the customers.

Commissioner Morgan said to get rid of the ambiguity and if they state there are “no permitting fees” it will be clear communication to citizens dealing with the contractors. He said his main issue was, if they decide to change the policy on charging permitting fees, the Board should be advised and have a discussion so if they receive calls they could refer back to that discussion, and hold conversations regarding same.

Commissioner Holt said that was a good idea, she was concerned about inspections because they did not want certain things done and people be placed in danger. She said there were meter boxes that were pulled away from the houses and they had discussed that matter.

Commissioner Taylor said she was on board with waiving fees but that will have a fiscal impact and thinks it needs to be reviewed and be agendaed so they could further discuss that item.

She said she did not hear how long fees would be waived.

Commissioner Morgan said it was very important that the citizens' deal with licensed contractors and proper inspections did need to be done, he was speaking specifically for Hurricane Michael issues only, fees should be charged for other items. He said he was open to six months being waived for Hurricane related damages.

Commissioner Holt said waiving of the fees were not in the budget because they did not budget for the hurricane.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought they were all on the same page; it was just a matter of having it agendaed to be able to discuss the matter.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THIS ITEM INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Chair Viegbesie asked Mrs. Jackson about an item that came before the Board on August 7<sup>th</sup> about the County's Legislative Advocacy and Public Relations Services that was tabled and this was now December and would like them to revisit this item to make sure they have the Legislative Agenda in place for the beginning of the legislative session. He asked that this item be brought back for discussion and update. Commissioner Holt asked if that was a motion and he said if it needed to be, he was suggesting to the County Administrator because this was tabled and he was suggesting it be brought back.

Commissioner Holt asked if possible, they need to have items for the group to look at. He said he would like to work on the Comprehensive Legislative Agenda with all 6 municipalities to avoid duplication and asked that a meeting be scheduled regarding this with the six municipalities.

Commissioner Taylor said the vision he just shared with the sister cities was very ambitious but may be a little late trying to collaborate. She said she believed it was the right direction and maybe should strive for 2020, but was a little late now for this year.

Commissioner Taylor then said to the County Administrator that she was very concerned about the direction they are headed; she had an opportunity to speak with her subordinates and have heard concerns and prays this does go well. She said this was a democracy and in a democracy, majority rules; she was willing to work alongside with the Commissioners and Administrator, but very concerned with direction things are going. She said they were making strides but doing things that was costing the County quite a bit. She said morale was also a major issue. She said they would move forward in unison and was not the individual person that should stand and take merit. She said for the record, she was extremely concerned about the future of the County's government at this point and time.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought those were worthy comments and there was nothing wrong with constructive criticism without being antagonistic and suggested the County Administrator listen to all recommendations and suggestions that was for the good of the County and to work for growth and improvement of the County. He commended her for

speaking.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**16. Updates**

Mr. Weiss congratulated the Administrator on her appointment and said he had no comments.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a policy about double overtime and Mr. Weiss said not that he was aware of. Chair Viegbesie said he thought that was an item they asked to bring back for a workshop. Mr. Weiss said if that was the direction the Board wanted to look at amending the policy, they could certainly look at that. Chair Viegbesie said he understood there would be a workshop so the current policy and procedure was revised to specifically address an issue that was raised in a previous meeting with regard to the \$129,000 that was paid in overtime. He said that particular concern would be addressed at that workshop. Commissioner Hinson said he would love to have a meeting or workshop the next week because he was receiving a lot of phone calls about that particular policy and concerning someone receiving a check for \$19,600 and that was a lot of money.

Commissioner Taylor said her understanding was there was already a policy and procedure for overtime adopted by the Board. Mr. Weiss said was one in place, the Personnel policy addresses overtime for various scenarios but was not sure if it was in line with the State policy. She said she spoke with the Clerk and was where she received the information that it did line up according to what the Clerk had said. She also said she felt a workshop would be prudent so they could find out actual facts because the community did get wind of what happened and going forward, they needed to be mindful, especially when they had cut so many vital services.

Commissioner Morgan said when they do schedule the workshop; they should reach out to the Clerk's office and make sure the Clerk was available to be there. He said for clarification on the overtime pay that was paid out, he understood it would be reimbursed by FEMA and they did need to address the situation and that that was dollars the County would be reimbursed. Commissioner Taylor said she felt the Clerk needed to be here for that particular item and according to him (the Clerk), they will not be able to be reimbursed for it based on the timing they did it with regard to a new pay period beginning and overtime was not yet there and the County Administrator extended about 72 hours of administrative leave and then overtime kicked in.

Mrs. Jackson said there were a lot of opinions out there, but they have been speaking with experts from day one, people who do this for a living and were assured they will be reimbursed, not just for the overtime pay but would also be reimbursed for the time that Staff was off when they were not able to work. She said when she mentioned the overtime on that night that there was a possibility that there was a question of that overtime that may not be reimbursed and she was not sure what total is, if it is at all that they will not reimburse. She said she spoke with the Clerk right after this storm happened and it was his opinion that she could pay staff them and did not know when his opinion changed. She said they spoke in front of a group of people where he gave the opinion that he thought it was a great idea to do that and she looked forward to having him at the workshop to see what changed.

Chair Viegbesie said he felt this was a healthy conversation and felt these concerns and issues

will be addressed during the workshop.

Commissioner Holt said she was ready for the workshop because the representatives she spoke with said they were asking for that to be reimbursed and had not had one to say they would not.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it could be done the next Tuesday. Chair Viegbesie said he would not be available next week. Commissioner Hinson said they only needed three Commissioners present and everyone said the entire Board needed to be present for this.

Commissioner Morgan said out of courtesy, they should reach out to the Clerk and get dates that would work for him.

Commissioner Taylor said the information would not change, no matter when they do it.

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney what his advice was regarding the double overtime. Mr. Weiss said he was not initially consulted or aware of it, it was brought to his attention at some point before it was considered on the Agenda, initially when the Clerk sent a copy of the policy he was copied on with the email the Clerk sent out. He said he had a conversation with the Administrator and expressed the fact that the policy said what it said, and she notified him she had promised the employees something different. He continued and said she had reached out to one of the FAC attorneys regarding whether the policy was controlled versus the promise that was made. He said the response from that attorney was sometimes practice can trump policy and if a promise was made, it potentially may be enforceable. He said with respect to the policy, it was not in line with what policy said. He said there were other issues in terms of what the other attorney advised and there was also, during declaration of emergency, they could suspend their policies.

Commissioner Hinson said he had heard of time and half, but never double overtime and that was what he was curious about. He asked if anything was in place today regarding double time and where was it derived from. Mr. Weiss said he did not know and did not think the policy had anything that had to do with double time. He said he has seen time and half for overtime.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Administrator where double time was derived from. Mrs. Jackson said she explained this at the last meeting and the meeting before that, but would love to say it again on Facebook Live. She said all employees were on administrative leave, whether they were called in to work or not, they were paid. She said it was not fair to Public Works, EMS or the salaried workers who were asked to come in to work and they would still get the same check as ones that did not work. She said in this case, a special circumstance, a historic storm, she did not think it was fair for them to get the same check when they were working and others were not and did not think fair to pay them half time when they were working full time. She said they got their check for working but also received a check they would have gotten if they had stayed home and she thought it was only fair.



Commissioner Hinson said he never said half time, he had heard of time and a half, and what was most were given, never double time. He said he was only asking questions that were asked of him. He said he wanted to know where it derived from, if it was their policy or if it came from the State. She said this was something she came up with. She said before staff was told that they would be paid overtime, she cleared that with the Clerk, he was brought in to the EOC, they had a conversation, and he thought it was a great idea. She said she told him it was salary and non-salaried employees and he thought it was a great idea. She said she was unsure what changed, not sure what he told you, but what she could say for certain, there was no-one who was paid \$19,000 and no-one was paid anything out of the ordinary of what they get, it was just simply they got two checks instead of one check if they worked.

Commissioner Hinson said that was why it was great to bring the Clerk here to the meeting because he hated when people say things and give inaccurate information because it could defame a person's name and character. He asked again if she said that no-one received \$19,600. She said a public records request could be done and they will get that information directly from the Clerk, no-one got paid anywhere close to \$19,000. Commissioner Hinson said that was what the Clerk sent out and was glad she said that for the record.

Commissioner Hinson then said he ran over debris in his own yard today. He said he has not seen a dent in District 1. Mrs. Jackson said unfortunately District 1 was one of the Districts that have not been moving as fast as the others because that District was mostly State roads in that area and the State contracted with BRC. She said she has spoken with the owner, has spoken with the State and the County has no power over what BRC does. She said they have a contract monitor just as the County does and that contract monitor sent something to the State saying they were on track.

Commissioner Morgan said folks are getting frustrated throughout the County and the Panhandle. He said this will be a long-term recovery. He said a year from now they would still be recovering from the storm and it will take time. He said to address what the Administrator has commented on, he felt it would be wise to reach out to their legislative delegation to see if they could apply some influence to reach out to the State and help, individually and collectively.

Commissioner Taylor asked for point of clarity, how many state Roads were in District 1, and Commissioner Hinson said there was Highway 12, Highway 27, and Highway 90. She said the point she was trying to make, was what was being done and not being done has not that much to do with the State contract, the majority of the work not being done was who they (the County) had a contract with. She said he talked about his home and his home was not on a state road.

Commissioner Morgan said briefly, if they wanted to talk about debris removal, agenda the item and talk about it, but they were progressing.

Commissioner Hinson felt they needed to move faster, they could not play politics on this, and people were getting frustrated.

He then congratulated Mrs. Jackson on her becoming the permanent Administrator and said

this was a big task, politics was huge.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan congratulated Mrs. Jackson on her permanent position and the 5-0 vote.

He then said the Administrator's contract needed to be agendaed prior to the end of the year so it would be in place to start January 1<sup>st</sup> and he had specifics he would like to include and would share them with her later.

He said Ms. Black has been kind enough in the past to provide him with BOCC employee count and salary totals and would like to get that forwarded to him.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt asked to do a Resolution for the Stark family that did a lot of clean-up on Uptain Road after the hurricane and wanted to make sure they were shown appreciation.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:27 p.m.*

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE RESOLUTION FOR THE STARK FAMILY AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

She said she appreciated the fact that they were getting information on the pick-up of debris. She said they had a meeting at EOC the other day and it was very productive. She said the day and night of the hurricane, the employees that came and stayed really did not have to do it.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:28 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt continued and said the employees deserved the overtime they received, the comp time was nothing for them to receive. She said they saved more money by paying them double time instead of time and half and mathematically, they did not want to do that. She said they were policy makers and they should take that into consideration.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to clarify, he had no problem, he was the one always asking for raises for employees, the Clerk's issue was not employees, it was the salaried employees, not the hourly employees.

Commissioner Holt said they contract with the Sheriff's Department, they were not Emergency Management and no-one had to be there, the Sheriff could have handled it. She said people were there working because they were trying to help and the Sheriff needed it. She said it was not that everybody decided to show up to make extra money. She said in that situation, people that were calling in were trying to get clarification and it was helpful having ones there to answer questions.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said at the last meeting, she asked about the motion that was made by Commissioner Morgan and she wanted clarity on it about the Board meeting every seven days

to entertain emergency items that needed a vote and she spoke with the Deputy Clerk and she pulled the Minutes and verified that that was in place where the Board said if there was something that needed to be discussed, they will convene every seven days. She said she was not going to beat this because it was what it was and they needed to move forward but said to the Administrator, every Commissioner on the Board was her Boss, whether they were in support or not in support, still deserve the respect that she needed to give and likewise, respect should be shown to her likewise, but the short answers or talking in such a tone where respect may sound compromised is something that should not be practiced. She said she wanted to make sure in moving forward, they were respectful, they have a demeanor between the Board that showed integrity. She said they voted for \$129,000 for monies to be paid out at their meeting blindly because they were only given one set amount. She said she saw the Public Works out working the very next day and wanted to make sure they received their money. She said on Wednesday after the meeting, she saw the Clerk walking across the Courthouse yard and she yelled to him to please pay the people their money. She said that when she looked at the breakout, she felt manipulated because she did not see a breakout previously, but the dye has been cast and they can now move forward. She said she never would have agreed to pay double overtime and the only reason FAC agreed to support it was because it was echoed and put into the atmosphere by the Administrator and she said it and they had to support it.

She thanked the demeanor of the Chair to the fellow Commissioners.

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

Chair Viegbesie said he had nothing more to say other than what he said at the beginning of the meeting. He said they need to put personalities aside and work to serve the citizens of the County.

**Receipt and File**

**18. November 13, 2018 Invoice from Ausley & McMullen**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- 19. December 6, 2018-5:00 p.m. BOCC/GHI Joint Workshop  
December 18, 2018-6:00 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting  
January 1, 2019-6:00 p.m.-BOCC Regular Meeting Cancelled**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
December 4, 2018 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED  
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:37 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, 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 18, 2018 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:**        **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**  
                     **Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5**  
                     **Eric Hinson, District 2**  
                     **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                     **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                     **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                     **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                     **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order, asked everyone to turn off their cell phones or place on vibrate.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at the meeting at 6:00 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and asked Pastor Roosevelt Rogers, III from the Old Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church to give the Invocation. The Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

He asked that the Deputy Clerk call the roll and all were present.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

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

- 1. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Liens State Housing Initiative Partnership Housing Program**
- 2. Approval and Signatures for Special Assessment Liens State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) (Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program)**
- 3. Approval of the Resolution for the New Chairperson Facsimile Stamp**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. September 6, 2018 Budget Hearing**
  - b. November 20, 2018 BOCC Regular Meeting**

**5. Ratification Memo**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Debris Pick-up and Management Update**

Mrs. Jackson said this item was presented to the Board for an update of the debris management and removal. Mrs. Jackson said they had present Thompson Consulting Services, who was the debris monitoring contractor and D & J Enterprises, who was the debris removal contractor. She added that FDOT was providing debris management services on all State roads in Gadsden County and Metric Engineering is the debris monitoring contractor and DRC Emergency Services is the debris removal contractor. She said they anticipate debris pick-up through February 2019 and to date pick-up on private roads have not been authorized by FEMA.

**Gary Brooks, Operations Manager, Thompson Consulting**, appeared before the Board to give an update. He said they have hired 253 employees, of which 247 were local hires from the surrounding community. He said they have certified 359 trucks and certified three more today to haul off mulch. Each truck is averaging 8 miles from pick-up to delivery to the appraised DMS they have and they have 4 places; two on the west side and two on the east side. He said 76 minutes was the average trip time from pick-up to disposal and they were averaging five loads a day and the average load size is 45 cubic yards. He said they have been operating for 68 days and there has been 1,181,893 cubic yards of debris; have hauled out 135,443 cubic yards. He said 68,999 hazardous hanging limbs and 17,177 hazardous leaning trees have been removed in the County. Debris Monitoring Costs so far is \$2,562,216 and Debris Removal costs is \$23,979,143. He said they were 194% more efficient than their competitors. He said 66% of the debris has been picked up and 30% has been mulched and hauled away. He said they were still awaiting FEMA approval for Private Property Removal from private roads. He said they did anticipate debris operations ongoing until February 2019.

Commissioner Hinson asked about District 1, there still was a lot of debris around and asked if that was the last spot they intended to target. Mr. Brooks said they have had loads in that area and have made the first pass. He said they were allowing the public to get more debris out and was concentrating their efforts on the areas that have more debris and Havana had not been forgotten and trucks were still there.

**Chip Starr, D & J**, appeared before the Board. He explained the Debris Load Heat Map and the Tree Cut Heat Map. He said they had allocated as many resources in District 1 as had been allocated in other districts and divided the resources equally. He added that, unfortunately, a lot of the debris they were still seeing was along private roads and they were unable to collect from them at this time.

Commissioner Taylor said they were present at the meeting with the Governor and FEMA was

present and the question was asked to the Governor as well as FEMA whether or not private roads would be considered and they gave verbal approval to go ahead and pick up on private roads. She stated that could be held up in a Court of law and asked where they were with the verbal. Mr. Starr said they have asked Thompson to consult with the Governor's Office and was waiting for something from FDOT and somewhere in that pipeline there was a stalemate. He said D & J had to have to go off of other than the verbal is a Notice to Proceed from either FDOT or Gadsden County. Commissioner Taylor said she thought they did have FDOT approval in place. Mr. Brooks explained that the email he received stated that FDOT has done their approval but all County Roads must be completed before private roads were allowed. Mr. Brooks also stated even though they did have the verbal approval, it would be pertinent to wait until they had written approval.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the 72% average load call. Mr. Brooks explained when the debris comes in in the trucks, there are personnel at the disposal sites that will grade the trucks, for example, this truck is coming in at 20% fill, this one at 30% fill, 40% and means that much of the capacity taken up by the debris. He then asked about the concern he had forwarded to the Administrator concerning potential burning of the debris at the sites and asked if someone was there that could address that. Mrs. Jackson said it would not be, they had not been getting a very good response from the State people and have no control over what they are doing. DRC is the one doing it and Metric is monitoring and she had expressed they did not want any burning. Commissioner Morgan asked if it was happening and Mrs. Jackson said she was told it was; they have a fan that sounds like a 747 jet in the neighborhood and she was doing everything that she could to stop it. Mr. Brooks said DRC does have an Air Curtain Incinerator burning on Shady Rest Road. Commissioner Morgan asked if that could cause environmental issues for the County. Mr. Brooks stated it may with the smoke but with the air curtain there tended to be less smoke because it was air forced into the fire and burns at a hotter temperature. Commissioner Morgan stated he would like to have the attorney research that and find out if they could put an end to it if the majority of the Board saw fit to do so.

Chair Viegbesie said he received an email from a citizen on Shady Rest complaining about the noise. He said he also has received calls about debris at the bottom of Blakes Road and Granny Lane. He said some loads have been picked up but this particular debris is on the dead end of Blakes Road and would need to be a smaller debris truck that would be able to turn around and that would be a better fit.

Commissioner Holt thanked them for all the work they were doing and it was appreciated.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a lot of minority business owners that wanted to be part of this debris pick-up and asked the percentage of minority contractors that were hired.

Chip Starr said they were not prepared to answer that tonight. Commissioner Hinson asked for a meeting and said he has had numerous phone calls the past few weeks. Chair Viegbesie said the information could be sent directly to him.

Commissioner Holt said advertisements were placed in the papers, it was placed on Facebook, contractors were sent to talk to Emergency Management and to the Manager. They can get the data and email it to all Commissioners.

## **7. Legislative Advocacy and Public Relations Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it seeks Board action regarding the County's Legislative Advocacy & Public Relations Services. She said the current lobbying firm is Lawson & Associates at \$15,000 and their contract expired on September 30, 2018. She said Staff was seeking direction from the Board to either renew the current agreement for an additional one-year period or solicit for Legislative Advocacy & Public Relations Services. She said she met with the City Managers except for Havana and they came to an agreement about what they thought the Legislative Agenda should be. She said something else that was brought up was lobbying services and in addition to Lawson and Associates, it was brought up that the City Managers were willing to contribute \$5,000 each for the remainder of the dollars that have been budgeted to get Gunster, who was an additional lobbying firm. She said they would be using Lawson and Associates as well as Gunster. She added that this was for Board direction.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the two firms that were promoting the County and Mrs. Jackson explained the County only had one last year and had two the previous year. Commissioner Morgan asked if it was for a total of \$15,000 and she stated yes.

Chair Viegbesie explained last year they decided to not fund Chris Doolin and they took him out and only went with Lawson and Associates.

Mrs. Jackson said last year the money was budgeted for both firms but Mr. Doolin asked for an additional amount and he opted out of his contract. She said the same amount that was budgeted for last year was also budgeted for this year and Gunster is willing to work with the County for that amount.

Chair Viegbesie asked with bringing in the Gunster firm, one he knew very well and knew how aggressive and successful they are, this would not be an additional cost to the County so the \$15,000 that was budgeted for Lawson and Associates would be used to add Gunster to the team to help push the County's agenda.

**Antonio Jefferson, City Manager for Gretna**, appeared before the Board. He said the Managers have gotten together and the consensus around their group was that they need to have a stronger presence at the Capitol during Legislative Session and believe Gunster would be a great firm for the County to have. He said he had looked at their portfolio and they only have one other County they represent and they would not be fighting for their capacity to represent them at the Capitol.

**Jack McLean, City Manager for the City of Quincy**, appeared before the Board and had Mayor Angela Sapp present with him. He said they had a special meeting tonight to look at this issue and voted unanimously to go with Gunster as the firm, they have good presence, good connection with the incoming Governor, and they are chairing two of the transition teams. He felt they would do a lot for the Cities and Counties. He said it would not work if they go to the "Hill" with 15-20 items. He said the Managers met and narrowed down their list of priorities to funding appropriation issues to help with the storm throughout the whole Northwest Florida in terms of a windfall sales tax Statewide. He said they also wanted to advocate for a water-sewer project County-wide and all the cities would participate in that. He said it would help Midway because they needed a sewer system, Chattahoochee because they needed an automatic lift station to avoid spills, would help Quincy because they had the same problem, and would help Havana because they need to acquire a spray field. He said they have no comment as to whether or not the County kept two firms or one firm, but believed that Gunster should be a part of that team.



**COMMISSIONER MORGAN SAID AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, HIS MOTION WOULD BE TO GO WITH THE FIRM THEY ARE RECOMMENDING, THE GUNSTER FIRM FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Mr. Weiss pointed out they might potentially have a procurement issue and asked the amount and was told \$25,000. Mr. Weiss stated there were two separate issues but they did not have to do a formal bid process for under \$25,000, but they were still supposed to get quotes and maybe that happened.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood the agenda item was to approve Lawson and Associates for \$15,000, which was what they had in the budget, and now they were adding Gunster to Lawson and Associates with the municipalities each contributing the \$5,000 to add them to work as a team. He asked if Lawson and Associates would be coming together with Gunster or would they be giving \$15,000 to Gunster and no longer have Lawson and Associates as the lobbying representative. Commissioner Morgan said that was the motion he was going for. Chair Viegbesie said just Gunster and Commissioner Morgan said that was correct.

Mrs. Jackson said for clarification, the amount the County would be putting up was \$20,000 and then be \$5,000 from each of the other Managers and what was budgeted for the County lobbying services was \$35,000 total. She said if the Board chose to go with this, it would be the \$20,000 plus the \$15,000 would be the \$35,000. She added that Gunster said that the minimum Gunster would accept would be \$20,000 plus the \$5,000 from the municipalities. She said their usual price was \$60,000.

Commissioner Holt asked if \$35,000 was budgeted and Mrs. Jackson said yes. Commissioner Holt then asked that each of the cities would put up \$5,000 each and Mrs. Jackson said on top of the \$20,000. Commissioner Holt asked if all six cities were doing that and she said yes, then she said five because Greensboro did not commit to that and would be a total of \$25,000.

Commissioner Holt asked the total amount they would be getting and Mrs. Jackson said it would be \$45,000. Commissioner Holt said the reason she was asking, the motion coming up and Mrs. Jackson said it was \$45,000 total. Commissioner Holt said they had \$35,000 set aside, have \$25,000 coming from the cities and would be altogether the \$35,000 if they choose to use the \$35,000 and altogether budgeted and set aside would be \$60,000; their \$25,000 and out \$35,000 if the County chose to do \$35,000. Commissioner Holt explained the reason they did not want to go through a long, drawn out process was the Governor explained in a meeting last week they had twenty-eight days to get on his budget and they did not have time to go through that process but they needed to make sure they get on his budget because his was the one that the Legislature was trying to meet and he's already told them to get on it. She said he told them they had 28 days to get what they were going to get from him because he would be gone. She said their Policy and Procedure had to match his schedule.

Chair Viegbesie asked with hearing the conversation whose contract would it be, a County contract because \$45,000 was coming from the County budget and if that was correct, they were restricted with their Procurement Policy.

Commissioner Holt said the five cities was just \$25,000 and they could not go over their amount

that they have to have. The County's \$20,000 and their \$25,000 was \$45,000.

Chair Viegbesie asked with who would Gunster be entering the contract with, the County and expecting the County to give them a check for \$45,000, which meant they were exceeding the \$25,000 threshold of their Procurement Policy or if each municipality would be writing their own \$5,000 check and we write just \$20,000, which would keep the County below their Procurement Policy Procedure.

Mr. Weiss said if they were going to stay within their Procurement Policy, they would have to be under the \$25,000 threshold, for which they would be responsible. He said the Motion on the floor and what was seconded, was \$15,000, which put them below the threshold and it would have to be a separate contract and would have to clear that with the firm because the County would be responsible for \$15,000 otherwise.

Commissioner Hinson withdrew his second and said he thought what was in their policy was anything under \$25,000 they had to call at least three different firms and they had to have time to make those calls. He said they could not vote on that tonight and they could probably have an emergency meeting next Monday to give them time to make the calls.

Commissioner Holt asked if that was part of their policy to be under \$25,000 and Mrs. Jackson said yes. She then asked if they could vote for it contingent upon because they needed to meet the Governor's deadline. She said he told them they had 28 days, 5 of which were already gone and holidays were coming up.

Commissioner Taylor said point of clarity, she said it was not the Governor's budget, he was advising, according to the statement he made, the County to put some of the needs that they had in this year's budget and thought that was an avenue to recoup some of the loss they had through Michael. She said he advised them to put together a legislative packet with all the cities involved to present to their Representatives for the legislative session. She said she did like this firm and based on the Chair, it was a good opportunity due to the fact this was a new Governor.

Commissioner Holt said one other thing mentioned in that meeting was the other counties that were disaster counties; there was a better chance to get with them and become a part of that proposal especially on the tax. She said not only would they run out of time with the six cities and the County, they needed to get with each of the counties. She said she and the Mayor of the City of Quincy talked about this the other day that they have to contact those counties and she also called the Association of Counties to see if she could obtain data. She said the Governor said once the information was put into one packet, they were more apt to get the votes from the legislature because they would try to cure the problems with Hurricane Michael and was why it was very time sensitive to get this in.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he withdrew his second was they were still in a state of emergency and thought they needed to be bold. He said he thought instead of \$15,000, they should go with \$24,500 with both and roll the dice. He said it was a \$50,000 investment and guaranteed they would get a lot more with that. He said next year if they did not see any results, they would know which way they needed to move. He said this was the only way he would approve this, both parties had to get \$24,500 for Lawson and Associates and Gunster.

Commissioner Holt said when he put his motion in, to state that they meet Friday to get this done.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Morgan's motion was on the floor first.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to the agreement with Gunster, is there a set amount they are asking for because she was understanding there was a percentage from the County as well as a percentage from the cities.

Antonio Jefferson reappeared before the Board and said he thought Gunster's numbers were a little north of where the Board was and was not sure because they had not quite negotiated that portion of it. He said they thought that together their bundle package needed to be somewhere around \$60,000.

Commissioner Taylor asked the \$35,000 the County had in their coffers plus the \$25,000 that the cities would put together would equal to the \$60,000 they were looking for to pay for this and was for Gunster only.

Mr. Jefferson said they had not talked about any other service as a collective group other than Gunster because they understood the County previously had a relationship but felt collectively together getting to that number of \$60,000, however bundled, would be how they got there.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to look at the numbers, she asked Commissioner Hinson on his proposal of \$24,500 it would be \$49,000 and the \$25,000 that the cities would put in would be \$74,000. She said if they kept Lawson where they were at \$15,000 (using as an example), they would be at \$59,000 and only \$1,000 away from what he proposed to do.

Commissioner Hinson said if they went with that, they would have to come back in two weeks and make a vote because they would not have to advertise anything more than \$25,000. He said that was why he said they could wait until next week, advertise this and give Gunster \$35,000 and still give Lawson and Associates \$24,500.

Commissioner Holt asked in case of emergency, could any of this be waived? She said these well know firms were not going to piddle over \$60,000 and not going to wait on the County. She said they were supposed to have been ready in July and did not; then the hurricane hit and they did not have an opportunity then to get ready and they needed a way out of this so they could get some credibility on the hill by January. She said they had to have their package in their hands in the Governors' by mid-January. She said he was going to help with the new Governor so instead of them playing that they knew what they were doing, get a professional. She asked the Attorney if there was anything in place or was it illegal for them to waive any of this because if was time-sensitive.

Mr. Weiss there was an exception in their Procurement Policy for emergency purchases but could not tell them in the matter of law what constitutes an emergency. He said if someone challenged it, they would have a good argument that this would not constitute as an emergency, but was for the Board to decide. He said he also heard there was \$35,000 in the Budget for this purpose and would think anything in excess of \$35,000 would require a budget amendment.

Commissioner Holt said that was what she wanted him to look at; if they miss the deadline and do

not get their information in, financially it would hurt the County and the cities. She said she knew he said they could be sued, but they have been sued for less. She said she wanted to look at possibilities because this was very important.

Commissioner Taylor said they needed to move this, the cities and the Administrator have met, and she understood a preliminary legislative package has been put together, some of the groundwork has been done; the cities have gotten together and identified what they needed; now they need to get a lobbyist to help push this through and get ready to submit. She said if they wanted to go with several firms, see if they could educatedly come up with a figure where they do not exceed their Policy and Procedures and do give this body some funding that they could go out and move the packet. She said they needed to come up with a figure to get this off the table and push it through tonight.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they made two separate contracts, \$15,000 to Lawson and Associates and \$25,000 to Gunster to add to the cities, would they still have to adhere to their Procurement Policy if they kept the County's part under the \$25,000, would that be a separate expenditure that they would not have to adhere to the Procurement Policy for each of the individual expenditures.

Mr. Weiss said they had to adhere to the Procurement Policy but if there were two separate contracts, it was two separate purchases, they were not looking at those collectively.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not think they would exceed \$35,000; they keep Lawson and Associates at \$15,000 and take \$25,000 and add to the cities' \$25,000 and would be \$50,000 for Gunster to work collaboratively with Lawson and Associates to push the agenda.

Commissioner Morgan said go with one firm, the Gunster firm, everyone go in the same direction and was within the budget. He said there was nothing wrong in moving forward with an amount they approved, not what the lobbying firm was telling them they wanted; they come up with a figure and if they did not like it, move on. He further stated they had been without a lobbying firm for three months; nothing was on fire other than to make a simple decision tonight based on what was before them. He said there was no value with going with two separate firms in his opinion. He felt it would make much more sense to take \$25,000 from the County, put it together with the other cities and would be \$50,000 offer.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO PUT \$25,000 TO HIRE THE GUNSTER FIRM THE OTHER MUNICIPALITIES WERE WORKING WITH. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson said they could not do that because it was not advertised and Commissioner Morgan said it was \$25,000 or less and they could do that.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR AND HE MADE THE SECOND. HE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

**Commissioner Holt -Yes  
Commissioner Hinson-No  
Commissioner Morgan-Yes  
Commissioner Taylor-Yes  
Chair Viegbesie-Yes**

**THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE \$25,000 TO THE GUNSTER FIRM.**

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he voted no was he wanted to work with both parties and felt that Lawson and Associates was doing a yeoman's in working with the community.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO GIVE LAWSON AND ASSOCIATES \$25,000.  
MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**8. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the contractual agreement between CenturyLink and the Gadsden County BOCC and authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

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

**9. Old Federal Road Resurfacing Project Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the design bid for Old Federal Road (CR 65B) Resurfacing project to Dewberry Engineers.

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

**10. Tolar-White Road SCOP Project**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Florida Department of Transportation's Small County Outreach Program Agreement for the widening and resurfacing of Tolar-White Road (CR270).

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

**11. Approval of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Amended Memorandum of Understanding**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the amended Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Memorandum of Understanding. It was amended pursuant to Section VIII., of the MOU to include additional requirements regarding the deceased date of individuals provided in the DAVID application.

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

**12. Appointments/Reappointments to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint/reappoint two representatives from the Gadsden County BOCC to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors and identify a County staff person to serve as the County Liaison.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AND DEE JACKSON AS THE COUNTY LIAISON AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**13. Approval of the Lease Extension with Neighborhood Medical Center to lease the Havana Health Clinic**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the lease extension with Neighborhood Medical Center.

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

**14. Approval of Appointments/Reappointments to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the appointment/reappointment to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. She said the City of Gretna has sent a nomination for Commissioner Evelyn Riley-Goldwire to serve as the Municipal Representative.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with the current appointees, the issue was whether other municipalities were informed about the opening and had a chance to respond and felt it was appropriate to reach out to the municipalities and he had no issues with Commissioner Goldwire.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE SAME.**

**15. Authorization to Apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for authorization for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant #RFA112818HSET1 and for authorization for the Chair to sign all documents.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said this called for a 50% match that was required and asked how much the grant was for. Mrs. Jackson said they had not received any information and thought someone from the Sheriff's office would be here to discuss this with the Board. Commissioner Morgan asked how they would know how much they were committing to with this.

Commissioner Hinson said that was a great question and felt the motion needed to be changed depending on the amount.

Commissioner Holt directed them to page 7 of the Agenda item and there was further discussion. She said normally they could use their facilities and they could use any employees as part of the match; could use facilities and labor as part of the match in these types of grants. She also said if this was not time sensitive, they could have them come in.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

Mrs. Jackson said she did not make a recommendation but said if that match is required and not matched in the form that Commissioner Holt was speaking of, the County would be liable for it. Commissioner Holt asked if they did it contingent upon the match, but they could always have them come in and they did need to know what the deadline was.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought this was time sensitive because he spoke with the Sheriff's Office when this item was brought to his attention and his understanding was it was time sensitive and did not pay attention to the matching funds part of this. He asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a serious issue in Gadsden County and asked what if they approved it contingent upon the match being less than \$50,000. Chair Viegbesie asked what if it was contingent upon the Sheriff's Office guaranteeing that the 50% be leveraged using assets...

Commissioner Holt pointed out on page 7 of 42 and it stated a Cash match was not required and was why she said labor and facilities.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt they should give this back to the County Administrator and let her look over it and give them a recommendation based on their research and that way they would have a detailed report.

Chair Viegbesie said from his point of view, there was no more research that could be done that what was stipulated in the Agenda packet and the grant was not due until February 5th.

Mr. Weiss said this item was left out of his book. He said it looked to him based on the language and the language in the Statute that it would be an in-kind match, but, that said, he would not mind having more time to look into this if it was not urgent.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE SECOND MEETING IN JANUARY AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:24.*

**CLERK OF COURT**

**16. Updates**

There was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**17. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson reminded the Commissioners of the Staff Christmas party this Friday at 7:00 at Creek Entertainment.

She reminded them the January 1<sup>st</sup> meeting would be cancelled.

She said as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Building permit office would be closed after 4:30 each day so they could close out financials for the day. She said it was open for any other business the visitors had.

She congratulated Chair Viegbesie for being appointed as Chair of CRPTA.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:26 p.m.*

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **18. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report and said he had a prior commitment and would be unable to attend the Christmas party.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said a constituent told him the Permit office was closed for the next two weeks. Mrs. Jackson asked that she be referred to her so she could clarify because that was not the case, they were only closed after 4:30 so they could do the daily reports for the Clerk's office. She stressed they would not be doing permits after 4:30 but any other business could be conducted.

He said there was still a lot of trash in areas and asked when they would start going back through the communities. Mrs. Jackson said there was more damage than they first anticipated with roads, they were now replacing signs, guardrails, etc. and the debris company was also assisting. He said the Gibson and Richbay community needed attention.

#### **Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan asked for an update on Atwater Road as far as to when it would be open.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board. He said he missed Curtis Young today. He said they have one jointed pipe and one more joint to set and anticipated it would be pretty soon it would be back open, maybe by the end of the week.

Commissioner Morgan said the item regarding burning in the County at the debris site, he would like to move forward with more conversation regarding that because it could potentially be a concern.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

Commissioner Holt said regarding the items they tabled, there were some Boards that would be need to be established if not already done so.



She said at one time they had an Adopt-A- Road program at one time and children were involved and asked then to look into that.

Commissioner Hinson said he mentioned it at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the Resource Officers. He said he spoke with the Sheriff and he said they had maximized what they could pay for and they need three more Resource officers at the schools before they could be certified by the State. He asked it be placed on the January 15<sup>th</sup> Agenda to discuss and vote on it.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO PAY FOR RESOURCE OFFICERS AT THE SCHOOLS ON THE JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> AGENDA**

Chair Viegbesie asked if that would have a budgetary impact on the County that was already stretched to the limit. He said for action of funding, he did not know how budgetary wise they would be able to assume that type of fiscal responsibility at this point.

Commissioner Hinson said for his conscience that would give the County Administrator the needed time to do research. He added if they could not pay for it, it was understandable but the kids should come first.

Commissioner Hinson asked that it be placed on the January 15<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked about the grant for the Courthouse; she said she understood one of the extensions was about to expire in February and asked if they would be on time and asked if they would be able to get that done before the extension expired. Mrs. Jackson said they would not be done before the extension expires but Mr. Weiss and the contractor has been going back and forth as far as the contract was concerned and thought they had a resolution and they agreed to it. Mr. Weiss said he never heard anything back from the last time he responded and the last he saw it looked like they had transmitted the contract to the State for approval and the State had approved it. He said he was assuming they agreed to the changes he was requesting.

Commissioner Taylor thanked the Attorney and said it was incumbent upon him to find where they were with the contract. She asked him to reach out to make sure they were on time because it was a lot of money and was a project that needed to get underway. He said he did not perceive that as being his responsibility but was happy to help and was always happy to help in any way, shape or form. He said usually he reviews the contract but to implement the contract was under the County Administrator. Commissioner Taylor said to her the contractual agreement was still in the process and he was still involved. She said if he was unsure if they had agreed to the terms, and then apparently there were still some contractual things out there that the attorney was not fully aware of. He said he understood and would follow up on it. She said ok, she did not want to bog him down but wanted to make sure that this gets underway because a lot of projects have fallen short.

Commissioner Taylor asked about High Bridge Road. Justin Ford reappeared before the Board and said this was a DOT project and he would check on it. He said it would not come to the County as a SCRAP or SCOP project would. He said it was his understanding it was underway.

Commissioner Taylor then asked on the upcoming Agenda for updated information regarding the

Courthouse because of the February deadline.

She said someone said pines were being left on the ground after the trees were being collected and they were creating a health hazard when they stay and decompose and had an effect with the run-off. She said they need to talk to the debris company about their intentions on collecting and ask about the health issues.

Chair Viegbesie said regarding High Bridge Road was slotted by DOT for 2020, along with Point Milligen and Attapulugus Road. Mr. Ford reappeared before the Board and said he thought that was the construction component but the funding for the design just became available.

She said when they had the meeting with the Governor, FEMA said there were still 25+ families that were displaced. She said she understood they were placed somewhere outside of the County because of limited housing and no place to put them. She said this was an opportunity and wanted to see if she could “wake up something that they had put to bed and was hoping at least one of the three”, asked if they still have the \$100,000 that they could put back in Emergency repairs and help those families. She said there were no houses but there were tons of houses that could be rehabbed and that money would go a long way to help displaced families.

**COMMISSIONER TAYKLOR MADE A MOTION TO PLACE THE \$100,000 EMERGENCY REPAIR MONEY ON THE AGENDA FOR RECONSIDERATION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

#### **Jail**

She said when they have a situation at the jail that was very controversial and serious and legalities were there, how much was the County, being owner of the jail, exposed, how much were they liable for. Mr. Weiss said the County was responsible for the facility. Commissioner Taylor asked about the actions, Mr. Weiss asked operations and she said yes. He said anyone that was going to sue, would sue the County. He said they had some exposure for operations were the short answer without knowing details of what was going on. She asked if they would have an opportunity for a “shade” meeting and he said that was only if there was pending litigation. He said he was on complete dark.

#### **Pat Thomas Park**

She said tourists were trying to have a family gathering and heard it was still in disarray from the storm. She asked the Administrator how it looked and Mrs. Jackson said it was open for business and was almost open for business on the expansion as well.

#### **Stevens School**

She said they put bids out for the contracts and they have been rebid and closed earlier this week and will be bringing that back on the January 15<sup>th</sup> Agenda. Commissioner Taylor asked about the electrical work and Mrs. Jackson said it was moving along, they had done significant work and would have been done if they had a contract initially.

#### **Administrator Contract**

She asked where they were on her contract and Mrs. Jackson said she and the attorney had been working together and was told the Chair was usually part of the negotiations and there was no rush. Commissioner Morgan said there was a rush. The attorney said there was not enough time

to get it on this Agenda but will be on the next agenda.

**Clerk**

She said she has seen the emails between her and the Clerk and was so damaging and asked if they have established a way to repay back the overtime and asked if that was correct. Mrs. Jackson said Facebook Live was on and she could be very candid, the Clerk was not being cooperative with that. Commissioner Taylor asked if they had established a way for that to be paid back and Mrs. Jackson said "No, he does not talk except demands of email". Commissioner Taylor said maybe the attorney could be a liaison so that could get that underway.

Commissioner Holt said there were alternative vouchers in the State; if someone has a house that they wanted to rent out or a mobile home, let FEMA know.

Commissioner Hinson said piggybacking on what Commissioner Taylor said, what was disturbing to him was the word "complicit" the Clerk used and once you get the real, true meaning of the word, it was a strong word to use. He said with it in writing, it put them in a "back-pedal" move against the wall and not only was alleging one thing, it also was alleging they were in compliance with wrongdoing as well. He felt those were strong words he used in the letter and his name was put in there because he was a Board member and felt he was saying he was compliant with something that was wrong. He said he would love for him to come so they could discuss it because he was not complicit with any wrong doing.

Commissioner Morgan said he forgot to ask about permitting fees and asked if they were still being waived. Mrs. Jackson said permitting fees have been waived through January 15<sup>th</sup> and will be on the next agenda.

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

Chair Viegbesie said he was elected Chair as CRTPA and having Suzanne Lex here, who had been the liaison with CRTPA, if the Commissioners see any roads in dire need of attention, please bring to his attention and he will push them onto the work programs of CRTPA.

**Receipt and File**

**20. Letter from Florida Health**

**November 13, 2018 Letter from the Florida Department of Revenue  
November 16, 2018 Letter from the Florida Department of Revenue  
Letter from DEO**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**19. January 15, 2019-6:00 p.m.-BOCC Regular Meeting**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:59 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**