

**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 2nd 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 has 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 BY COMMISSIONER 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 17th 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 24th 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 29th 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 5th 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

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 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 18th 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 Eales 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 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 151st 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 151ST 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 24th 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 29th Board Economic Development meeting at Tri-Eagle Sales.

She said there would be a February 1st 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 5th would be the Emergency Management Workshop at the IFAS Center from 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.

She said on February 12th 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 os “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 CRPTA 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

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

ATTEST:

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 15th 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.

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