

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 15, 2019 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-arrived late**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Dee Jackson, County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to mute their cell phones. **Rev. Jeff Jackson, Quincy First Baptist Church**, gave the Invocation 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 HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Pat Thomas & Associates Insurance, Inc.**

**John Pat Thomas, Pat Thomas and Associates**, appeared before the Board. Mr. Thomas said he presented a check to Mrs. Jackson in December in the amount of \$16,100. He explained because of the partnership with Florida League of Cities and the Municipal Insurance Trust, the property trust was profitable and they returned monies back to their members on a pro rata basis and represents the good partnership and the partnership paid dividends.

**2. Update on Hurricane Recovery Housing Initiatives**

**Susanne Lex, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board. She thanked them for their approval of the Resolution that allowed for FEMA trailers or campers to be placed on private property. She said to date only two have been permitted and placed on private property; they have permitted four FEMA trailers in a mobile home park. She said there were was one remaining damaged dwelling that is being assessed; 35 individuals have found housing through FEMA and nineteen still need housing and they have reached out to neighboring counties to see if there were any resources any available. She explained they were not able to take any mobile homes for a Gadsden County resident into Leon County, but were looking into apartments or houses that might be available.

**CONSENT**

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

Commissioner Taylor said she had hoped to have an update regarding the debris collection.

**Chip Starr, D & J spokesperson**, appeared before the Board for a report. He said as of today, they have collected 1,377,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris

*Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:07 p.m.*

He said they hauled over 3,000 loads of mulch, have 24 monitors on staff and have 45 trucks that are still collecting along the right-of-ways. He said they have set a deadline of January 20<sup>th</sup> as the tentative deadline for debris to be placed curbside.

Commissioner Taylor said she was glad he brought clarity on the January 20<sup>th</sup> deadline. She said she had received an email regarding private road pickup. He said they had been in communication with FDOT and Thompson Consulting and have been approved to start pickup in all the County parks and hopeful once they start the parks and sees that Gadsden County was so much farther ahead of some of the other counties, they will potentially release them to start collecting along the private roads. He said they will begin collecting c & d (construction and demolition debris) on January 20<sup>th</sup> and will give people plenty of time to bring that debris to the curb. Commissioner Taylor said he said they had the go-ahead to work on parks, he said once they see they were coming to the end to the on-system roads that were eligible, they will task them with private roads. He said he did not think that FDOT realized there was very minimal debris left on their on-system roads at this time.

Mrs. Jackson said the County was given approval to pick up on private roads but they wanted them to be done with the on-system roads first.

Commissioner Taylor said they did not currently have a resolution from DOT for private roads; they were anticipating that if they have completed all the public roads, they may get the go-ahead to then start private roads.

Commissioner Morgan said they have not begun pickup on private roads and was told that was correct. He said there had been had quite bit of rain and some of the roads were still quite wet asked if trucks could go down some of the roads. Mr. Starr said they would do their best to access the roads.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they had any idea as a time when the costs of removal of additional debris would revert to the County and Mr. Starr said he did not know when that would happen. He said they may want to go through their DOT representative. He did say one of the key items was for them to inforce the deadline; get the information out if the citizens wanted it picked up under this contract.

Commissioner Holt said larger property owners have quite a few trees, one up to 30-40 trees and knew they would not be able to pick those up. Mr. Starr said they could pick them up as long as they were eligible but FEMA did have a stipulation what they call "Improved Property" where they

don't allow for land clearing to come curbside. He said they did not want people to start bringing "pecan orchards" curbside for collection, this contract was primarily designed for removing the threat to safety around a dwelling or home.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any difference in the timeline schedule, benefits for people within the municipalities as opposed to outside in the unincorporated areas of the county. Mr. Starr said none that he was aware of.

Mrs. Jackson said there was absolutely no change. She said the day of the storm they entered into an Interlocal Agreement with all the municipalities so they have all the same benefits that the County had.

Commissioner Holt said from the roads that are maintained by FDOT, are they still picking up?

Mr. Starr said for the DRC contract with FDOT, as far as he knew they would. He did say he had not seen a large presence of them lately in the County on state roads.

Commissioner Taylor asked what Thompson's job was and Mr. Starr said their responsibility was to be a steward of the Government's money and write tickets and to validate the eligibility of the debris collected. He said they also do the data management and track the loads collected and what went to the sites and how much volume that was and with the Federal reimbursement to ensure that all the work was eligible so the County would get the maximum federal reimbursement possible.

Mrs. Jackson said for clarity, Thompson Consulting did have the Resolution and she would provide it to the Commissioners and in layman's terms, what they were supposed to do was make sure that the County get paid and they hold D & J accountable for the work they are doing. She said they were the County's insurance policy and would also file the FEMA paperwork for the County.

3. **Ratification Memo**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **December 18, 2018-BOCC Regular Minutes**
5. **Approval to Accept the FY 2018 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report**
6. **Public Officials Bond Review**

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Chair Viegbesie said he had to Speaker Request Forms.

**Pat Smith, Pat's Pantry, 212 Goldwire Road, Quincy, FL** – cold weather shelter appeared before the Board. She said she was here on behalf of the homeless and they need a cold weather shelter. She said camps were set up in Quincy and a lot of people were living in tents in Quincy.

Chair Viegbesie asked that she schedule a meeting with County Administrator.

**Gene Matthew Stephens and Tammy Ceasor, 3577 Flat Creek, Chattahoochee, FL** appeared before the Board. She thanked them for the 2018 grant for Angelcare with a Vision and thanked them for being there and helping her to make it happen.

Gene Matthew thanked them for the privilege of addressing the Board and was before them with a great concern and a solution for the concern. He said the building was perfect and would help contribute to the local economy.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **7. Approval to Re-establish the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY 18/19 Budget**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to re-establish the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY 18/19 Budget using the General Fund Balance.

Chair Viegbesie asked if anyone wished to speak in support or opposition of item and there was no-one.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE TO RE-ESTABLISH THE EMERGENCY HOUSING REPAIR ACCOUNT TO \$100,000 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt said this was a good idea, she said there were a lot of emergency housing because of the storm and felt \$100,000 was not enough compared to some of the structures. She said there needed to be a process in place if they were going to do this or wait until they could get one in place. Commissioner Holt said they needed to look at how to do this and this was not a normal year because one or two houses would use up all the money.

Commissioner Morgan said the General Fund Balance was at the lowest point it's been in several years and in front of them was a high demand for money in the bank due to what just happened. He recommended them refraining from spending money unless it was a dire emergency. He said he understood if someone was displaced from their home and disagreed it was the County's responsibility to provide funds for that beyond what they were already providing, particularly when they were in the financial situation they were in. He said there was a program in place that was providing funds and asked the Administrator what monies were in that account. Mrs. Jackson said she thought there was \$600,000 and they just received a Disaster Recovery Fund in the amount of \$201,500. Commissioner Morgan said he did not think it would be a wise fiscal move at this time but understood the concern.

Chair Viegbesie asked if he heard correctly they have approximately \$600,000 for housing rehabilitation and she said yes and they just received disaster recovery fund for housing for \$201,000 in addition to the \$600,000.

Chair Viegbesie said he agreed with Commissioner Morgan. He said that the fund was not budgeted during the budgetary process because of the fiscal stress the County was under, like the radio, 911 Emergency, etc. that they needed for security. He said he would rather put this emergency repair money back into the general fund; this was for one year and there were other

emergencies coming that they will need money for.

Commissioner Taylor said the monies mentioned were restricted and did not think they would have the same latitude as they would with the emergency repair money. She agreed there should be a process in place and that they needed to meet, but felt they needed to open up the line item with some money. Mrs. Jackson said the funds were for housing rehabilitation and emergency repairs. Commissioner Taylor said they could use \$201,500 for emergencies and Mrs. Jackson said yes. Commissioner Taylor said they talk about not getting into housing, but Washington created the Community Redevelopment money. She said they were taking those dollars and giving them to city government and they then take houses that are not paying taxes, upgrade them so they can pay taxes and was a way those dollars that were being invested could be turned back into tax dollars. She said those dollars would come back into the coffers by improving the homes and then paying taxes. She said they talk about fiscal stress and where there was a government that has debt issues, normally there are things that happen: a moratorium on hiring, no raises are given, spending comes at a massive decrease and none of those things are happening. She said they are hiring, they are giving out raises and they are spending. She said they may have fiscal stress but the actions show different.

Commissioner Hinson said when they talk about seniors and displaced people in the County, he could not sit back and not speak on it. He said Ms. Pat Smith just spoke on the homeless and there was a growing number that did not have a place to live or if they did, there were problems inside. He said they owed it to the people of the County and they have had money for 1 ½ years sitting in pot and had not been used and that was sad.

Commissioner Holt said she did not have a problem is using the money they had but what they need to do is send the people to the Housing Department and let them do the paperwork. She said if they have \$800,000 and only \$2.8 Million in Reserves, they were pressing it and only few months from the next hurricane season.

**Chair Viegbesie called for a roll call vote.**

<b>Commissioner Holt</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Commissioner Hinson</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Commissioner Taylor</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Commissioner Morgan</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Chair Viegbesie</b>	<b>NO</b>

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

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to make a motion.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO EARMARK THE \$201,500 FOR HOUSING EMERGENCY REPAIRS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said this item was not on the Agenda for them to vote on and wanted more information about where the money came from before they commit to spending the money, what it could be used for and asked it to be agendaed for another meeting.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney if any expenditure item had to be agendaed for discussion before the expenditure could be determined. Mr. Weiss said their Ordinance generally stated that typically items should not be added to the Agenda unless it was an emergency item that does not affect the General Funds and this item has not been added to the Agenda at this point and should come back to the next meeting for consideration. He said according to the Administrator, it sounded like the money was already designated for the purpose of emergency repairs; it was just a matter of action to utilize the money.

Mrs. Jackson said it is restricted to Hurricane Michael emergencies and housing rehabilitation and can only be spent on emergency housing repairs and rehabilitation associated with the disaster.

Chair Viegbesie said for parliamentary reasons he did not think they could carry a vote on this at this time asked the Attorney for clarification.

Commissioner Taylor asked for point of order and said they 1) have on several occasions voted on things not agendaed and 2) that had a fiscal impact. She said that should not be a caveat to use at this time. She said she did respect the fact the Chair and other colleagues want to agenda this and was fine, but in the past they have entertained items that was not either advertised or agendaed, but there was a motion and second on the floor but given the consensus, she did not want to force or create a position where the people would suffer because of not being done the correct way. Commissioner Taylor then withdrew her motion and Commissioner Hinson withdrew his second. She asked it be agendaed at the very next meeting.

Commissioner Holt asked the intent of the funds and was told it was for emergency repairs and housing rehab.

**8. 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 for Board approval to increase the Summer Youth Program from \$50,000 to \$132,250 in the FY 18/19 Budget using the General Fund Balance.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a Public Hearing and citizens have an opportunity to express their support or opposition and asked if anyone had any comments and there were none.

Commissioner Hinson said the program started in 2014 with 75 youth and at that time the costs were \$75,774 and each year was increased and in FY 18 there was 120 youth and the program cost \$118,040. He said this fiscal year the budget was cut short to \$50,000 and he wanted to increase the budget back to the original costs to \$132,250 to employ 125 students.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM FROM \$50,000 TO \$132,250 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Holt asked how this would affect the \$2.8 General Fund balance. Mrs. Jackson said the additional dollars would come from that balance. Commissioner Holt said the recommended balance was \$3 Million and they were down approximately \$200,000 and was concerned about the aftermath of the hurricane. She added if they go into an emergency situation where would they

pull from.

Commissioner Morgan said this goes back to prioritizing and they had been advised by the auditors and they suggested at one time having a minimum of \$5 Million in their reserves based on their budget and the budget has actually increased over the last few years due to certain needs. He said he was very hesitant and while he wanted to support all the citizens, they had to make good decisions on investing and saving and prioritizing taxpayer dollars for public services that they may have to provide. He added that in his opinion this was way down the list when it comes to what they were facing in the year ahead.

Commissioner Hinson said he liked to be the good guy on the board, but this was a vote for the kids.

Commissioner Taylor said when she was City Commissioner, there was a statement made in chambers and was made when they were entertaining a project similar for the City and there was opposition there among the dais. She said a statement was made by someone at the podium "When it comes to youth, you either pay now or you pay later" and what they were referring to, during the summer these children had nothing to do. She said they could take 125 students and put them to work and that may be 125 young people that may not enter the system. She said she knew they were facing fiscal constraints and knew their budget should be around \$5 Million but they were at \$2.8 Million because they spent it for various projects. She said October 1<sup>st</sup> started the new fiscal budget, since then they hired Growth Management Director, given raises, and have done a number of things that could have waited.

Chair Viegbesie said during the budgetary time preparing the budget, they were all a part of that process and these were things that was added and removed during that period. He said he was the one that put his foot down and said at least \$50,000 was to go for the Summer Youth Program. He said his concern did not mean that he did not care about the youth; he cared about the County's financial health. He said the ones that were hired, replaced ones that left without a change in the expenditure and was not an addition to the expenditure after the budget was passed. He said he also became aware when people left, that position became vacant and as a result, temporary hiring was done. He said there had also been a restructuring of the job description of the ones that were here and rather than hiring someone additional, the job was distributed and a stipend was given to them, which was cost saving measures. He said this reduction was for one year and the next fiscal year they will go through the budget again. He said if they were able, they could increase the students at that time. He said before they begin to talk about raises and hiring people, they needed to understand that these moves they see, from his point of view, was nothing but creative financing and creative budgetary in times of difficulty. He said there was a difference between emotion and knowledge.

Commissioner Taylor said point of clarity, with regards to hiring in a position that was left vacant, at the time of hiring a particular position; the Growth Management position was not one that was imperative at that time. She said the Government was functioning at a better level because they were getting a lot of amendments made, permits were not being delayed and nothing caused alarm to that particular department. She said work being distributed was a cost saving factor but what quality was compromised? She said there was a lot going on with the government and was hard to open their eyes and not really see what was going on. She said if they were going to be fiscally responsible not only with the children and Senior Citizens, but be fiscally responsible all the

way around.

Commissioner Hinson said the Chair said emotion versus knowledge and he said asked the Clerk if raises were given in 2018. Mr. Thomas said he thought there was a number of raises given but did not have the list in front of him. He said the documentation said some took on additional duties and because of that, they were given an increase, but was still a raise. Commissioner Hinson asked if new positions were created and Mr. Thomas said he thought there was some reorganization done in the governmental structure. Mr. Thomas said there were some positions based on their previous structure that was absolutely key to them getting done, one was a qualified building official, which the State required them to have, and they actually have contracts with other municipalities to perform those services and was hard to get away from that with reorganization. Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make sure it was put out there so the people could know.

Commissioner Holt said if they want to have a workshop, they need to look at how to bring funds in if they were going to do this. She said the recommendation from not just their Budget Director but what she got was they needed to have at least \$3 Million and they do not have it. She said if they received more money she would be happy. She said the hurricane scared her.

Chair Viegbesie said they want kids hired, they have private employers and offices and another way they could get kids hired was to go to some kind of collaborative enrichment that these young folks are hired by these agencies during the summer. He said they could reach out to them and have them hire the kids for the summer.

Commissioner Taylor said in listening to Commissioner Holt's comments, it made her smile. She said she came on board in 2008 and they had \$800,000 in the budget and to tell the public now it was imperative they have \$3 Million and was unsure if she learned imperativeness of having a strong budget or if they were using it as an avenue. She said she was reminded of what it was versus what it is now.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

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

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

**9. Direction to Transfer Title of Property Located at 306 Washington Street to the City of Chattahoochee**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for direction to transfer the title of property located at 306 Washington Street, Chattahoochee, also referred to as Parcel ID No. 1-33-4N-6W-0000-00213-1400 to the City of Chattahoochee, provided the County obtains a tax deed. She further stated the building was currently in need of rehabilitation; the roof has caved in and is full of rubble. Once the County obtains title, it will be responsible for the property and associated liabilities including clearing and insurance.



**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked her to repeat the last sentence and she did so. She said if it was transferred to Chattahoochee then they would assume the liability.

Commissioner Taylor said she was in agreement with this transaction.

Mr. Thomas said the property was on the List of Lands available for taxes and will escheat July 2019. Before that, currently anybody has the right to walk in off the street any day and buy that property off the list of lands and wanted to make sure they understood that.

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

**10. Authorization to Submit the Fall 2018 E911 State Grant Application for the Replacement of the Logging Recorder for the Primary Public Safety Answering Point Equipment**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the 2018 E911 State Grant Application to replace the logging Recorder for the Primary Public Safety Answering Point equipment (PSAP).

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:38 p.m.*

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

**11. Authorization to Submit the Fall 2018 E911 State Grant Application for a Logging Recorder for the Backup Public Safety Answering Point Equipment**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to submit the State Grant application for a Logging Recorder for the Backup Public Safety Answering Point Equipment (PSAP).

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said it looked like a replacement and a backup and she was wondering if the grant would cover the costs of both.

**Buddy Peddie, E911 Coordinator**, appeared before the Board and said it would, this was two separate grants and if approved, would cover replacement for their primary at the Sheriff's Office...

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 7:39 p.m.*

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:39 p.m.*

Mr. Peddie continued and said there was no recorder at that location and this would be additional

equipment.

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

**12. Authorization to Submit the 2018 E911 State Grant Application to Upgrade the E911 Backup Public Safety Answering Point Equipment**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to submit the 2018 E911 State Grant Application for Upgrade of the E911 Backup PSAP equipment and authorization for the Chair to sign the necessary documents.

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

**13. 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 Department to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

Commissioner Hinson said he hoped they could target the opioids, molly and other drugs because a lot of things have been going on in the community and the country.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, VICE CHAIR TAYLOR HAD A COMMENT BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

Vice Chair Taylor said Major Barkley made an announcement a few weeks ago regarding the low rate at the jail and she wanted the Commissioners to honor him, do a public recognition for the accomplishment.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:43 p.m.

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

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

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a new road name.

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

**15. Approval of the Security Force Southeast, LLC Contract Extension**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said to was for approval to extend the contract with Security Force Southeast, LLC. She explained this was the company that provided the panic buttons for the Probation Department.

*Commissioner Hinson stepped out 7:44 p.m.*

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

**16. Approval of the 2019 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for approval of a funding agreement between the BOCC and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the Solid Waste Program.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Taylor asked that the fiscal impact be explained since the grant was retroactive to October 1, 2018 for approved expenses. Mrs. Jackson explained this.

*Commissioner Hinson returned at 7:47 p.m.*

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

**17. Approval to Award RFQ No. 18-19, Rebid 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 Board approval to award RFQ 18-19 rebid to CSI Construction, Riley Palmer Construction and Ram Construction to provide professional Construction Management Services on a Continuing Service Contract for County Capital Projects.

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with Tiptop Construction and he had an issue with the process. He said normally even if they receive the input from the County Administrator, they also have them to present to the Board so they could get the person that was best for the job. He said when he was on the School Board; they let the top three do a presentation.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked who supervised the projects and Mrs. Jackson said this was not Board supervision; they would solicit from these three companies until September 30, 2019 and would get the best rate for each of the projects. Commissioner Holt asked once this was done, would they be able to start soon and Mrs. Jackson said if this was approved tonight, the companies were available to start. She added that all the projects were budgeted and they would only be working on projects that were budgeted.

Commissioner Hinson asked how it was narrowed down to three instead of four. He added that he was not trying to advocate for anyone, he just wanted to make sure the process was fair. He said the contracts were already awarded and how could they work on something that was already awarded. He then asked about the experience with State funded historic restoration projects and asked how many historical buildings was there in Gadsden County and why was that there when there really wasn't that much in the County.

Mrs. Jackson said this was completely unrelated to the As Center. She said since there was so much hurricane damage, these companies will be asked to work on projects; one being was the EMS facility. She said they will be receiving insurance money to complete that and the County will reach out to these companies without having to go through the formal bid process because it was already done. She said they will solicit quotes from these three companies and whoever gives the best quotes will get the project and if this was approved they could start now. Commissioner Taylor asked if this would compromise the Procurement Policy.

Mr. Weiss said no, would be on a continuing services contract but would only be activated through a written task order. Commissioner Taylor asked if the Board would need to approve the task order and Mr. Weiss said it would depend on the amount of the contract. She asked if he was instrumental in developing the RFQ and he said no. He said he was asked to draft a draft contract.

Commissioner Holt asked about the three, why not approve all of them and choose as they were needed.

Mrs. Jackson said this was open to Board direction.

Commissioner Hinson said maybe he was reading this a different way, but when this was sent out, the Extension building was on it. He said he felt it was fair to make sure they know what the County wants to do.

Commissioner Morgan said his motion was for option 1, his question was when they began this process, did they communicate the top three would be selected and was told no, as far as they were concerned they thought there would be one.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN AMENDED HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE THE TOP FOUR THAT WOULD INCLUDE TIP TOP AND COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**18. Appointments to the Tourist Development Council**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint two citizens to serve on the Tourist Development Council for staggered terms of four years.

Mr. Weiss said the City of Quincy has suggested they wanted Keith Dowdell to serve on the TDC and with respect to the vacancies, of the six remaining, at least three but not more than four have to be bed tax collectors.

Commissioner Morgan said they had nine applicants and he appreciated all that submitted their application. He said he was not sure but that they have the Administrator's Office vet the applicants to make sure all nine comply with the requirements to fill the slots. He said they could table this item and then select from the ones that met the qualifications. He added that he had no issue with Mr. Dowdell serving.

Chair Viegbesie designated Commissioner Holt remain a member of the Board.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO ECHO EVERYTHING COMMISSIONER MORGAN SAID AND WHAT THE CHAIR SAID, ADD COMMISSIONER HOLT AS CHAIRMAN AND**

**COMMISSIONER KEITH DOWDELL TO SERVE AND LET THE ADMINISTRATOR VET THE OTHERS AND BRING THIS ITEM BACK AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Taylor said Commissioner Holt has served for years on that Board along with Commissioner Dowdell and that process should have some form of rotation so others are given an opportunity to serve.

**Approval to Lease Fleet Vehicles Using a Lease Agreement with GM Financials**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to lease sixteen new fleet vehicles using a lease agreement with the GM Financial for five years.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the fact she was considering to lease the vehicles, he asked if the lease payment had been budgeted and she said yes. He asked where the dollars was coming from and Mrs. Jackson said she was not sure of the line item but it was budgeted. Commissioner Morgan asked how they knew what to budget when they just received the lease payment.

Mrs. Jackson said Allen Meeks has been speaking to the lease company and knew it would be \$500,000 if they were purchased. Commissioner Morgan asked if she had considered staggering vehicles and she said there was more than sixteen was needed to be replaced. She also said they would own the vehicles after five years but have the option to give them back.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they had budgeted \$500,000 to take care of the fleet and Mrs. Jackson said they budgeted \$103,000 at 4.88%. Commissioner Taylor asked where that figure came from and Mrs. Jackson said that was how much the company said it would cost. She added they were going with a State Contract and a reasonably priced company told them it would be \$500,000 for the 16 vehicles. Commissioner Taylor said she had budgeted \$103,000 and Mrs. Jackson said yes. Commissioner Taylor asked why she was asking for approval tonight and Mrs. Jackson said it was a contract and the Board has to approve contracts, she was not allowed to sign contract. Commissioner Taylor said she just signed a \$60 Million contract without Board approval and Mrs. Jackson said the Board actually approved one as well. Mrs. Jackson said there was a plan to stagger the vehicles and this was the first batch, there will be an additional set of vehicles in two years that will need to be placed in rotation.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood and supported this. He asked if this was off State contract pricing and Mrs. Jackson said it was.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE.**

Mr. Weiss said he had not seen lease yet and wanted to make sure his motion was contingent upon approval of lease documents.

Commissioner Holt asked why he had not seen the documents before.

Mr. Weiss said he asked to see a document in Word and was not sure if it had been sent. He said the approval was to lease on these terms but obviously it needed to be contingent and he needed to review it to make sure the terms were OK.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator if there was some disconnect between her office and attorney with regards to this document. Mrs. Jackson said she was not sure if staff had emailed this to the attorney but it had been advertised. Chair Viegbesie said if this was advertised and if the attorney had not seen it, he should have questions as to why it was on the agenda when he had not seen it.

Commissioner Taylor said the Administrator should be cautious in presenting to the Board items that have not been completely vetted and this should have been sent to the attorney to be vetted. She said she personally could not move forward because she was leery of what might be there. She said she wanted a lease agreement that had been vetted by the attorney before she was willing to move forward.

Commissioner Hinson said he agreed with Commissioner Taylor and thought they needed to bring this back to the Board.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with moving forward contingent upon the attorney's review. She also said she would like to look at an amortization of the information so they would know at the end of the lease what the totals would be.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted the attorney to look at this and would like to be transparent. He also said this was the only Board he's been on where people that want to do business with them do not appear to present and they may have questions. He said they rushed into the communication thing and now was paying an additional \$300,000-\$500,000 more for towers based on the rush.

Chair Viegbesie said from hearing the conversation, he asked if she would consider if it were a substantial project, to please adopt bringing service providers before the Board to explain.

Commissioner Holt said they did that for years, when major contractors and vendors came, they either came to a workshop or regular meeting to present their project.

Commissioner Morgan said he would very respectfully like to move the question.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out 8:36 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor asked what if they come up with a better lease. Chair Viegbesie said it was contingent on the Attorney's review.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:37 p.m.*

**20. Consideration of Reinstating Building Permit Fees**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction and/or approval to reinstate the building permit fees.

Chair Viegbesie said his concern was the part of the fee that was waived to the contractors and the contractors were then not passing the waiver of fees to the homeowner. Commissioner Holt said the homeowner could also pull their own permits.

Commissioner Morgan said if he was working with a contractor; he would make sure they knew the County was waiving permit fees and would not pay them. He said for a rural County such as this one and as hard as it was hit, particularly on the west end of the County, felt they should continue to waive fees for a period of six months following the storm, which would be April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Holt said the homeowner only had to call to see if they were charged, even if the contractor pulled the permit.

Linda Barkley addressed Board and said she was unaware the Board had waived fees and without the knowledge, would not know to expect that.

Commissioner Holt said she felt they should extend the time because she was finding out people cannot get the money needed to get things done and the majority did not have money, insurance, etc.

Commissioner Taylor said the longer they went without putting a deadline on it, the more the County was losing revenue. But there are people in the County that needs the extension and was one of those situations where the County needed the revenue but she was in support of the suspension because people needed more time to get things done.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO WAIVE PERMIT FEES UNTIL APRIL 12, 2019 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**21. Board Direction on County Legal Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction regarding legal services for the County.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a reason this did not go out for bid and Mrs. Jackson said the Board had an option to renew for one more year.

Commissioner Holt said she thought it should be bid.

Chair Viegbesie said he had no problem in supporting the law firm but suggested the attorney provide information in a timely manner and that the Administrator have a constant, direct line of providing the attorney information in a timely manner so he can provide legal advice that the County deserved.

Commissioner Taylor said if this moved and was approved tonight, they should look into the contents of the contractual agreement and put in some deliverables, have more input on the work and ethics. She said she did not know the relationship between the Administrator and the Attorney, there have been side bars that she was not pleased to hear, but thought in an open

forum, they need to make sure they both were on the same account and what happened tonight doesn't happen again, especially when there was a contract involved. She also felt when it was time for the Attorney to speak at the end of meeting and there was nothing to report, she was glad there were no legal issues but are some things still out there and said she knew they were being sued from various former employees and yet to go into a meeting where it was just the Commissioners and the Attorney. She said if the contract was approved, she would like to put in some deliverables of what they should expect.

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

**22. Approval of the 2019 Legislative Priorities**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this item proposed three legislative priorities and was for Board approval. The three items were:

- Appropriation of a Windfall sales Tax;
- County Water and Sewer Upgrades; and
- Rebuilding of the Historic Stevens School.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood the windfall sales tax but that pot of money would be divvied up among so many counties she did not feel it would be anything significant. She said no-one knew the amount involved.

Mrs. Jackson said this was for Board direction but had spoken with people during Hurricane Michael at the highest level while articulating what this County needed and even discussed what would happen during the Legislative Session and was told by people at very high levels in Government that Gadsden County was looked at like a joke because of the submission of so many items.

Commissioner Holt said the items were good items, especially the one in Midway. She said they would be running late but they were being given a break because of the hurricane. She added that on a national level, she talked with Congressman Lawson as well and said they needed a couple of good projects to try to run and maybe they could have a quick workshop.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator what extent has the lobbying firm participated in this and Mrs. Jackson said they felt these were obtainable goals and they have worked with the County on some of the others and they would be helping with Gadsden County Day and will be larger than last year.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they could meet Gunster and Mrs. Jackson said they will be at the next meeting.

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

**23. Approval of the County Administrator's Contract**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Employee Agreement for the County Administrator.



Commissioner Taylor said there were a few things she wanted to say and was not ready to approve this tonight. She said she wanted to share her concerns. There are no deliverables in the contract and does not state what they are expecting from the Administrator; she said she was not interested in a two year contract and would not support it; there were 7 days in annual leave and four was the norm; she was not in agreement with \$100,000 annual salary; and \$5,000 premium, was not sure if that was normal. She said the confidence in moving forward was not there. She said she would not be supporting the contract at this time.

Commissioner Holt asked if Mrs. Jackson compared her contract to previous contract, Mrs. Jackson said yes and she was taking a pay cut.

Commissioner Morgan said he had an opportunity to talk with the Administrator and let her know the basics he was looking for in the agreement and felt she has made an extensive effort to learn, have had challenges and what concerned him the most was she had four key staff positions open and looking at how the positions will be filled. Through the storm, efforts were made around the clock and he was in agreement with the two year term and has no issue with the five month severance and salary. He said he thought benefits should match the previous administrator's contract, was not aware of deferred comp paid in the past and was opposed to that. He felt the contract needed to be tweaked and brought back to the Board. He said there was a 90 day notification if the Board chooses to not renew the agreement and was not sure if that would not present problems in itself. He felt it might be a conflict of interest.

Chair Viegbesie said when he received this item, he pulled salaries of other administrators around the counties and pulled two and compared them. He said insurance was one he took note of. He asked the attorney if there were any differences. He said they all have their own individual concerns and he had no problem with approving this contract to make sure they have an Administrator and then work on the other parts.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood what he was saying, maybe would be best if they could agree on a salary, term and severance, if everyone was comfortable then match the previous agreement with the administrator.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not think it was a fair comparison, the previous Administrator had experience. She has had one year experience and experience does drive the cost factor. She said she agreed that a lot of great things have been done but major issues and concerns also have happened, a lot of key employees have left. She said the reason people are leaving needs to be looked into. She asked where they were with the money that needs to be paid back, and said that employees' morale is low. She said they better look at this and look carefully. She added that the way they are going now, if that was any indication of what may happen in the future; they were in for some major concerns. She said in order for this County to get itself back, there had to be some changes; they have lost some major people that won't look to come back if this government stays as it is now. She said she would not support the contract.

Chair Viegbesie said his take was when he heard deliverables that was contained in the job description of the position. He said he had never seen deliverables in a contract and for everybody that comes into this position, there is learning curve. He said he saw no reason to not go with what they have.

Commissioner Taylor asked where the job description was and Chair Viegbesie said it was in the Organizational structure.

Commissioner Hinson said he had to sit back and think about things the last few days, he wanted what was best for the county but think they need clarity first. He said hypothetically, if the personnel director had 10 employees, they work 8 am to 7 pm and he tells them will pay them double time for 2 weeks; the Director then goes to the County Auditor and they tell the Director no, they could not be given double overtime, then the Director goes to the County Attorney and he also tells him no; then they talk with someone else that has nothing to do with the County and they tell the Director yes, it can be done. The Director was able to give double time and got double time for them self, gave the timesheet to the County Administrator and Administrator said could not give double time and Director says can. The Director forgot to tell the Administrator that they also took double time as well and where problem arises because the Director was a salaried employee and cannot receive double time. He asked what they do with the Director, forget and let it go?

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 9:41 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said the next question, he said Mr. Thomas had used the word “complicit” in an email and that was a strong word and meant agreeing with someone that they know is wrong. He asked Mr. Thomas to elaborate

Mr. Thomas said there were two incidences that come to mind when he used that word. He said a couple of years ago he brought to them a situation with the SHIP program.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 9:44 p.m.*

Mr. Thomas continued and said the first was with the SHIP program where a County Administrative Staff person presented false and misleading information to the Board that caused the Board to take a vote with the consequence of that person receiving a significant personal gain. The second situation he referred to was when he suggested there was false and misleading information presented to the BOCC that caused the Board to take a vote to pay the double overtime. He said he believed when the BOCC allowed the Administrative Staffer to present false and misleading information that caused them to take a vote and that person received a significant personal gain and the Board accepted that, they become complicit when they do nothing about it. Commissioner Hinson asked what was meant when the Clerk said “stretches the human capacity beyond belief” and the Clerk said there were three days in row recorded on the timesheet of 24 hours of overtime in addition to 8 hours of Administrative leave that was already granted and to him was bit much and stretched the imagination to do 24 hours of work 3 days in a row on top of Administrative leave that was already granted. Commissioner Hinson said 147 hours in a 9 day period and Mr. Thomas said correct, double overtime. Mr. Thomas said in October when the timesheets were first presented to the Clerk’s office, Finance paid everyone under the law, the Fair Labor Standards Act and BOCC policy. The Board granted 9 days Administrative leave and that alone was a significant benefit, whether they worked or not, they were paid for eight hours of those 9 days. He said the Board gave Administrative leave on the day before the storm, which was the first day of the pay period. Under FLSA, people had not worked the 40 hours and got administrative leave then got paid for overtime for first 40 hours at regular rate and after they had

done 40 hours then paid at time and half. He said then an Agenda Item was presented to the Board which said pay all the overtime at double time and was said a promise had been made. He said he ran into Public Works employees at the doughnut shop and they explained they were promised that the overtime would be paid at double and that was the first he had heard of that. He said when the Board voted to pay overtime at double the rate; Finance went back and did that. He said the Agenda item also said to pay all salaried employees and Finance did what they voted to do. Initially, they were paid under the law and according to their policy and sent an email telling that and sent documentation explaining why.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he talked to the County Administrator about the double time. He said after the storm he was asked to attend a meeting. He had a brief conversation with Mrs. Jackson concerning 1) the debris removal contracts, 2) she told him she had hired a consultant and then 3) asked if people would get paid overtime. When he drove in he saw Public Works employees and thought she meant the hourly people out working. She said then she had a problem with some of her salaried personnel refusing to come in she wanted to pay them and he advised her to talk with her Finance Director because the salary people were different and the Clerk has no authority and nothing was mentioned about double time in that conversation, no mention of the County Administrator pay during that conversation, which he had absolutely no control of and could not set or change, it was up to the Board and she can't set or change it. He said there was statement that he understood she said he was in favor of this happening and that was not true. She talked to the Finance Director and the Finance Director told her that we did not pay double time and a threatening email was sent about lawyers from FAC was going to sue the Clerk's Office if they refused to pay, the agenda item was brought to Board and Board approved it. Commissioner Hinson asked if this happened before the Board approved and Mr. Thomas said yes. Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney if he advised the Interim County Administrator before they approved that she could not accept double overtime.

Chair Viegbesie said he was going to stop the conversation at this point because they were in a court of law and interrogation was going on. He said they could ask questions privately.

Commissioner Hinson said they were about to make decision for two years and he was trying to get answers and said he was sorry if Chair Viegbesie was in cahoots or complicit with what was going on. He asked the attorney for an answer and then asked if he was interrogating the Clerk and Mr. Thomas said no, he was happy to answer questions.

Mr. Weiss said he was copied on the email from the Clerk and sometime after that was sent the email from the FAC attorney regarding the promissory estoppel argument in terms of having promised something and they could be obligated to pay that amount. Commissioner Hinson asked if that was prior to the vote taken by Board and Mr. Weiss said yes. He said he had to ask because of the term "complicit" and he did not want to be accused of being part of anything like that. Commissioner Hinson said he did not have to say too much because it was out there now. He said they had heard from the Clerk and heard from the attorney, if the County Administrator wanted to say something, he did not want them to think he was trying to come after anybody but he had to say something because if something happened tomorrow, he would have to explain how he voted on that decision based on what happened and the information. Commissioner Hinson asked the Clerk if the check was \$19,000 and the Clerk explained the pay itself was \$14,900 and when the cost of retirement and taxes that the County pays on her behalf, the total costs was \$19,600.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Manager wanted to respond and she did not.

Commissioner Holt said there were three trucks missing, been missing for years, also other things that happened and have seen no investigations on any of those things. She said when everyone else was taking care of their families, she was at the EOC working with the Sheriff and was disappointed things were not done right but they have the opportunity to get them right. She said if they were worried about money, find the missing new trucks, and find the two houses and a road that was paved through a tomato field. She said for them to vote or not for the manager.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the discussion, was aware of some of the concerns shared, have spoken directly with some of the parties and did not think there was any intention to do anything in an incorrect way, thought they learned maybe some things could have been done some differently and specifically talking about the \$19,000 that the Clerk mentioned about having that part repaid by the Administrator, who has agreed to do that. Mrs. Jackson said absolutely and was in writing. He said that was an issue he had and was very direct with Mrs. Jackson concerning that and it needed to be taken care of. He said that what they were talking about and had stated before, he was comfortable with the contract they had with the previous administrator. He said he was comfortable at \$100,000; 24 months term and 5 month severance but was not good with approving anything else tonight.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney what the previous administrator's contract stated. Mr. Weiss said there was no automatic renewal, just a two year term in previous Administrator contract.

Commissioner Taylor said first they were not talking about cars, trucks, what was agendaed was the County Administrator contract. She said they talk about fiscal constraints when it was beneficial to them, but when they make an agreement for 5 months' severance off of a \$100,000 salary; they were talking about almost \$40,000 and it was a lot of money. She heard what Commissioner Hinson said and he had good questions, heard what the Clerk said and asked if paying back the money had been facilitated and Mr. Thomas said no, from Finance's perspective that was between the Board and the Administrator, when they agree on something and send to Finance, then Finance will take care of it. Commissioner Taylor said she did not think they had a collective position on that but they need to agenda that so they could make an official statement. Mr. Thomas said he was asking for something from the Board because he had no authority to do anything with her salary, the Board has to do that.

Commissioner Hinson said he was for whatever the Board wanted. He asked if they were going to put in a motion but wanted to clear his name.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIOENR MORGAN ASKED AS PRESENTED AND SHE ASKED WHAT CHANGES.**

Commissioner Morgan said \$100,000 salary, 2 year term, 5 months' severance and to match the previous administrator's contract regarding the other benefits.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID THAT WAS HER MOTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THAT WAS HIS SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION RIGHT NOW</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**THE VOTE PASSED 3-2. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

##### **24. Updates**

Mr. Thomas was present and said he had nothing to report but was available for questions and will have some things to report at the next meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said he asked that the Board give him direction with regards to the salary payback and she asked it to be placed on the next agenda as to how to resolve that issue.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **25. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said the local Legislative Delegation Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 in BOCC chambers.

The Courthouse contract was finally executed between the County, Allstate Construction and the State and construction should begin very shortly.

The Ag Center is on hold due to the Government shut-down but is ready to move once the Government re-opens.

Gadsden County will be receiving \$201,500 for FY 2018-19 for housing rehab and emergency repairs.

A detailed debris load by date has been provided as of December and was before them.

Department directors and she will be attending the Rural Economic Development Academy in Tallahassee tomorrow and there were two openings if any of them would like to attend.

On February 12<sup>th</sup> a joint meeting is scheduled with Gadsden Senior Services Board and the BOCC at 4:30 in BOCC chambers.

The NACo Legislative Conference is Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> through Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC and depending on who will attend, they may need to cancel or reschedule the first regular meeting in March. Commissioner Holt, Commissioner Hinson and Chair Viegbesie plan to attend and there will be no quorum and the meeting should be canceled or rescheduled.

The need to bring back an item on the Planning Commission with terms, there was no quorum again at the last meeting.

She said there was a detailed Capital projects update before them.

March 20<sup>th</sup> is Gadsden County Legislative Day 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of Capitol with a reception following late afternoon.

Commissioner Hinson said dealing with Hampton Heights community and there is a huge log in the road and asked that it be looked at.

He also mentioned that Parks and Rec only had one guy show up for the meeting.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **26. Updates**

Mr. Weiss thanked the Board for their support and would like to meet individually with Board members to discuss and address any issues.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said 2 years ago they recognized two ladies in Havana and one just turned 101 and the other turned 102

He also recognized Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his birthday today.

He thanked the County Administrator and the Attorney for a job done well.

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

Commissioner Morgan congratulated the Attorney and the Administrator and appreciated the Clerk being present and his comments.

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

Commissioner Holt congratulated the two on their contracts and thanked them for their ideas.

She said she had people to ask if there could be something where people could get together, maybe get with the City of Quincy and have a concert at the park. People wanted to get together after getting properties cleaned up after the hurricane.

#### **Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked for a copy of the Resolution for private roads and wants see the budget where it talks about \$103,000 with 4.88% leasing for fleet vehicles.

#### **Lobbying services**

She said it sounded like the company was not coming if they do not come up with additional dollars, wasn't sure who was holding out for additional money and wanted to nail that down.

She wanted to recognize Major Robert Barkley, people at the Jail doing an outstanding job, along

with the Judges, the Public Defender's office and the State Attorney's office on keeping the count down at the jail and wants to honor them.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE MOTION TO RECOGNIZE THEM AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON ALSO THANKED THE BOARD FOR STARTING THE WORK PROGRAM. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Commissioner Taylor also wanted to recognize Gretna's Women's Prison and the Warden at a meeting.

**Paving project**

She wants an updated report on what going forward with regards to paving at the next meeting. She said she was jotting things down and taking her sheet with her because a lot of times things get lost and things they request never come. She said she understood because of an issue with bidding and not bidding, rebidding and not getting permission, a whole lot was happening and not sure of the relationship they have with DOT and understand some projects been left off the list because of some of the concerns they have had in the past with one of the bids. She said she would like to speak with Preble-Rish and FDOT to make sure the County was still in good standing.

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

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the part of road projects that CRTPA was responsible for, he had not seen any disagreement between FDOT on behalf of CRTPA and Gadsden County road projects and did not know of any roads that were taken out of any future projects. Commissioner Taylor said for him to talk with the Public Works director.

Chair Viegbesie said he had some legal questions he was going to ask the Attorney. He asked what type of contractual agreement the Board had with telecommunication companies such as Mediacom and AT&T, ones that provide a land-line. He said in some communities, residents have not had land-line services since the hurricane but still continue to receive bills and was there anything as a Board they can do with regard to the services in unincorporated areas. Mr. Weiss said that would be in the form of a franchise agreement and he asked for copies of all franchise agreements and only received one with WastePro and was told they either did not have or have record of other contracts. He said until he received a copy of these contracts, he would not know what recourse or rights the County may have.

Chair Viegbesie asked how the County Code Enforcement Ordinance relates to the Restrictive Ordinances of homeowners associations such as Lake Tallavana. Mr. Weiss said they had to look at it as two different layers, there are Restrictive Covenants that say whatever they say and they are presumably enforceable but not by the County. The County has separate and distinct Ordinances which are enforceable by the County regardless of what the HOA documents say.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 10:38 p.m.*

He said there are citizens that have contacted him and live there and there is a problem with sewage seeping into the others' property. The ones whose property is being messed up have called Code Enforcement and has not received any action. He did not know if it was because of Restrictive Covenants or the Ordinances. Mr. Weiss said private covenants could not trump the

County Ordinances and he did not think the County dealt with septic, that was a Department of Health issue. He said he would suggest that to the citizen.

He said there was some property on 8506 Salem Road that Code Enforcement needs to look at the condition to see if it needs to be condemned. He said it was an eye-sore and was uninhabitable.

He asked about the Adopt-A-Road program, he said there were many roads where trash is everywhere and if they have an active program, citizens, and churches have said they were willing to adopt the roads and they need to consider activating the program.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR TWO SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS, LATRESHA PETERS AND VANESSA BETSEY AND THE SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Mrs. Jackson said Friday at 10:00 at the Sheriff's Office there will be a recap on the hurricane.

Commissioner Holt said at a certain point there would need to be a public meeting with the citizens to hear from them and give them updates and would be beneficial and help them prepare for the next time.

Commissioner Taylor asked how they planned to get the information out to the public and Mrs. Jackson said the meeting on Friday was more of a strategy session and not for public input.

#### **Receipt and File**

- 28. Ausley & McMullen-November 2018 Invoice**  
**List of Resolutions Presented for Commendation and Appreciation During and After Hurricane Michael**  
**November 15, 2018 – Florida Department of Health**  
**November 27, 2018 - Florida Department of State Letter**

#### **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  
January 15, 2019-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:45 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

---

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOURISM COUNCIL  
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON  
JANUARY 28, 2019, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING  
WAS HAD, VIZ:

**Members Present:**

Carolyn Ford, Vice – Chair – Present  
Keith Dowell – Present  
Linda Dixon – Via Phone  
Jeff DuBree - Present  
Brenda Holt - Present  
Cathy Johnson - Present

**Staff Present:**

Olivia Smith, TDC Administrator  
Attorney David Weiss  
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

**Absent:**

Peter Patel  
Joe Bouch, 78 Madison

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance to U.S. Flag/Roll Call**

In the absence of the chair, Vice-chair Ford called the meeting to order at 3:56 p.m. She then led in pledging allegiance to the U.S. flag.

The roll was called by the deputy clerk and the attendance was noted as reported above.

It is noted here for the record that Ms. Linda Dixon appeared via telephone.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Vice-chair Ford called for any amendments to the agenda. There was no response.

**UPON MOTION BY MR. DUPREE AND SECOND BY MS. HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0  
TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

3. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2018**

**UPON MOTION BY MS. HOLT AND SECOND BY MS. JOHNSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ABOVE STATED MEETING.**

**Bass Pro Shop Crappie Masters All American Tournament Trail**  
**Pat Thomas Park at Lake Talquin, Gadsden County, Florida**  
**February 8 & 9, 2019**  
**Hosted by the Gadsden County Tourism Council**

TDC Administrator Olivia Smith addressed the board and reviewed a number of details regarding the tournament. It is noted here as a point of reference that the first leg of the FL State Crappie Masters Championship would be held at the St. Johns River in Deland, FL on January 31, 2019. The final leg would be at Lake Talquin in Gadsden County, FL on February 8 & 9, 2019.

Ms. Smith pointed out dates of importance for Gadsden County. They were:

- On-line registration closed on January 25, 2019
- In-person registration would be February 7 at the Public Safety Institute – new registrations are currently being promoted.
- A Rules meeting will be held at 6:30 – to be handled by Crappie Masters with the tournament participants
- Media Day will be on February 7 at **10:00 a.m. at Pat Thomas Park at Lake Talquin** – The Council should be very intentional about getting the media to attend this event. For instance, the council should invite the media to go out onto the lake with some fishermen to showcase the lake as well as the tournament.
- Travel writers have been invited to expose the lake and the tournament.
- Media Day is not open to the public.
- There would be a weigh-in on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, with the larger crowd on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Holt interjected that it seemed to her that Media Day should be a “kick-off” to include children and adults to get them interested in the tournament and to let everyone know the schedule of events. She added, “I think that would sell Lake Talquin a lot better with more people present.” She added that it would also be a perfect opportunity for folks to learn about Pat Thomas Park and realize what an asset it is to Gadsden County. She concluded by saying that she felt that some children (perhaps a field trip from a school) should be invited to be involved in the experience to make discoveries and memories.

Jeff DuBree called attention to some observations he has made over the years by observing such events as this tournament. They are listed below:

- Bringing in travel writers is good thing, but, what catches the attention of the media more is to bring local celebrities together with the fishermen to actually fish with the professional fishermen. The media picks up on that and makes very interesting news and serves as great publicity. People may not be eye-witness to it, but, they will see it on the news. It has proven to be a very successful approach. It was suggested that elected county constitutional officers be asked to participate, especially Clerk Thomas. City officials should be invited as well. Celebrity names suggested were Willie Simmons, Cory Phillips and Freddie Figgers.
- As far as the Kids' Rodeo – because the weather is often cold so early in the morning, he felt a better time to schedule it would be just a couple of hours before the big weigh-in. The kids would likely be more successful at catching fish in the warmer part of the day. People would already be there in anticipation of the weigh-in and would enjoy seeing those kids win prizes. In the past, the only spectators to see the children fishing have been the parents.

There was a consensus that the Council definitely wanted to have students present at the Media Day along with celebrities. They asked that staff do whatever it entails to get student participation (a couple from high school and a couple from middle school) if it can be arranged. It was suggested that Ms. Smith contact the Superintendent of Schools after this meeting.

### **Advertising Dollars**

Ms. Holt asked Attorney Weiss if some TDC money could be used to advertise the County in connection with the Crappie Masters Tournament.

Attorney Weiss replied, "There is \$5,000 left in the budget. I believe that is correct. So, if you want to use that \$5,000 on something that is advertising – obviously, it has to be authorized under the Statute and under the Plan, but if it is for this particular purpose – marketing for tourism. You have authorization in the ordinance to use up to \$5,000 without needing specific BOCC approval...If you are going to use the money prior to the tournament, I think this will be the last meeting we will have before then, so, you would need to take action today."

Jeff DuBree interjected that the \$5,000 was set aside at the last meeting for Media Day.

Ms. Holt asked, "Do we need to specifically say it is for refreshments?"

Attorney Weiss answered, "Now, remember, refreshments really is not an authorized use of funds. This has to be for marketing purposes. It has to be for advertisement."

Ms. Holt then asked, "Is there anything in the TDC other than marketing that we can use

to purchase food from?” She recalled that other TDCs are purchasing food. She went on to say that if you offer people food, they would come.

Attorney Weiss looked at the Statute and the ordinance.

Keith Dowdell stated, “If we are doing Media Day on that Thursday out at Pat Thomas Park, then we are coming back to Public Safety Institute that evening and carrying over into that night, then the tournament is actually Friday. How many kids do you think will be out there on Saturday morning? “

Vice-chair Ford replied, “That is why we wanted to move it (Kid’s tournament) to Saturday afternoon, so that we can draw more of them out.”

It was clarified for the record that the tournament fishing begins on Friday, February 8 and 9, 2019. The fishermen will start at first light of day and fish until 3 p.m. with the weigh-in following at 4 p.m. The public attendance will be larger on the 9<sup>th</sup> weigh-in because that is when they will receive the awards.

The children will be fishing only on Saturday morning from a dock or the banks at Ingram’s Landing from 8 – 9 on Saturday morning.

**Food Discussion:**

Ms. Holt:

Mr. Attorney, the problem we had last time was food. The employees were buying stuff out of their own pockets. We have to find a solution to this. Then, the Clerk did not want to reimburse them. There has to be a solution. That is why every year we keep asking for a solution. Tell me what you got.

Chair Ford:

What about a small grant? Is spending the grant part of the funds restricted the same as marketing funds?

Ms. Holt:

Yeah, that is a good idea.

Attorney Weiss:

I think you have to start with what the Florida Statute says. That is the issue; I think that the Clerk has had. What the Statute says is that you can use the funds for promotion of tourists. O.K. It doesn’t make any difference if you are talking about a grant or the pot of funds. You have to start again with the Statute that says what you can use the funds for. We cannot change what Statute says. The Statute says that you can only use it for promotion, marketing and advertising of

events where the main purpose is to draw tourists.

So, that doesn't...

Ms. Holt:

Food draws people.

Vice-chair Ford:

Another thing – I am recalling that every time we have an event, we see that the County has drinks and cupcakes, etc. Who pays for that?

Attorney Weiss:

There is an ordinance that the County Commission adopted in 2006 that is a miscellaneous expenditure ordinance which authorizes for general funds to be used for such purchases when a public purpose is served. The revenue source is obviously very different.

The Tourist Development Tax is very specific as to what you can use it for.

Ad Valorem taxes are not quite as specific. It has to serve a public purpose. However, there is not a statute that says exactly what a public purpose is or isn't. Typically, the governing body has a reasonable amount of discretion to declare something to be a public purpose.

In this case, the Tourist Development Tax Statute is very clear in terms of what is authorized with the use of these funds. We can't change that by saying that something is or isn't a public purpose.

Vice-Chair Ford:

I was just wondering if we could get the county to actually pay for this if they are authorized to spend money for food.

Attorney Weiss:

I think that is possible. It wouldn't be out of the Tourist Development Tax revenues. It would have to be out of the General Funds for the county to do it. But, I guess, potentially, you could do that.

Keith Dowdell:

Who establishes the definition of "public purpose?"

Attorney Weiss:

Public purpose, oh gosh, I don't know that there is a statutory definition, at least not that I am aware of. But, it is the governing body that will justify how the

public purpose is served in that instance. But again, what I am saying with respect to Tourist Development Tax revenue is that serving a public purpose is not the standard one must meet when spending Tourist Development Tax revenues. It is entirely different.

Keith Dowdell:

But, you just said that there is no set definition for public purpose.

Attorney Weiss:

But, that doesn't apply to Tourist Development Tax revenues. Tourist Development Tax revenue is very specific in terms of what is an authorized use. Meeting a public purpose definition or test (like it is with an Ad Valorem tax) is not specific to Statute that governs what you can use it (Tourist Development tax) for.

Keith Dowdell:

Let the county pay for it and be done with it.

Ms. Holt:

The kicker is this. I won't debate that one bit because I am always for it. But, if that is the case, that there is no true definition of a public purpose, then why is it that we don't get to hear that when the Clerk says, "I am not paying for that."

Attorney Weiss:

Because there is nothing in a state statute that I am aware of that says, "Here is everything under the sun that qualifies as a public purpose." There are statutes that do make that declaration (public purpose) and in those instances it is clearly stated. When there is nothing that says, "Yes, it is" or "No, it isn't", there are a lot of attorney general opinions that are written in response to questions from people who asked, "Does this qualify?" and the attorney general has said, "yes or no." Typically, you are going to follow the attorney general opinion when you ask about that specific thing. Otherwise, it is discretionary as long as it is within reason.

Ms. Holt:

I have heard a definite on that when we have had these disputes. As I said before the meeting, I have no problem taking the Clerk to Court. No problem at all. I have no problems suing the Clerk. I do have a problem with not doing what we are suppose to do to support this county. If this will get more people to support going to the lake or to Quincy or Havana or Chattahoochee or wherever, then that is what we need to do.

So, food, ladies and gentlemen would appear to be coming from the board. I

mean, requesting it from the manager first of all, and then getting her to use her discretionary authority. It looks like we will have to go that route.

But, I would like for you to see if there is anything going on with any other TDC to show how they are getting it, Olivia, if you will. See how they are getting these things done.

I can go to almost any hotel right now in Orlando and you've got the TDC sitting there saying, "Here are some free tickets for this. Go do that. Go see this." How do they do it? We just need to know.

Attorney Weiss:

That is a matter of whether it falls under the definition of promotion. The other thing, I think, is very important to remember is the tourism aspect of it. You see, the purpose has to be that you are getting people from outside the county at least to come into the county.

Ms. Holt:

Yeah, but, people outside the county eat.

Attorney Weiss:

I don't disagree.

Ms. Holt:

Alright, so that will, if you don't mind, Ms. Ford, that will be Olivia going back to the manager and then us buying next week.

Vice-chair Ford:

Will you repeat what we just decided on?

Ms. Olivia Smith:

You just decided that I would go to request from the county administrator funds to cover the excess amount people we are going to invite to Media Day. Based on what Crappie Masters tells us what they can do and how we can supplement it.

Vice-chair Ford:

Thank you.

Ms. Olivia Smith:

Also, out of that \$5,000, there is a certain media buy that I would like to make from the Tallahassee Democrat. People get a lot of impressions from such ads. There are also mobile ads that will pop up on your phone, computer, based on



where you live. They can draw a circle around a certain area. They have identified counties in Georgia to the north. Specifically in south Georgia to bring them down here.

Ms. Holt:

Excuse me, may I? We have the Congressional Delegation coming, so we are going to have to move along. Do we need to vote on this?

Ms. Olivia Smith:

Can we skip to the Marketing Plan, we need to vote on the marketing plan or else we can't use that money.

The marketing plan is for a total \$59,000. The biggest changes that have been made to this plan are the radio spots. I want to hear your feed- back on those. The other thing that I have let go of was the Southern Living Magazine ads that were not getting as much for our money.

Those are the two things that are different. The others have been altered a little bit, but, they are the same thing that 78 Madison has been doing throughout the year previously. That is the Facebook ad campaign, the promoted posts, the I outdoor campaign and the digital billboards and the geo fencing outdoor campaign during homecoming.

Vice-chair Ford:

I thought we had questions about the Facebook ads as well as the AAA Living Magazines for which we were not getting much return on.

Ms. Olivia Smith:

It was the Southern Living Magazines that were not as effective as the AAA Living magazine.

If you look at this sheet here on the second page, at the very bottom where it says, "Radio", now that is a drastic change. As far as anybody knows, 78 Madison has never paid for radio promotions. This is their intent here at the bottom. If we approve this today, they can take some of those funds and promote Crappie, which is what I would like. I don't necessarily feel like you need to spend as much money on radio ads as they have down here. They can always move that to another place. But, I would like to keep something there.

Jeff Dubree:

I am totally against any of the radio spending because we have a certain amount of money that goes to events, not Crappie Masters, but that is our signature event that we are funding amongst ourselves. When we give money to any other

event, those people come to us.

The majority of the money that they spend is on the local radio. I don't see how this local radio spends \$16,000 over the course of the year that will bring tourist into the county. It is putting too many eggs in one basket. If we are going to give \$20,000 - \$30,000 out to our events that are already going to be promoting via radio. Then in reading this media plan, - I know for instance, Norman Rockwell exhibit is already going to be on the radio. If the Art Center feels the exhibit is good enough to advertise, they already do radio ads. We will be doing radio and they will be doing radio. That will be the case on every event that we fund. We are duplicating radio coverage.

Ms. Olivia Smith:

I don't agree with using the marketing funds to promote the events that we fund separately - that they have to apply for. I think that here (which is why we are discussing is and to get your feed-back) I think that to use radio for Crappie Masters, our event, is fine. I don't agree with picking certain events to promote via radio using the marketing plan that we budget. They can use their funds that we award them to do it themselves. So, we can always take some money for radio. We don't have to spend as much. We can take half, but I just wanted to get your feedback.

Jeff Dubree:

I just don't see how running local radio ads is going to bring tourist to our county. They are already local people. They are not tourist unless you consider Tallahassee tourists, and they are technically, by Statute, a tourist. They are not in our county. They are not going to come and rent a hotel room here. They are not going to help us get our bed tax numbers up. They might come and spend the day. And that is important; I am not saying that it isn't. But, when we are only spending \$59,000 a year on marketing the county for tourism, to spend \$15,000 on local radio – to me, there are a lot wiser ways to spend it.

Ms. Holt:

You are saying out of the \$5,000, right? To spend for radio?

Ms. Olivia Smith:

No, Ma'am. Out of the total marketing budget for 78 Madison, we spend a portion of that for radio. It doesn't have to be \$16,000 or anything at all.

Ms. Holt:

I don't have a problem marketing a county sponsored event. If we are going to sponsor something, I want it marketed. If we choose it, we really want it to work. That is our signature event. If we don't put extra into it, it is going to flounder. It is just going to sit there and not really work. If it is enough to put our name on it,

I think we should work that.

Now, some of the other events, I can kind of see your point in that if we give them grant money to promote it, then we come back and promote it, too, it is double.

Vice-chair Ford:

Are you saying it is double dipping?

Ms. Holt:

But, I believe when we sponsor something as the Tourist Development Council, yes, we need to market to Tallahassee. Definitely. They are coming in and out of Tallahassee. There are a lot of people in Tallahassee that don't live in Tallahassee. They are there to go to school or go to work. I would love for that to be marketed. That is about 400,000 people that we have a chance at.

Ms. Olivia Smith:

If we approve this tonight, may I give them certain direction tonight to use certain radio stations as long as it is earmarked "radio?" May I give specific direction to use a different station?

Attorney Weiss:

Yes, I think that approval of this plan – the way that the contract is drafted with 78 Madison, there still has to be individual task orders for which was brought before you and approved. I don't think that approval of this plan is going to authorize him to make these expenditures without you having heard for approval. But, it is going to establish what he is planning to do and when. Then he will come to you with task orders for you to sign off on.

Vice-chair Ford:

We can do that tonight, can't we?

Separate the Plan from the budget and have each item approved. Can we move forward?

Attorney Weiss:

Yes, and that is the way that his contract is drafted already. It has to be approved by an individual task order. This plan by itself will not authorize him to make expenditures until he gets a task order.

Keith Dowdell:

But the other thing that she is asking tonight for us to approve is the \$65,000, correct?

Ms. Olivia Smith:  
\$59,000.

Attorney Weiss:

But, remember, that \$60,000 has been approved in your budget for marketing. So, you have \$60,000. This is basically establishing how to use that \$60,000. Again, it will be subjected to further approval by task order, but, this is going to be the road map that is used. It is not the last word. If you decide not to approve a task order, then, it is not approved.

Ms. Holt:

What are the radio stations that you want?

Ms. Olivia Smith:

I don't have a particular one in mind right now, but, I think we can go outside the local area.

Ms. Holt:

If we do not decide to spend \$60,000 – let's say we decide to spend \$40,000, Mr. Attorney, how would that affect this contract?

Attorney Weiss:

There is no impact. His contract basically consists of two parts. He has a monthly retainer amount that is basically like the creative side with which he is supposed to be coming up with ads and materials and those kinds of things. The other side of it is the media buys, which basically he has to get a separate task order approval for each media buy. So, it is just a matter of what – he still gets the retainer amount. He just won't get the profit from the media buy that he would otherwise get. That is up to you guys.

Jeff Dubree:

What is that monthly fee again?

Ms. Olivia Smith:

\$2,500.

Vice-chair Ford:

I think we need to lower that amount. We would like to lower that base amount.

Jeff Dubree:

I am still against the radio. I will not vote for the media plan with the radio. I can tell you that right now.

Ms. Holt:

Madam Chair, may I. It has to come back to you anyway with a task order.

Jeff Dubree:

The way the paragraph is written and the specific use of it is to promote a calendar of events. I don't see anything specific in there as to how radio would benefit us. We have one feature event that is next week. How quickly can you put a radio ad together and get it out there. The tournament is one week away.

Ms. Olivia Smith:

The script is already written. We just have to have it approved.

For this plan, you don't have to spend as much money on radio. You can just spend enough to promote the Crappie. Then have it – I don't know if you can change it or not.

Attorney Weiss:

You can change it to whatever form you want. If you decide you want to make changes to it and vote on it as changed that is fine. You can approve certain things and not approve certain things. Again the idea is that this is your roadmap to follow. We would like for it to be fairly final format, but, like I said, it will be subject to further approval with task orders.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. HOLT TO APPROVE THE PLAN UP TO \$50,000. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JEFF DUBREE TO APPROVE THE MEDIA PLAN, BUT, TO REDUCE THE RADIO FUNDING TO \$5,000 AND MOVE THE REMAINING MONEY FOR RADIO TO ONE OF THE OTHER CATEGORIES UNTIL IT CAN BE DECIDED AT A LATER DATE. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Discussion followed.

Keith Dowdell:

Look, let me do it. Let me prep this by saying that this task order here has to come back before us item by item. When it comes to us, whatever we don't approve, we don't have to spend the money. So, if we go ahead and approve the plan, when she comes back to us with a task order, if we don't want radio, we can take the radio out then. So, I make a motion that we approve this 78 Madison plan with the media marketing budget for FY 18/19.

Ms. Holt:

I second it.

Vice-chair Ford:

It has been moved and seconded that the 78 Madison Media Plan be approved.

Is there discussion?

Jeff Dubree:

All I would say to that would be that when he prepares a task order for us, you are going to be asking him, and him not knowing that we may not vote for radio. Maybe the rest of you would, so it may be a nonfactor. But, if he is going to put radio ads together and spend time of his \$2500 per month that we are already sending him, and focusing time on making radio ads that we may not approve, then it is a waste of time on his part. Even though we can disapprove it like your motion indicates. That is my only comment there.

Ms. Holt:

He is contracted, right? So, he is going to come back and ask for approval anyway. That is what he should do before he prepares an item. So, he should check with us.

Jeff Dubree:

I don't know what his procedure is. I don't know if he has already started putting the pieces into play and then presents it to us.

Ms. Olivia Smith:

He takes this and he plans throughout the year – you know, spring, fall, which is like some of the digital campaigns for different seasons. I give him the direction that you all give me.

Vice-chair Ford called for a vote.

**UPON MOTION BY MR. DOWDELL AND SECOND BY MS HOLT, THE COUNCIL VOTED 4 – 1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE 78 MADISON PLAN AND THE MEDIA BUDGET FOR 18/19 BUDGET. MR. DUBREE CAST THE LONE DISSENTING VOTE.**

Attorney Weiss:

Real quick. I know that at some point you mentioned that you wanted to use that remaining \$5,000. This is approval for 78 Madison. So, you need approval to use that 5,000 or up to \$5,000 for marketing promotion for the Crappie Tournament. Then you have direction on how they want to use that.

Ms. Olivia Smith:  
Is that in there somewhere?

Attorney Weiss:  
Well, yeah, it is already in there. So, I guess it is probably fine. But, if ya'll want to make a motion on that to approve it, then –

Ms. Holt:  
So moved.

Cathy Johnson:  
Second.

**UPON MOTION BY MS. HOLT AND SECOND BY MS. JOHNSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF UP TO \$5,000 WITH WHICH TO USE FOR MARKETING AND PROMOTION OF THE CRAPPIE MASTERS TOURNAMENT.**

4. **Discussion of Items from Council Members**

Ms. Holt reported that along with some others, she is helping to plan an activity for the survivors of Hurricane Michael. She asked the council members to be listening out for plans to have an event sponsored by the County that will help pull people together. She said some people are still having hard times. She suggested a festive activity so people could have a fun and relaxing time.

6. **THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE HE COUNCIL, THE VICE-CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED at 4:57 P.M.**

---

Vice-chair Carolyn Ford, presiding

Attest:

---

Nicholas Thomas, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2019 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-arrived late**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. **Rev. Gregory Houston, Pastor of St. Matthews Primitive Baptist Church** gave the Invocation and Chair Viegbesie led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was conducted by Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker and everyone was present with the exception of Commissioner Morgan and Chair Viegbesie informed everyone he was on his way.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Item 22 so she could get with the Clerk to come up with options.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood she has tried to make some effort to talk with the Clerk to resolve this matter. Mrs. Jackson said she put Option 1, which was Board direction and she was asked to come back with choices for the Board to vote on. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted clarification because the Clerk indicated at the last meeting he was waiting on Board direction before he could move on anything and she wanted to make sure they were not prolonging this item. Chair Viegbesie said his understanding from his conversation was the Clerk and the County Administrator should meet and determine the options to resolve this issue and that should come before the board to be voted up or down.

Mr. Thomas said he did not set the Administrator’s salary, this was a Board decision and should be between the County Administrator and the County Attorney to come up with something for the Board to approve and then Finance will follow Board direction.

Commissioner Hinson concurred with what the Clerk said and felt they should move forward and get this out of the way tonight. He said he had questions also.

Commissioner Holt said they needed some type of agreement to vote on and they need to wait until there was documentation before them. Chair Viegbesie said if someone made a motion it had to be included in this Agenda but currently there were no options for them to vote up or down or to modify.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THEY HAVE FURTHER DOCUMENTATION TO VOTE ON AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE.**



**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION DIED BECAUSE OF THE TIE.**

Commissioner Hinson said he gave direction six weeks ago to the County Administrator to bring in the Resource Officer contract and asked if that could go on the Agenda so it could be discussed. Chair Viegbesie said he understood the sense of urgency but if they discuss this and it was not agendaed, the public would not have a chance to speak.

Commissioner Holt said in order for them to discuss it, they needed to have people from the School Board and the Sheriff's Department present.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to get the ball rolling first. Chair Viegbesie suggested he wait until Commissioner Comments and bring it up at that point.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Plaque Presentation**

**Ken Moneghan, Florida Association of Counties Trust**, appeared before the Board for a brief presentation. He said Gadsden County has been a member of the program since 1989 and was owned and managed by the members of the program. He said the program and the Board was constantly looking at the services and coverages provided to the member counties and were updating as things evolve or change. A plaque was then presented to the Board.

*Commissioner Morgan arrived at 6:18 p.m.*

**2. Recognition of Latresha Peters**

The Board presented Latresha Knox with a Resolution where it was read into the record and then they posed for pictures.

**3. Recognition of Vanessa Betsey**

The Board presented Vanessa Betsey with a Resolution where it was read into the record and they posed for pictures.

**4. Recognition of Major Barkley and the Gadsden County Jail Staff, the Honorable Judge Hobbs, the Honorable Judge Garner and Public Defender Daniel Hogan for their Efforts in Maintaining Low Inmate Population at the Gadsden County Jail**

Commissioner Taylor said they were summoned to the Jail to be informed the Jail was at its lowest population and was below 100 in more than three decades.

Major Barkley had a few words to say and the Resolution was presented to them and pictures were taken.

Judge Barbara Hobbs was presented with a Resolution, had a few words to say and pictures were taken.

Representatives from the Public Defenders' Office appeared and was presented with a Resolution and pictures were taken.

Tameka Chaney appeared before the Board and was presented with a Resolution and pictures were taken.

Chair Viegbesie said he would like to include an update on the Stevens School after the hurricane update.

#### **5. Lobbying Presentation**

Ronald Brisé appeared before the Board and gave a presentation on behalf of the Gunster Lobbying Firm.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:47 p.m.*

He mentioned some of his team members said they bring a team approach to the table to representation. He said they would be working with each of the municipalities to serve their priorities. He said they would also partner with the County to make Gadsden Day at the Capitol a success.

*Commissioner Taylor returned 6:51 p.m.*

He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Commissioner Taylor said she was glad to meet them and their references came very high. She asked questions about the new Governor and their relationship.

Mr. Brisé said George Lemieux, their Chairman of the Board of Directors and used to be Chief of Staff for Governor Charlie Crist, was on the transition team and helped and was still helping to shape who would be where within the administration of the current Governor. He said there was a current and active relationship with the current administration. She then asked if they were looking at stronger possibilities this year due to Hurricane Michael or were they at the mercy of the Governor and did he know where he was with vetoing various. Mr. Brisé said as far as the overall budget, it was \$91.3 Billion that he has projected as part of his spending plan for this year. He said they believe the Governor was interested in water, education and in the environment. projects several things Governor interested in-non-traditional approach, supporting infrastructure

Lila Jaber appeared before the Board to address some of Commissioner Taylor's questions. She said they have relationships throughout State Government but important to the Board, they exercise discretion in how they use the relationships and earn their cases on the merits. She said it was their goal to know the County's priorities really well and to know Gadsden County so they could help with the narrative and put their best foot forward. She felt it was also critical that she mention they had agency relationships so when they start looking at appropriations and funding, they have the ability to go to the Department of Environmental Protection as it relates to the water and wastewater projects and to the Department of Economic Opportunity as it relates to the incentive packages and making sure there are champions throughout State Government on behalf of their clients.

Commissioner Hinson disclosed they were at the Sapphire Review a couple of years ago (Economic Development conference) and they talked.

**6. Hurricane Michael Debris Pick-Up Update**

Mrs. Jackson said the next item was the Hurricane Michael Debris pick-up and January 20<sup>th</sup> was the last date for citizens on public roads to put their debris curbside but D & J still have trucks rolling. She said last week they have begun pick-up on private roads and still getting demolition debris.

Chair Viegbesie said he had noticed debris piles on the public right-of-way and was there before they started picking up and asked if they would eventually be picked up. She asked that he provide her with addresses and she would make sure. She said after a road was cleared after January 20<sup>th</sup>, they would not be back down that road.

Commissioner Morgan asked what will they do with debris in the public right of way that was put out after pickup. Mrs. Jackson said if it is not too much, there was a possibility the Public Works might assist. She said it has been well advertised of the approaching deadline. Commissioner Morgan asked the plan to remove debris and would there be a penalty. Mrs. Jackson said previously they had certain times that it would be picked up but they would be picking it up for a short time and had not put that schedule together. She said they would be compensated for all the debris they pick-up through Public Works by FEMA but they were only working with D & J for now.

Commissioner Holt said she and Mrs. Jackson had spoken earlier with people of Emergency Management and did not know if they needed to put in another request because several people could not afford to get debris to the road and they need to sit as a Board to look at this. She said if they look at the debris they have, is there a place it can be taken or would it go to the same site the County does it and if taken to the same site that the debris company takes it to, would the equipment be there to mulch it. She said if they were looking at doing the debris by the County, they did not have the personnel to do their regular job and get the debris. She requested a workshop on this matter.

Mrs. Jackson said with citizens that had not been able to get debris curbside, she has been approached by several volunteer groups that were willing to assist and asked that they contact the County Administrator's Office for assistance at 850-875-8650.

**6a Update on Stevens School**

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Taylor and others had been requesting information on the Stevens School project and since 2008 she had been working with Mrs. Ford and others on getting funding and they were awarded \$500,000, and the school burned and was unable to get the funding. She said Senator Montford and Representative Alexander were here Monday and they were interested in the project. She said they were requesting \$500,000 from the Legislature. She said Senator Montford and Representative Alexander told them \$500,000 was not enough money. She said they thought that during the disaster recovery they could get funding now and had to be in last Friday. She said the Friends of Stevens School had an emergency meeting and they were asked to present and raise the amount of money, got with the County Engineer and had plans drawn up.

Chair Viegbesie suggested this be discussed during the regular meeting and Commissioner Holt said Mrs. Ford had more contact with Florida A & M and she appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan asked where they were on the Agenda and Chair Viegbesie said he had asked to add this at the start of the meeting.

Mrs. Ford said FAMU wants a full partnership with Gadsden County and especially with the School of Architecture and with the School of Science and Research Institute.

Chair Viegbesie asked it to be added to the next agenda.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not made aware of a meeting and there was a collection of people speaking on this project and felt especially the Commissioner from the District should have been made aware of this.

### **CONSENT**

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

- 7. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP**
- 8. Approval and Signature for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien SHIP**
- 9. Ratification Memo**
- 10. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. December 4, 2018-Regular Meeting**
  - b. December 18, 2018-Regular Meeting**

### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**11. Approval of Resolution No. 2019-001 Amending the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2019-001 and adoption of the SHIP Conflict of Interest Policy.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND THEN WITHDREW HER MOTION.**

Mr. Weiss said there were a few typos, clerical errors and the policy was not as clear maybe as it ought to have been so a few changes were made to it and the item that replaces it was placed at the dais.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this should be tabled and brought back later.

Mr. Weiss said it was just a form, the substance of the document did not change, and he only corrected typos.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt it would be helpful to the public to explain what they were doing here.

Mrs. Jackson said this item had been before them before, and was for Board approval of Resolution 2019-001 and adoption of the SHIP Conflict of Interest Policy. She said it was approved at the last meeting and the Conflict of Interest form was not there and Purvis Gray thought there needed to be one for all applicants.

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

**12. Hurricane Recovery Housing Initiatives SHIP Grant Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was requested by Commissioner Taylor at the last meeting to clarify the allocation of the \$201,500. Mrs. Jackson said as stated previously, the dollars are for emergency repairs for Hurricane Michael.

**Suzanne K. Lex, AICP, Growth Management Director**, appeared before Board. She said the State set aside approximately \$5 Million for disaster related recovery efforts, and based upon population and the category level within the disaster, Gadsden County was allocated \$201,500 in addition to the annual SHIP allocation. She said these funds could be used to assist recovery efforts for victims of the disaster for repair and rehabilitation and must meet the same criteria that were set forth on the County's LHAP and SHIP guidelines regarding income and eligibility.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this could be broken down and explained in detail.

Ms. Lex said SHIP was the State Housing Initiative Program that was run by the State and Gadsden County receives an annual allocation of around \$350,000. She said there was certain criteria in the way the County must spend the money in terms of income, eligibility and was set forth in the Housing Plan, which was the LHAP Housing Plan. She said at this time, any money they had unspent from previous years, and clarified that after an audit there were suggestions made for ways to improve the Housing Plan and to insure the program met all State and Federal guidelines. She said they did revisions as recommended by the Auditor and this money at that time was not spent. She said that once they were approved with the revisions, State granted them to be able to take those remaining funds and use them also for disaster recovery. She said they were currently accepting applications, have put it on the website, have made announcements and was their second round of applications for disaster recovery rehabilitation and repair.

Chair Viegbesie suggested one way to get the qualifying criteria out is mail to the churches and let them pass the information on to the members.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed in past with the qualifications, could a person apply that lives within the city limits and Ms. Lex said yes. Commissioner Hinson then asked for her contact information and it 850-875-7591 or she can be emailed at [slex@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:slex@gadsdencountyfl.gov).

Commissioner Taylor asked if there were previous years where the money had not been spent and she said yes. She asked if those dollars could now be put in a pool and used for emergency housing. Ms. Lex said for disaster related rehabilitation and repairs. She said that item was brought before the Board for approval and the Housing Plan was amended for the ability to take those funds now and use them. Commissioner Taylor asked the total amount of the budget and Ms. Lex said approximately \$800,000-\$900,000; there were some projects they have committed to and they were put some bids out.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the people that were on the list that was kind of approved, was she saying that waiting list would become null and void because they were now looking ones that were damaged by the hurricane. Ms. Lex said they were finding that most that had a need before Hurricane Michael have a greater need now.

Commissioner Taylor asked about mobile homes that were damaged and said there were homes that was damaged before, homes that was damaged during and after the hurricane and asked if they were looking at new houses or what was on the list or a combination.

Ms. Lex said they would be looking at a combination; they were finding people on the list that still had a need and an even greater need after the hurricane. She also clarified in their Housing Plan that they approved, mobile homes were not eligible and was specifically stated.

Chair Viegbesie said to let Ms. Lex send information to the Commissioners and then this could be agendaed and discussed at a later date.

Commissioner Morgan asked how they were determining whether the damages were due to the hurricane and she said due to existing requests, they already have a list and have a professional consultant that was part of this program that was a Home Inspection Specialist and was trained and can identify lack of maintenance versus new damage.

Commissioner Holt wanted it clear that they (the Commissioners) did not select the houses, the Staff would.

**13. Approval of Appointments/Reappointments to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the appointment/reappointments for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

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

Mr. Weiss asked if they needed to appoint a member from this Board as well and Commissioner Morgan said he thought Option 1 included the reappointment of Commissioner Holt. Commissioner Taylor said this item only talked about Commissioner Goldwire.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was only for Ms. Goldwire. Mrs. Jackson said she understood that the terms were not up for the other members.

**14. Appointments to the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint Mr. Stan James as Commissioner Gene Morgan's representative to serve on the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated Mr. James for agreeing to serve on this Board and thanked Mr. Harold Bailey for serving.

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

Commissioner Hinson said there are members on that Board that are not showing up and they are unable to form a quorum and hard for them to make a vote. Mrs. Jackson explained there was a meeting earlier today and there was a quorum and it was discussed they wanted to change their meeting to an afternoon.

Commissioner Morgan called for point of order.

Commissioner Hinson asked that an email be sent to all the Board concerning the meetings.

Chair Viegbesie asked that he hold that comment until the County Administrator Updates.

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

**15. Little Sycamore Road SCRAP-CEI Contract**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute the agreement with David H. Melvin, Inc. to provide Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services for the DFOT funded Little Sycamore Road SCRAP project in the amount of \$108,652.50.

Commissioner Taylor asked how much more they were going to do for Sycamore Road. Mrs. Jackson said it was the same project, just different phases.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board to address Commissioner Taylor's concerns. He said it was designed a year ago and then delays with FDOT and after tonight it should be the end of it.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1.**

Mr. Weiss said this was approved in December and understand they approved a certain amount for CEI services and the amount was not sufficient and it went back to DOT for an additional amount and he wanted them to approve the revised item that was before them that he drafted instead of the one drafted by the contractor.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was any substantive difference and he said yes. He explained what was in the book is the contract proposed by the vendor. He added he was unsure as to why the contract he drafted that they approved in December was not used and was why it was before them and what he suggested they consider.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator when she received the contract that the attorney drafted

that was not included in the Agenda and they have one prepared by the vendor that was included.

She said she was unsure if it was today or the day before and Mr. Weiss said it was November, but with a different number.

Commissioner Hinson asked for an explanation from the Administrator as to why she did not use what they voted on. She said she was not sure she understood. The one before them was just revised either today or yesterday and Commissioner Hinson said it was approved in December. Mr. Weiss explained the contract was the same that was approved by them in December except that the compensation was less on that contract and his understanding when it went to the contractor the amount was not sufficient because there was not a sufficient amount in the budget from DOT and had to be renegotiated and was shy it was back before them. Commissioner Hinson asked the reason because the majority of what she sends out had to go through the attorney before coming to the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said option 1 was to approve the agreement with the negotiated fee proposal and the way he took it was it was the same proposal they had with the increased amount of money that was settled on as the appropriate amount of money, was approved and paid through FDOT. Mr. Weiss said that was correct. Commissioner Morgan asked the issue with approving Option 1. Mr. Weiss said the contract currently attached to their Agenda Item was the contractors' proposed contract whereas the contract they previously approved with a lower number for compensation was the contract he drafted in December. Commissioner Morgan said he was still unclear on the differences and that was neither here nor there; if the attorney tells them to approve what was before them, that is how he would amend his motion to approve this based on the agreement drawn up by the attorney with the current numbers to be paid by FDOT.

Commissioner Holt said she would amend her second. He further stated that this was the item she was going to bring up under Commissioner comments. The Agenda is out two weeks ahead of time and if it had any alterations, it should have already been emailed to them. She said she had down for the attorney to make sure the agenda items with any alterations were given to them before the meeting and it is on the website. She asked the differences in the two contracts. He said for one thing the one on the dais incorporates their request for proposals as well as the grant agreement and holds the contractor to the terms of those documents, which he felt was very important; also includes various protections for the County; a lot of things required under SCRAP agreements; are liability provisions, indemnification and hold harmless provisions. Commissioner Holt asked if there was any communication between him and the Contractor about the changes and he said no, this was approved by them in December.

**Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering**, appeared before the Board. He said they were the ones that provided the proposal; went through negotiations with Staff and provided a proposal. He said the form of agreement that the attorney has, they could look at tomorrow and sign it and everything will be fine. They just provided their standard proposal that they provide for every other CEI project they do across the panhandle of Florida. He said if there was an agreement that the Attorney wanted to use, they could look it over and be happy to sign, he was sure. Commissioner Holt said they approved this in December. She asked if he saw the contract they approved and he said he had not seen the contract he was talking about. Commissioner Holt said to the attorney, when he looks over, they expect him to hash that out because they don't know the terminology of everything in the contract and the requirements.



Mr. Weiss said he respectfully disagreed with that. Obviously he represented the County and his communication goes thru Administrator; if he is not made aware of or a contract is not forwarded to him, he had no idea it exists; if not asked to review something or communicate with someone, he had no reason to do so. Commissioner Holt said she was not debating that; when he saw the item in the Agenda, did he not think he had not had a chance to look over and send communication to the Manager. He said yes. Commissioner Holt asked if the Manager received it and she said yes, it was either today or yesterday. Commissioner Holt said the item was out for two weeks and was why they were sitting there debating something in a public meeting that could have been taken care of by email.

Chair Viegbesie said if there was that kind of discrepancy between the attorney and administrator, that was something that could have been pulled and re-agenda the item. He said why not approve this item contingent on the revised version of the contract.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the discussion but was not sure there was a two week window for the attorney to review items. He said there was obviously a mix-up in the agreements and appreciated the candidness and the attorney setting them straight. He felt they should approve the previous document approved with the updated figures contingent upon the Contractor signing off on it.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN RESCINDED HIS MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT RESCINDED HER SECOND.**

Commissioner Taylor said the Contractor had not seen the contract and did not know the terms and to move forward without Melvin having chance to review the contract was asinine. She said there had been some blunders here, they were not pointing fingers and maybe they should table this item and bring back on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Morgan mentioned the information was the same contract previously approved with the exception of new numbers and his motion was contingent upon Melvin reviewing the contract.

Mr. Weiss said this could be approved by the Board and then would need to be approved by the contractor.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT APPROVED BY THE ATTORNEY CONTINGENT UPON MELVIN ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Little Sycamore Road SCRAP-Amendment to Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an amendment to the original SCOP agreement and associated Resolution to reduce the available budget for the widening and resurfacing of Little Sycamore Road by \$244,164.00.

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

**17. Adopt-A-Road Program**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board discussion of the Gadsden County Adopt-A-Road Program.

Chair Viegbesie said they need to discuss how they were going to implement this program and with this Program, families and churches can adopt a road and pick up trash.

Commissioner Holt wanted to know from the Administrator if there was a certain department someone should call if they wanted to adopt a road and Mrs. Jackson said Public Works.

Commissioner Morgan said they had half dozen roads in place now and asked how it was working and was told it was working pretty good. Commissioner Morgan said it seems to dissipate and asked how they could keep people involved and strapped from a financial standpoint.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED WHAT THEY WERE APPROVING AND MRS. JACKSON SAID TO BRING BACK.**

**18. Waiver of Interlocal Agreement Fees**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to waive the charges for permit review and inspection services between Gadsden County and the six municipalities.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator, after reading the options, were they asking for a contractual fee waiver from some municipalities and was there some that were already getting fee waivers and if there have been, why it was not waived all this while. Mrs. Jackson said she was not sure how three received services without an Interlocal Agreement. Chair Viegbesie asked how some were getting waived and some not.

Mr. Weiss said this was a matter of waiving the building permit fees that were not collected because they were waiving them.

**Suzanne Lex, AICP, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board. She said the Cities they had an agreement with have followed the direction of the Board and were not charging for permit fees for any hurricane related work. For the three they have an Interlocal Agreement with, that Agreement still stands and the County still wants their money every month and they are asking for the County to consider that since they are not collecting money, would be also consider giving a waiver for those same 6 months that we waived our building permit fees of this agreement. With the municipalities with no agreement, the citizens come directly to the County and receive no services from the municipalities.

Commissioner Holt said she knew she was new in the County and asked with three under contract and three not, which worked better. Ms. Lex said it was what the local municipality had the capacity for. They were servicing the customers and each city had a different way of doing it and was the direction they wanted to go.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out 8:35 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking and it said the County will not receive revenue for

services from the municipalities in Interlocal Agreement until April 12, 2019.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:36 p.m.*

Mrs. Jackson said the fiscal impact for all the fees being waived.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 8:37 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson asked what the ball-park figure was and Ms. Lex said she would have to calculate the numbers. Commissioner Hinson said they have missed approximately \$27,000 in fees.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:39 p.m.*

Ms. Lex said they will be cataloging permits granted and no fees were charged and what was missed; through a grant a staff person will assist the building department and that was one of the hobs they will be tasked with.

Commissioner Holt said to Commissioner Hinson he was correct, she heard that also from an individual. Gretna, Midway and Quincy were paying; Havana, Chattahoochee and Greensboro were not paying, and everything was balanced, they may have their own permitting department.

Commissioner Morgan said the original intent of waiving fees was to help citizens; they could not help what contractors do if they charge or not charge. All they can do is put the policy in place for the benefit of citizens.

Commissioner Holt said notice has to be sent out to those cities, they have to do the right thing to waive fees for those three cities and should fees should not be passed onto citizens.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Attorney could look into it where they could talk to the contractors at some capacity because you don't want the citizens robbed.

Commissioner Taylor said they agreed to waive the fee until April 12, after that date would the three municipalities enter into an Interlocal Agreement. The individuals will come directly to the County and pull their own permits. Commissioner Taylor asked what was being waived because they were waiving three anyway, no; when they agreed to waiving fees, thought it was specific was for anyone that received damages from hurricane Michael. They did waive fees for all citizens requesting permits.

Mrs. Jackson said the municipalities were asking that they not be charged because the County was not charging.

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

**19. Reinstatement of Building Permit Fees**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction on whether the permit fee waiver was applicable to all structures.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought if they did not stick to a simple waiver of fees, there will be confusion.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Morgan.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE OPTION 2 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**20. Award of Bid No. 18-18 for Security Guard Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid No. 18-18 to provide Security Guard services for the Edward J. Butler Government Complex; Social Security Office at the Gadsden County Health Department and the Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee Libraries.

Commissioner Hinson said they need a recommendation from the County Administrator first and Mrs. Jackson said there were three bidders and a 20 cent difference in rates. Even though the lowest bidder was in Miami and the two other companies were local, even though they were higher, they did not have to go with the lowest bid because it was not a commodity, it was a service. Mr. Weiss said he understood a solicitation was issued and was based on price, did not matter if commodity or service. They were looking at the invitation to bid and had to show they were qualified to provide the service once that was done, everyone is in the same boat and they have to take the lowest price. He said they were required to take the lowest bid under their procurement policy. He said they don't have a local preference in their Procurement Policy and they cannot use that. If they had additional criteria that were legitimate, then they could evaluate it based on more criteria that was in their (inaudible).

Chair Viegbesie said he saw the Administrator gave them option 3 and his question was, did all three vendors meet all of the qualifications needed to provide the services and she said yes. He said as an economist, 20 cents was the difference between the local and one that was further south; 20 cent would create jobs for those local if that was the one they went with and felt it was worth more than 20 cents difference and if there was no specific recommendation from the Administrator, in looking at those and other positive impacts that keeping it local would have in the community, for 20 cents, he would lean towards IFW Security that was local in Quincy.

Mr. Weiss said their Procurement Policy said they have to use the lowest bid.

Commissioner Morgan said the contract provides for a 30 day standard out clause built into that for termination. He then said the only other option was to award or reject all bids.

Commissioner Hinson said just somethings he saw that they should add and thought they should reject all bids.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked when their contract would run out and Mrs. Jackson said they have been doing month to month with IFW and Barkley Security.

Commissioner Taylor disclosed that one reached out to her and she said stated she could not state a position.

Commissioner Hinson said he needed to disclose he had two reach out as well and told them the same thing.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED IF THEY HAD TO HAVE GROUNDS TO REJECT BIDS AND THE ATTORNEY SAID IT WAS PRETTY BROAD. COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF THE ITEMS HE WANTED TO ADDRESS IN THE QUALIFICATIONS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE TO REJECT THE BIDS.**

**21. Appointments to the Tourist Development Council**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for appointment of two citizens to the Tourist Development Council for staggered terms if four years.

Mr. Weiss explained they currently have two tax collectors and both could be tax collectors but one must be a tax collector.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT NICK BHACKTA AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS APPOINTMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson nominated Anthony Lombardo and Commissioner Taylor made the second.

Commissioner Holt nominated Penny O'Connell and Chair Viegbesie made the second. Commissioner Morgan asked if a second was necessary and then asked if the nomination met the requirements. Mr. Weiss said it appeared they did.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she looked at Ms. O'Connell, she works for the Gadsden County Times and should help promote tourism for the County. Commissioner Hinson said he felt they should have a space for a media person on Board and maybe they could add another space. He was told they could not do that.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE FOR ANTHONY LOMBARDO.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>NO</b>

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR NOMINATED PENNY O'CONNELL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS NOMINATION.**

**22. Reimbursement of Overtime Pay**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of reimbursement of the overtime funds paid to the County Administrator after Hurricane Michael.

Commissioner Morgan recommended since there were no specific choices or options to consider, letting the County Administrator speak with the Chair with two viable options she can live with and then he could discuss it with Clerk and then bring back to the Board for them to consider from that point. He said if that was agreed upon, he would motion to table the item until that point.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said they may want to include, whole idea tonight was to get directions from the Board so the Clerk would have specifics given so they could document. She said Commissioner Morgan has directed the Chair to speak with the Administrator and come up with a couple of options and hoped the Chair would also speak with the Clerk also. She said it had to be agreed upon on all terms. She said she wanted to make sure that the Clerk was in agreement and wanted it on the 19<sup>th</sup> Agenda if possible.

Chair Viegbesie said that was the direction on how they could get to the bottom and get this item resolved.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING TO ENABLE THE CHAIR TO MEET WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO COME UP WITH TWO OPTIONS FOR REPAYMENT AND THE CHAIR TO MEET WITH THE CLERK TO DISCUSS THE REPAYMENT PLAN AND UPON ACCEPTANCE OF THE CLERK TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**23. Updates**

Mr. Thomas said it had been a long night. He said there were a few things felt left hanging as it related to money and the Indigent Tax. But first the Discretionary Sales Tax, he said they passed a budget in which there was a distribution of 1/3, 1/3, and 1/3 of the tax. He said an Ordinance was presented to them to codify that and they either tabled or did not pass it and puts them in a difficult position. He said they were going to put one-third in the EMS fund for the Ambulance, they did not budget a General Fund transfer and started the fiscal year with the Ambulance fund with \$250,000 negative cash. He said from Finance's perspective, a budget is a legal document, there is a negative cash situation. He said they have to start or he will have to come to them to do something immediately. He said they could start putting one-third in the EMS fund; they were still about \$22,000 negative cash. He said the Collections were off to a slow start but has improved significantly. He said he believed if the projectory continues, the collections may be enough in the future to almost sustain the operations.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out 9:27 p.m.*

He said if they were not going to carry this out, they need to let Finance know. He said they were recommending they pass the one-third, one-third, one-third Ordinance for one year only and if the projections work out with collections being up, and may have a nice fund balance. He said that also during the budget process, it was mentioned there was over \$1.2 Million in the Fire fund and in the 2019 budget they appropriated \$942,000 of that. He said once the money is spent, in the future, they will need to go back to one-half, one-half. He said for this fiscal year he thought they

needed to do one-third, one-third, one-third. He said based on the size with the ambulance collections, that would be significantly improved and they may not need funds from the Discretionary Sales tax.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 9:30 p.m.*

### **Indigent Sales Tax**

He said he knew they were supposed to meet with the Hospital Board and they have proposed to give back money they are receiving, and based on what he just told them about the Ambulance service, they may not need that money. He said in addition, the voters thought that money was to go to the Hospital anyway and if they allow CRMC to give that money back, it may take away any incentive or pressure on them to expand services to indigent patients. He continued and said about five years ago when they extended the contract, there was a slight negotiation on dividends and interest from the Trust. He said that change was made five years ago and now they have \$1.23 Million that can be used toward future build-out of the hospital. He said this money could only be used for hospital, major repairs, potential build-out, and equipment.

### **Paving Fund**

He said there had not been much paving the last fiscal year and they still have remaining \$1.20 Million in the fund and were still paying a debt service on the money. He said there was another proposed Ordinance, on the Emergency Repair Ordinance, all the Clerk's office wanted and felt the County needed was a Statement of Public Purpose to use those funds for that reason to protect the Board in the event it was ever challenged and it was up to the Board to decide the procedures. He said they felt upon further review whenever there were issues and questions about the authority to spend money; it was safer to go with the Ordinance.

He said they talked about the General Fund Balance so much and did not want to harp on it, for the record they knew it was down about \$3 Million since its peak about five years ago. It said it could easily be reversed through conservative revenue numbers, not appropriating Fund Balance by building their budget on 95% of revenue. He said if they did that, their General Fund Balance would automatically go up.

Chair Viegbesie thanked him and said they were given quite a bit of information that they needed to digest to make them more fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Holt asked if he would be willing to sit down in a workshop and he said yes.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **24. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson gave praises to Staff and said they were moving and shaking in a lot of areas; she was proud of collections of EMS and said morale was high at that Department.

She said there were some changes made in Public Works, Interim is Fredigas McNealy and Allen Meeks is in charge of Fleet and Facilities.

She said they were saving money like never before.

She said there was a request for a Proclamation for Florida Economic Development Week and was requested by Beth Kirkland for February 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Mrs. Jackson said Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> is Media day for the Crappie Tournament and the tournament will be February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup> is the Senior Services workshop, a joint meeting with BOCC at 4:30 in Commission Chambers.

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. is the Private Road Workshop.

She said the March 5<sup>th</sup> BOCC meeting is cancelled due to the NACo Annual Conference.

March 20<sup>th</sup> is Gadsden County Day at the Capitol, more information will be forthcoming but asked they plan to spend day and there will be a Reception that night.

She said insurance dollars were coming in apparently because they have over 100 active permits. She said they have two fulltime building officials; 1 electrical inspector; 1 part-time building official that is inspecting; and some additional staff given to them from CareerSource Capital Region. She said they received a grant to put displaced people due to hurricane Michael to work.

They are currently advertising for the Assistant County Administrator position, have the Public works Director position and the Building Official position close this week and interviews will be done next week and will be making a hire.

Commissioner Holt said she will not be attending the NACo Conference.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **25. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he was glad the Clerk brought up issues about the Hospital and thought they would be moving forward and will be meeting with the Clerk.

He said he appreciate and share frustration with changes made to contracts and policies after publication, he did not mean to point fingers and want to make sure there is a good working relationship with the Administrator. He said he will get together with her.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were going to look at any changes with the CRMC contract, will there be time to do so before the deadline. He said if they do not send notice of non-renewal by May 30th, it will automatically renew. Commissioner Holt said they need to have workshop regarding this matter. Commissioner Holt said they met in November and it was now February and Mr. Glazer had not gotten back with the Board yet.



Commissioner Morgan said he thought Mr. Glazer has been in meetings and was progressing regarding this matter.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for their five hour patience.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 9:48 p.m.*

He said they had approximately twenty-two items on the Agenda in addition to some that were added.

##### **Resource Officers**

He said two or three meetings ago he asked this be brought up and Board agreed but it had not yet been placed on the Agenda. He said at the next meeting he was requesting it be placed on the Agenda and have the Superintendent (or his staff) and the Sheriff present. He said there were three schools that have no resource officer.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not think that could easily go on next agenda and asked what action the Commissioner wanted. Commissioner Hinson said the proposal was sent to the County Administrator on November 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator to make sure that item was on the February 19<sup>th</sup> Agenda. Chair Viegbesie also asked Commissioner Hinson to speak with the Administrator regarding the action options and Commissioner Hinson said the Sheriff had done that, all she had to do was look at the email. Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator why the information had not been shared with the Commissioners if she had received it. She responded that she does not remember receiving the information but had heard him ask for an item. She said the only information she had received was from the Sheriff Association's attorney stating it was not the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office to provide resource officers at the school. She said she had no problem in bringing back an Agenda item; she just needed to know the options to place on the item.

##### **Homeless Facility**

He said he knew they were strapped for cash but could they have dialogue and at least talk about it and discuss it.

##### **Brickyard Road and High Bridge Road**

He said there have been several deaths the last few years and know the roads would qualify for grants.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board and said they requested DOT approximately four years ago and was selected for funding by DOT and was currently being designed by DOT and was being done in-house. He said the design was underway and was probably close to 90% complete. He said he met with DOT last week and that project came up and was his understanding that the construction component was moving forward in August of this year but was 100% in DOT's hands.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly, he looked at the road projects and the PD&E was almost completed.

He said as of now, the County had two full-time Building inspectors and Mrs. Jackson said there were two full-time inspectors, one part-time; one part-time electrical inspector and two more permit techs. Commissioner Hinson asked if they were full-time and worked for the County and Mrs. Jackson said contractors.

He said they needed to figure out a way to bring the Summer Youth jobs back.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 10:02 p.m.*

He said to him it was a reinvestment back into the community.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 10:03 p.m.*

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she was told by a contractor that another utility company was helping to remove trees off homes and thought they should reach out to the utility company to see if they could be of help. She asked the Administrator to speak with Talquin concerning this matter.

She said she has been talking with people about having a Post Hurricane Michael event and has talked with City of Quincy about using the Amphitheater and have it open to the public. She said maybe some businesses or companies might want to sponsor it.

Chair Viegbesie said if the next agenda was not too long, maybe it could be added for discussion only.

She said she checked with other Counties and checked with the Association of Counties and asked how they handled hourly and salaried employees in Administration during disasters and emergencies and was told some pay them.

She said she asked the Veterans Director if there was something the VA was doing to help veterans during the hurricane and asked the Administrator to look into that.

She said she wanted them to go back to people answering the phones and not use the automated service.

Chair Viegbesie said on the automated phone service, he differed with her, everywhere was using that now.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said they were told by the Administrator they have full-time inspectors and that was not a true statement; they have contractual inspectors. Mrs. Jackson said they have contractual inspectors that are working eight hour days. Commissioner Taylor asked who

approved the contract, did it come before Board. Mrs. Jackson said she spoke with the attorney, and when it concerns the Building Official position, they do not have a Building Department without someone with a Building Official license and to that extent there was a provision in their policy where in an emergency, procurement can happen and this was the only company that could do it with the notice they had. She said it would come before the Board at the next meeting, there was not an Agenda item ready for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to make sure the information she was sharing with the Board was clear and concise otherwise it was considered insubordination when saying they have full-time employees and actually have contractual services as there was a difference.

Commissioner Taylor asked if anyone at Public Works was LAP certified. Justin Ford reappeared before the Board and said people were not certified, the Counties were. Commissioner Taylor said she was told because of the LAP certifications they would not be able to get funding and wanted clarification.

Sand

She said she understood there was a hold on dirt. **Fredigas McNealy, Interim Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board and said there was a waiting list on ditch dirt that went back to 2013.

Commissioner Taylor said they went through an embarrassing moment tonight because of lack of communication; even though the contract was not in the packet, the contract was on the dais, and they approved a contract where the company had yet to see it. It could have waited a couple of weeks to let the company look at it. She said it did not look good and was not professional.

She said she heard about all the contracts and hiring but there was not enough funding to give 70 children jobs during the summer but they were hiring 2 ½ contractors when they usually have 1 or 2, the secretaries have secretaries; two or three raises being given in the middle of the year and she thought the Clerk sent that.

Mrs. Jackson said no, she sent that also, she said she did a Public Records Request and there were not raises.

Commissioner Taylor said if they were being told there was an issue on funding, why is there not a moratorium on hiring. She said the Chair said at one meeting they were only replacing positions or people in positions that were let go and that was not quite true, she said positions were being hired outside of what was being let go.

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

Chair Viegbesie said it had been a long night.

Chair Viegbesie said there were going to be events and days he may not be present as Chair and will be reaching put through the Administrator for her to chair.

He asked for two Resolutions; one to congratulate Mt. Hosea Missionary Baptist Church on their 100<sup>th</sup> year.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR MT. HOSEA MISSIONARY BAPTIST**

**CHURCH AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNER SONYA HINES-HALL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 10:25 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said she was happy to call the County and get a response, just wanted to make sure to get a response.

She said the event she mentioned was a fundraiser event to help people and this Board should be pro-active to help people in these events.

**Receipt and File**

**27. January 10, 2019 Invoice from Ausley McMullen**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**28. February 19, 2019-Regular Meeting**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:26 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commission**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

AT A MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 5, 2019 AT 10:00  
A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

GAY STEFFEN, Chair  
JEFF DIEKMAN  
MARKEY RIVERS  
MARY JACK BOONE

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

LEROY SMITH  
OLIVIA SMITH, Public Information Officer

**STAFF PRESENT:**

ELLEN ANDREWS, Principal Planner  
MARCELLA BLOCKER, Deputy Clerk

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Welcome**

Ms. Steffen called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Advisory Meeting.

**2. Overview of Last Meeting**

There was no quorum at the January meeting and Ms. Steffen gave an overview of the November meeting.

**3. General Business**

She said they have asked for a workshop or meeting with the Board so they could have direction and would know what their purpose was and what would be expected.

She also said that it had been discussed before the meeting that they change times of the meeting to better accompany everyone and announced that Mr. Harold Bailey had resigned. Ms. Andrews said there was a recommendation to appoint Mr. Stan James to replace Mr. Bailey. They discussed members missing meetings and how that should be addressed.

**UPON MOTION BY JEFF DIEKMAN TO CHANGE THE MEETING TIMES TO 6:00 P.M. ON THE FIRST THIRSDAY OF THE MONTH AND SECOND MADE BY MARY JACK BOONE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Ms. Boone said it had been discussed in the past once the Crappie tournament was done, changing the meetings to quarterly. Mr. Rivers suggested they wait to make changes after the next meeting.

**4. Discussion of Crappie Tournament/Updates**

Ms. Smith was not present to give an update.

Ms. Steffen said she had spoken with Wilson Hinson and he would be happy to sponsor but they no project at this time.

Ms. Andrews advised them the fishing tournament would take place this week-end, Media Day would be Thursday and the kids' fishing rodeo would take place on Saturday.

Ms. Steffen said they would learn a lot from just going and have more knowledge for the next tournament.

**5. New Business-New Topics for Discussion**

They discussed scheduling a workshop with the Board to figure out their purpose.

They agreed to change the meetings to the first Thursday of every month starting at 6:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and Laurel Bradley will try to schedule a workshop with BOCC. She will also check with Mr. Leroy Smith regarding his attendance.

It was asked about the kids fishing, will get with Wilson to see about his providing poles and bait.

It was discussed to have all members in place, being provided a copy of the By-laws, and have direction from the Board. Laurel Bradley was present and they informed her they had decided to change the time and day of the meetings to the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Bradley explained after the Board voted on the new member at the Board meeting later this evening, a new packet could be sent to the members.

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

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

March 7, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, IT WAS DECLARED ADJOURNED AT 11:09 A.M.**

---

**GAY STEFFEN. Chair**  
**Parks & Rec Advisory Board**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 12, 2019 AT 4:30  
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-Absent**  
                  **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 Workshop to Order at 4:32 p.m. Mr. Willie Scott gave the Invocation and then Chair Viegbesie led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Welcome**

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the Workshop and said it was to discuss how they would handle the situation of our Seniors County-wide and come up with an action plan.

He advised everyone that Commissioner Morgan would not be in attendance as he was out of town.

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

Mrs. Jackson said this was for anyone that wished to speak on any Non-Agenda Items.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any seniors that wished to speak before they started with the workshop.

**Willie Scott, 26 Shaw Lane, Quincy, FL** appeared and said he was a member of the Gadsden Senior Citizens services since 1998. He said he had been working with the Seniors since then and at one time sat on the Board. He also said one time the County had to run the Senior Center because they had issues. He said he had been complaining for many years. He said Seniors that go on trips to different places have to pay money out of their pocket and he did not like that and has told the County Commission it was not right. He said they started a fund among themselves to have money to be able to go to movies, etc. He said there were a Director and people that come to the Center that work for them and would stay a little while and then are gone and was unsure of what the issue was. He said if the County Commissioners don't get things right at the Senior Citizens Center, they are going to strike and stop going to the Center and let the County solve the problem.

Chair Viegbesie said he could almost assure them by the end of this meeting, the situation will be on the right path.

**Elizabeth Cosby, 33 Church Street, Apartment 20, Gretna, FL** appeared. She said she was an



employee of Gadsden Senior Services and was managing the Chattahoochee Center and there was a lot of ways that the Chattahoochee seniors were neglected and mistreated. She said they wanted to come to the Quincy Center and participate and was denied a ride because if there were no more than two seniors, they were not allowed to come. She also said she was harassed by the Director when she was called at her home after work and she asked that she not be considered a part of the direct service work any longer.

**Ozzie Williams, 173 Serenity Lane, Quincy, FL** appeared and said she was terminated because she was told she did not have the experience to do what she was told to do and had worked there several years.

**Gladys Hinson, 265 Hayward Dupont Road, Midway, FL**, appeared and said she was very unhappy at the Senior Center. She said Ms. Hart was asked to come over. She was questioned about the meals and said there was a fully equipped kitchen and asked why they couldn't have hot meals like other senior centers do. She said her response was (inaudible). She said when they have a meeting; her staff feels necessary to watch them and makes them feel they are "on a chain gang or on a plantation". She said she was very upset about what go on down there and nobody comes to see about them.

Chair Viegbesie said these were the types of things they want to work on and are going to resolve this. He said he had received numerous anonymous letters that he was not going to read into record.

## **2. Discussion on Improving Services to the Senior Citizens of Gadsden County**

He said the floor was open to see what they could do to make the lives of the seniors better.

Commissioner Hinson said when this meeting was scheduled he had reservations about coming, today was his Mom's birthday and this was too important and what he heard today was touching. He said this was embarrassing. He said the County gives money to the Gadsden Senior Services and to him that money should be used to take them to Panama City. He felt if they don't comply, the County should take the building and they can go wherever, cut the relationship and the Board of County Commissioners would not be a part of it.

Commissioner Holt said to Ms. Cosby, Ms. Williams and Mr. Scott, those were very brave statements. She said she wanted to put some numbers with the activities. She said they could not fix anything until they went to the documentation and moved numbers to do what they needed to do.

Chair Viegbesie then recognized Berta Kemp. She said she was puzzled because they were not informed this meeting was to discuss complaints but thought it was concerning the funding that was allocated for the Gadsden Senior Services was going to be dedicated for activities for the Seniors only. She felt this should have been handled totally different from how they were being confronted today, unaware of what was being said. She said the Gadsden Senior Center has an office in Quincy and a satellite office in Chattahoochee. She also said a lot of things go on in Chattahoochee that had nothing to do with the Gadsden Senior Services, the City did a lot there, not Gadsden Senior Services. Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator when the workshop was scheduled was it scheduled for a discussion of the issues with the Seniors and Ms. Kemp said no. Mrs. Jackson said when she met with Ms. Kemp, Ms. Hart and Mr. Dupont, they did discuss having

a meeting to discuss this part however, this was a public meeting, it was an advertised meeting and the citizens have the right to appear and speak. Chair Viegbesie said he had also received a lot of complaints from across the County.

He acknowledged the presence of Lisa Bretz, MSW, Executive Director Area Agency on Aging.

Chair Viegbesie said he went to the Center pretty regularly and did not think there was a senior there that he had not met or did not know. He added that he would like to see every activity that had to do with the Seniors come directly under the Board of County Commissioners and let them hold someone accountable for the activities that were provided to the seniors across the entire County. He added that he felt the different groups were fragmented. He said he knew the buildings in Quincy and Chattahoochee belonged to the County. He suggested they do an inventory of the facilities and see if have anywhere can have in different municipalities. He said he understood the Seniors were given a Code of Conduct and it was ludicrous to do that to the Seniors.

Ms. Kemp said he made his statement but all the complaints seem to be coming from a certain program. She said the congregant meals people that come out there are the able-bodied and that was not the main program for the Gadsden County Senior Services. She said they have seniors that are shut-ins and need care in their home. She said Ms. Bretz was there but not to defend them; she knows the programs and what was the most important as to what should be served and she did not know if they needed to sit down and have a workshop so they would know what their services were and what needs they were needing with the Seniors. She said the most important part to her was not about who owned the building but the concerns of the seniors should be the concern of the County anyway and should be playing a big part in making sure the seniors were taken care of. She said the could not even afford the transportation they needed to bring the seniors in because the vans they had have to go out on roads and A-1 is receiving their money because of the type of roads they had to travel to pick up the seniors and bring them in. She said if there was a senior so concerned about going to the movies and going out to eat, that was recreation. She said their main concern was about the welfare and care of the seniors and the services they provided. She said the concerns and complaints they were hearing today came from the congregant site in Quincy. She said Chattahoochee was fortunate enough to have a City that stepped up to the plate to assist them. She said it cost a large amount of money to run the vans and because they made a decision in order for them to go to Chattahoochee and pick up and go back and forth, there would have to be another method and was not profitable to do that. She said the concern with employment, positions are eliminated and other positions were sat up. She said she had not heard any concerning the direct service workers and how they were providing meals and taking care of them; all she was hearing was from the congregant meals, the able-bodied people.

Commissioner Holt asked how the money from Elder Care was broken up and being used. She asked to hear from Ms. Bretz to see how the money was broken up.

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Taylor was sitting quietly and asked if there was anything she wanted to share.

She said at times she sits back and listens before she formulates her thoughts. She said they need to come up with a plan that would work. She said the majority of money out there for Gadsden

County Senior Services was not being pulled down. What disturbed her most was to hear complaints and not be able to do anything about it. She said she heard about the Code of Conduct and felt that should have had input from the Seniors. She said she was kicked out from being the liaison with the Seniors because she got made at the fact that their money was going to different agencies in other counties and it was legal. She said the money had to be spent and not sent back to the State. She said they could receive \$64,000 for the Florida services under the Older Americans Act and right now they had \$49,000 (inaudible). She said they could get \$168,000 and at the end of the year they only spent about \$94,000 and when the money was left over it went to other counties. She said the letter that was sent to them talked about how the \$60,000 was being used as leverage because it has to be matched and that was incorrect. She said there used to be 60 plus seniors that came every day and now there was only about 20.

Ms. Bretz said they could not do anything about funds because they were State and Federal funds. She said she could provide them with general budget numbers but if they wanted to see how the dollars were being appropriated (inaudible). Commissioner Holt said she was where she wanted her to be because they were getting ready to do the Legislative session. Ms. Bretz suggested they investigate options to start a media campaign.

Mrs. Jackson said when she met with Ms. Kemp, Jo Ann Hart and Sterling Dupont, the way she got the meeting was holding their match as leverage. She said in that meeting, she knew there were concerns that were happening at the Chattahoochee location as well. She said she has received calls from the then Interim City Manager and from Commissioners who had the same complaints.

Chair Viegbesie said they did not come today to point fingers but to find solutions. He asked when was the last time elections were held and was told today at their annual meeting. He asked if there were term limits on the positions and was told yes. He said he can separate the position from the person. He said he hoped with the conversation that was had here, it was not taken personally.

Commissioner Holt felt they may have been a little harsh, because there are Board members that volunteer and may have never gave them what was included in their responsibilities as a volunteer. She said she did not think they ever gave them what was included in being a volunteer and had not heard from any of the other Board members and would like to.

Chair Viegbesie asked members of Gadsden Senior Services for their input.

Berta Kemp said from hearing everything, she felt they were not getting all the information they need. She said she knew there were By-laws that were done in 2012 and the current By-laws were revised in 2018. She said they met often with Mr. Robert Presnell, he gathered information, and they met with different ones. She said in the past the Board was in the red and since this board has come onboard, they have never operated in the red. She said if there was information the BOCC needed, they should have asked for it. She said a lot of the information had been previously sent. She said they met here before Mr. Presnell left. She said they have tried to do fundraisers and contacted every Pastor in the County, mailed out letters and has had meetings with Pastors and some came. She said they did not have the money to hire a PR and was doing what they could themselves. She said they needed to lay everything on the table and see where they go from here.

Sterling Dupont said he had been on the Board a few years and one of the difficulties they were

having was getting people to serve on the Board. He said it would be great if they came up with some way to have a workshop so they could have people understand the program, costs of everything because they were not getting the support they needed. He suggested they set up a workshop so the BOCC could fully understand what they are doing. He said the biggest thing they were trying to do is help everyone and it was hard to do. He said to be careful when they start talking about programs and money, because the money was not going into anyone's pocket except the ones that needed it and their job was to try to make sure they help ones that can't do for themselves.

Commissioner Taylor asked who the President was now. Ms. Kemp said they elected a Board of Directors today but because there were Board members that could not be there, they received a Resignation from one in writing today, it was the decision of the Board to continue the election at the next meeting, which would be held March 19th. She said the election of the Officers within that Board would be done at that time. Commissioner Taylor said they need to find an avenue to pull down the funding so no-one goes without. She said she will ask that this gets on the Agenda and hopes the \$60,000 is earmarked specifically to do what the Seniors want to do at the center. She said she was leery to do anything with the building because the ones that would be hurt the most was the ones that were looking for a place to be.

Commissioner Holt said do a workshop and they needed to follow-up from this one anyway. The other thing was the building was built for the seniors and no-one else, and that should stay there. She said with the money, if they save \$60,000 for activities, they needed to remember there were homebound seniors too.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not think it was a funding issue; it was how they were treated.

Chair Viegbesie said have begun to have dialogue he never thought they would be able to have and they would schedule another meeting. He said he would not condone anyone that mistreats seniors, whether in this country or anywhere else.

Commissioner Hinson said he believed they needed to meet at a place where they could sit down and eat at the same time they were discussing this. He said maybe they could go to Creek Entertainment or someplace big enough to meet.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
February 12, 2019-BOCC/Gadsden Senior Citizens Workshop

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NOTHING MORE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE WORKSHOP WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:05 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**Gadsden County Construction Industry Licensing  
Board of Adjustments and Appeals  
February 12, 2019  
1:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Facilitators:** Al Smythe, Building Official  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**Board Members:** ISAIAH COLE, Chair  
RUSTY BLACK-absent  
TONY COLVIN  
MICHAEL FRANCIS  
WILLIAM McMILLAN  
JOHN SAMFORD  
JOEL SAMPSON

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Tony Colvin called the meeting to Order at 1:08 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Isaiah Cole appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The Board reviewed the Minutes.

**UPON MOTION BY JOHN SAMFORD AND SECOND MADE BY ISAIAH COLE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2014.**

**Old Business Items**

**Resignation of William McMillan**

Mr. Colvin said Mr. McMillan had sent a letter of Resignation to Clyde Collins. Before the Board voted on his son, Norman McMillan, Mr. Colvin suggested meeting with him first.

Mr. Cole asked the qualifications and was told they had to have Contractors and Non-Contractors sitting on the Board.

**New Business Items**

**Contractor approval to work in Gadsden County:**

**Lewis G. Walker**

**Lewis Walker Roofing, Inc.**

**RC0067442**

Mr. Colvin asked if they had had a chance to look at the packet and they all responded yes. Mr. Colvin said they would discuss it before voting on him. Mr. Samford said the packet seemed to be in order.

**UPON MOTION BY JOHN SAMFORD AND SECOND BY ISAIAH COLE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY**

Gadsden County Construction Industry Licensing Board  
February 12, 2019-Regular Meeting

**VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF LEWIS G. WALKER FOR ROOFING CONTRACTOR.**

Mr. Colvin asked if there was any new business to discuss and there was none.

Suzanne Lex, Growth Management Director, introduced herself to the Board.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:16 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**TONY COLVIN, Acting Chair  
Construction Industry Licensing Board**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE PLANNING  
COMMISSION HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 14, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M., THE  
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Attendance:**

**Commissioner Edward J. Dixon, Chair**  
**Commissioner Libby Henderson, Vice-Chair- Present**  
**Commissioner Regina Davis, At-Large Member - Present**  
**Commissioner Gail Bridges-Bright**  
**Commissioner John Youman**  
**Commissioner Marion Lasley - Present**  
**Commissioner Doug Nunamaker**  
**Commissioner Lori Bouie - Present**  
**Commissioner William Chukes**  
**Commissioner Antwon McNeil**  
**Commissioner Gerald McSwain**  
**Commissioner Steve Scott, School Board Representative - Present**  
**Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner**  
**Suzanne Lex, Planning and Community Development Director**  
**David Weiss, County Attorney**  
**Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**1. Pledge Of Allegiance**

Vice-Chair Henderson led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**2. Introduction Of Members-Roll Call**

Deputy Clerk called the Roll and present was Commissioner Henderson, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Bouie, Commissioner Lasley and Commissioner Scott.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

**4. Disclosures and Declarations of Conflict**

**WORKSHOP**

**5. Future Land Use Element (Legislative) (LSPA 2018-01)-Discussion of amendments to the Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan**

Allara Mills Gutcher, The Planning Collaborator, gave a brief description of the Amendment. She said the Element was updated pretty heavily a few years ago and some of the changes were a result of lessons learned and tweaks that are need to be made. She said some is a result of the zoning they anticipate adopting in the future. Introducing different classes of utilities. She explained the map on the wall was a Future Land Use Map and has several categories and it was also their Zoning Map. She said it would introduce different classes of utilities that the Board voted on in September and the definitions will be in Chapter 2 of the Land Development Code and will include Utility Classes I, II and III. She reminded them Class I would be things like transmission lines, natural gas lines, water distribution lines, sewer gravity lines, etc.; Class II would be booster stations, pumping stations, switching facilities, substations, package plants, lift stations, and Class



III would be production or treatment facilities such as sewage treatment plants, water treatment plants and elevated water storage towers, and other similar types of facilities and then the actual electrical production facilities are not considered in this class, it would be a different definition. She said they might see the solar power generation facilities that have been talked about prior. She said they need to discuss tonight the issue with Talquin and their desire to develop smaller solar power generation facilities, such as ones that might be on about five acres to help produce energy that would go to the substations. She said if there was a desire for that type of facility to be an allowable use in the residential category or a commercial category, they need to insert that language in the draft.

She said there were some new categories, one being the Nature-Based Activity area and the Master Planned Community, which was a type of category that would allow a mixture of uses and would be considered as a planned unit development or planning development by the County to have a balanced mix of efficient land uses in close proximity to each other to create a live/work/play environment. She said those were the major changes.

*Commissioner Bouie stepped out at 6:11 p.m.*

Commissioner Lasley asked to go through the item page by page.

Page 1 A. Historical –

She said she did not think that the Class II utilities would fit into the Historical category and should be deleted.

Commissioner Henderson asked if that was State law controlled and thought that was something they decided they could not determine to be there. Ms. Gutcher said that category and the Conservation category were the only two categories they could regulate.

Ms. Gutcher said there was not very much historical on the Future Land Use Map.

*Commissioner Bouie returned at 6:13 p.m.*

Commissioner Lasley said the intent of the category was to protect the historical qualities and areas and structures and also the word character was deleted and explains intent. She read 7) "Development Restrictions – Anything that historically alters the *character of the* site or structure, other than routine maintenance or what is necessary to eradicate a public hazard, is strictly prohibited."

She then said on Page 2 Conservation number 6), she raised the question regarding hunting clubs. She was concerned about the protection afforded to adjacent properties and they needed to make sure there was criteria there to ensure the bullets were not going places where they were not supposed to go.

On Page 3-Recreation she said her concern was number 6 that dealt with RV parks. She said to her it was a pretty intense use of the land and the number of units that could be had per acre. She said she was also concerned about what the requirements were for them to be on central water and sewer.

Ms. Gutcher said that would be something that was regulated in the Land Development Code and there was a statute in Chapter 5 that talked about RV parks and mobile home parks. She also said that would change with the next item with the zoning categories. She said Florida Statutes 513 for standards and showed the minimum land area was two acres, the maximum density for RV spaces, camp, and/or tent campsites shall not exceed eight per acre and a setback of 50 feet from the property line. Travel trailers or similar vehicles have a minimum stay size of 1500 square feet with a minimum space width of 30 feet.

Commissioner Lasley said the sites could be occupied 365 days a year by someone and only one-half a year by one person and the other half year someone else could occupy it. She said her concern was did they have to be located where there was central water and sewer.

Ms. Jeglie said all utilities within the recreational facility shall be served by central water and approved sanitary sewage system.

She asked if citizens would be notified of things happening around them.

Ms. Gutcher said that would be coming to them in the future as revisions to Chapter 7 and will have an opportunity to discuss that then.

*Commissioner Bouie stepped out at 6:24 p.m.*

Ms. Gutcher said this was stating that RV's were allowed in recreation.

Commissioner Lasley asked if all the land use changes listed would be a 5-2 hearing where it would be noticed in the papers as a Land Use Change. Ms. Gutcher said any comprehensive plan map amendment would have to go through public hearings.

Commissioner Lasley's next comment was in Public/Institutional Number 6) Allowable Uses She said they had Class 1, II & III utilities that include spray fields and things like that. She said once the language was approved, a spray field or any sort of treatment facility could be located in any of the public land uses. Ms. Gutcher said Public/Institutional yes and generally a Public/Institutional use was owned by a local government or an educational facility or hospital and not usually private ownership. Commissioner Lasley said along with spray fields, they also had landfills. She said she was not sure that both the uses Class III should not be in heavy industrial and not public.

*Commissioner Bouie returned at 6:27 p.m.*

Commissioner Lasley said the two allowed uses in number 6 that she questioned were Class III Utilities and Landfills as being allowed uses on Land Use.

*Commissioner Bouie left the workshop at 6:29 p.m.*

Her next comment was regarding F-Agriculture section. She said they talked earlier on what the Zoning Map would look like basically what they had up now and would have an Ag I, Ag II and Ag III but when the other map is made, it would just be Agriculture. Commissioner Lasley asked the point and Ms. Gutcher said future land use should be broader and when someone wants to change

from Ag 2 to Ag 1, it would not be a State review any longer but would be a local decision. Commissioner Lasley asked when changing from Ag 3 to Ag 1, would the neighbors know someone was applying for the change and Ms. Gutcher said yes.

Commissioner Lasley then asked about private aircraft facilities in Agriculture. She said there was 5, 10 and 20 acre lots in agriculture and asked the criteria for private aircraft and landing strips. Ms. Gutcher said she was unsure if Ms. Lex had any knowledge regarding a farmer that would want to spray their field and the intent would be to allow that farmer to be able to take off from his property. She said anything of a certain size has to through FAA, there has to be certain clearance, certain depths for the airstrips, etc. Ms. Jeglie said she did not know how many existed currently but do and have gotten calls from people that were interested in buying larger parcels and wanted to know if they were able to do that, especially crop dusting Commissioner Lasley asked what was to prevent them from not being involved in agricultural spraying and opening up a small private airport and was told the FAA. Commissioner Lasley asked if it would prevent that and Ms. Gutcher said they could if they did not have enough size for their landing strip. She said as far as functional operations, if something for crop dusting as opposed to a fly-in residential community, there would be no restriction on them from being able to do that as long as they meet the FAA requirements. Commissioner Lasley said she was more concerned for people who allowed others to come in and out and then it would impact residents there because they would have to deal with air traffic. She then asked if a hunting club would be allowed on 5 acres and said that did not work for her and did not see that as a safe enterprise. She said she had four acres and could not shoot a gun without hitting a neighbor.

Commissioner Davis said she saw her point because when looking at the allowable uses under density, the density is five acres for everything. Ms. Gutcher said yes because you have to have the most dense category in the Future Land Use so when they get to Zoning, they would still have the 1-5, 1-10 and 1-20. Commissioner Lasley asked if she would deal with the homeowners to come in and say they were zoned AG and they want to put 4 houses on 20 acres and then tell them your AG 3 and can only have one house. Ms. Gutcher said the Zoning would mimic what they have today on the Future Land Use Map.

Ms. Lex appeared and asked if they could put a range in. Ms. Gutcher said she didn't know why they would want to. Ms. Lex said this is where the locals would have more say in what happens at the Zoning level and not to have to send to the State with an extra level of review.

Commissioner Lasley said they were also offered more protection with the Comprehensive Plan because statement in the Plan cannot be waived and have to be followed. She said anything written in the Land Development Code, people could apply for a variance. Ms. Gutcher said she would correct her on that because the Code specifically said a variance could only be gotten for bulk regulation, not for density.

Commissioner Lasley said her next comments were on Page 4-Rural Residential. She said they currently have on the Future Land Use Map was Residential and if she was suggesting three different grades of residential property, she had the same question as with AG, everything was being lumped into one. She said in number 2-Designation Criteria, she says "Areas used primarily as single-family and multi-family residential housing units." She said according to the definition of multi-family residential housing unit could be an apartment complex. Ms. Gutcher said a duplex could be multi-family; it depended on how they were defining it. Commissioner Lasley said if they

transferred out to rural areas where there was no water and sewer, would that not be able to be used there, the max would be one unit per acre.

Ms. Gutcher said when they get to the Zoning District in the Land Development Code, they have the three Residential categories; Rural Residential, Suburban Residential and Urban Residential. She said Rural Residential remains at one dwelling unit per acre and because the other two are not mapped, they won't exist on the map until someone applies for them. Commissioner Lasley said both those categories require central water and sewer and Ms. Gutcher said yes. She said again her concerns were she listed Residential and they have many acres in the County that was designated as Rural Residential. She said they could not turn the County into six dwellings per acre in the County all on separate wells and separate septic tanks. Ms. Gutcher said they were not; someone would have to apply for that category. Commissioner Lasley said she would like to reserve the ability to come back to this language and change if she did not like what is in Chapter 4. She said previously in Chapter 4 there were statements about water and sewer would be required for these types of uses and sewer is not addressed and was the problem she had with the Comprehensive Plan was they take out things that were inconvenienced and in the long run would be a bad decision. She said the August handout of this particular Future Land Use Element had in Number 3-Density, instead of six dwelling units per acre had two and asked why it was changed. Was there someone that wanted to put six units and Ms. Gutcher said not that she was aware of.

She said in Number 6-Development Restrictions it said schools must be located on a collector or arterial roadway and according to the maps she looked at, they have major and minor collectors and major and minor arterial roads. She said she assumed they could be on any of them as major or minor and Ms. Gutcher said correct.

She then said in H-Neighborhood Commercial, water and sewer were not addressed and assumed that child care facilities, restaurants, professional office buildings and services, convenience stores, retail sales and services could all be in the County on septic tanks and Ms. Gutcher said yes. She said they needed to move away from that type of development and was sorry to see those requirements and regulations were being ignored. She said she had a problem with number 6, "and other similar uses" feels really vague. Ms. Gutcher said other similar uses was as set forth in the Land Development Code and was listed in Chapter 4.

Commissioner Lasley said in I Commercial, sewage was not addressed. She said Mobile Home Parks in number 3-Density, it said there was no residential allowed except for mobile home parks, which was five units per acre "if all units are connected to a centralized water and waste water system". She said there were statements in the Comprehensive Plan that do require various things to be connected to water and sewer, this was an example and she personally would like to see a lot more.

She said in Number 4 Intensity, the floor area ratio shall not exceed 1.0 and asked if that meant the commercial building could cover the whole lot. Ms. Gutcher said theoretically yes but practically no because they had to have storm water, open space and parking. She said one would potentially mean a two story building that was the size of the lot so that 50% of the lot would be covered on the footprint but they had 2 stories and that would equal to 100% of the area. She said since she mentioned water and sewer for mobile home parks; why not want this for the other allowed uses for Neighborhood Commercial on page 6. She said adult day care and assisted living facilities, why the establishments on a well and septic tank. She then said private clubs, shopping centers,

medical facilities, mobile home parks, RV parks, light manufacturing office complexes; why not state that these need to be on central water and sewer? Ms. Gutcher said the County did not provide that service and in order to get those services, they either have to connect to a City, if the city offered it or Talquin. She said there was talk of trying to promote more economic development areas in the County and some of those areas might not have a provision and could be something they could develop with a well and package plant.

Commissioner Henderson said where she lived, there was no sewer they could hook to and in town they had sewer.

Ms. Lex appeared and said the Public Service Commission controls utilities and the County had no control over the utility area served. She said they go to the Public Service Commission and request to extend their area and bring utilities to that area. Ms. Lex said they could not assume that a utility company wanted to expand their territory. Commissioner Henderson said a County could not require another municipality to require that. Commissioner Lasley said historically, the County Commission approved a shopping center on west 90 and then got a grant to extend the sewer there. Ms. Jeglie said they were located within ¼ mile and that was policy was still there and has not been changed. Commissioner Henderson said the County could not require Gretna and Chattahoochee to serve the western part of the County and they could not make those utilities make it available to anyone or any development they might want to do; if they do not want to serve and the County does not have it and they make it required, they were shutting down any development that might want to be done in the whole western part of the County.

Commissioner Lasley said in Commercial, outdoor equipment would be allowed and must be screened; junk yards and debris landfills were prohibited and she asked about trash landfills and trash transfer stations, were they equally prohibited? Ms. Gutcher asked if she was asking if a landfill was an allowable use. Commissioner Lasley said she was listing junk yards and construction and debris landfills so her question was by it not being mentioned, was a trash landfill or trash transfer station allowed in the category. Ms. Gutcher said she would say it was not allowed and Commissioner Lasley suggested it be put back in the language.

She said her next comments were in the Nature Based Activity Areas. She said it was pretty intense development; water and sewer was not addressed and no natural resource protections. She said in number 3 Density, does the language state there could be one living quarters only or could the owner have a living quarter and could the grounds keeper have a living quarter and a living quarter for another person on the property. Ms. Gutcher said any owner/operator, any grounds keeper or any person that worked on the property could live there. Commissioner Lasley pointed out there was a typo in number 3 as the fourth word should be "of" instead of "to". She said there could be three homes, a lodge that could have three stories and 50 units, a retail store, an RV park with a maximum of x number of units per acre and all was sensitive to the environment and somehow would be nature-based. She asked who would decide if the stores would be nature-based. Ms. Gutcher said they could sell fishing equipment, renting bicycles, kayaks and once submitted to staff, would be reviewed by staff and they would look at the Land Development Code after this with more of the regulation nitty-gritty was located. Commissioner Lasley asked what would change it from being a commercial lodging establishment, a B & B establishment or a restaurant/café to a grocery store to being a nature-based application; would this be done in-house and was it at the discretion of the Planning Director. Ms. Gutcher said it was at the discretion of what they decide the Land Development Code would say as far as the regulation

goes.

Ms. Lex appeared before the Board and said these categories were new and do not exist and when they turn this into their Future Land Use Map, this will come back before them for a Future Land Use Map amendment first before being implemented in the Zoning districts.

Ms. Gutcher said to answer her question as to why, was because the County Commission wanted some sort of category that would allow this type of activity without having to take a map amendment and zoning change to a full-fledged commercial category to allow these uses.

Commissioner Lasley then said in number 7, ingress and egress shall not be provided through a residential subdivision and there was wording somewhere, if it was left vague, did it generally have to say platted and she was fine with residential subdivisions that were created and wanted to protect the residents that were there from intense traffic. Ms. Gutcher said you could not go through a residential subdivision to get to it.

She said in the Master Planned Community: number 1, the last line stated there has to be the provision of infrastructure and again she was making the point that she was requiring infrastructure and would like to see it defined in the other Land Use categories. She asked if this required central water and sewer and Ms. Gutcher said no. Commissioner Lasley said they were going to allow two units per acre up to twelve units per acre on a well and septic tank. Ms. Gutcher said subject to the availability of centralized water and sewer services. Commissioner Lasley said they were going to allow light industrial and Ms. Gutcher said that could include something that was fully contained in a building, such as a craft brewery or any type of manufacturing that they would not know outside the structure of what was going on inside.

Ms. Gutcher said when they get into the Land Development Code; the Mixed Use Zone is used to implement the Master Plan Community that is in the Comprehensive Plan and the Urban Mixed Use in the Land Use category.

In the Urban Mixed Use, the diverse choice of housing types, higher densities and intensities in areas that have central water and sewer, these areas are located next to the city limits according to Designation Criteria and will have water and sewer available within ¼ of a mile most likely and yet number 3 are saying no more than five dwelling units allowed. She said it seemed to her if they wanted to pack people in, this is where it should be. Ms. Gutcher said the density on the Master Plan Community was no less than two and no greater than twelve, subject to the availability of centralized water and sewer service and the density would depend on whether you could connect to central water and sewer on the Master Plan Community. Ms. Gutcher asked if her recommendation was to increase the density in Urban Mixed Use and Commissioner Lasley responded absolutely. Ms. Gutcher said she would make a note that Commissioner Lasley would like to see a higher density in Urban Mixed Use. Commissioner Lasley said in number 3 Density, it states no more than two dwelling units per acre where only central sanitary sewer service is available and to her knowledge, there will never be only sanitary sewer available, there will always be water first and sewer last. There was further discussion and Ms. Jeglie agreed with Commissioner Lasley that it probably should read central water service as opposed to central sanitary sewer. Commissioner Lasley said that was the language that should be in place. She said in number 6 Allowable Uses are Public/Institutional where they have allowed landfills and something was not right with that.

She then said on Page 8 she did not like Class III utilities being in a residential application. In number 7 they state that the developments must be located on paved roads, local, collector or arterial roads and thought it was too intense. Commissioner Lasley said if it was on central water and sewer, OK, but if not, she was not OK with that.

Her next comments were in Industrial, who labels the Light Industrial land as it is now and who does the Heavy Industrial. Ms. Gutcher said anything Heavy Industrial would be Heavy Industrial on the Zoning map and anything Light Industrial would be light industrial on the map. Commissioner Lasley said she did not want someone to come in and every one to be noticed that someone was applying for a land use change for Industrial thinking it would be something that would impact them with odor, noise, etc. so how would they know what was going to go on there. Ms. Gutcher said they would not know for sure until they applied for a Development Order but they should give an idea when they are applying for the Zoning because they would have to be able to analyze the development. Commissioner Lasley said she was not comfortable with approving just an Industrial category that was broken down before the Development Order and Ms. Gutcher said that would be a recommendation to be made to the County Commission. Commissioner Lasley said her recommendation was that the Residential, Agricultural and the Heavy Industrial Land Use Changes are done at the same time with the Zoning Application.

Ms. Gutcher reminded them later in the Future Land Use Element, they did have Policy 1.4.5 that required a Compatibility Analysis be submitted by the applicant for any proposed land use change contiguous to existing land designated as Rural Residential on the Future Land Use Map. Commissioner Lasley said when they get there, her comment would be that AG 1 and AG II put there too because those people have homes also. She added the County was rurally residential and she was concerned with protecting the people that have homesteads.

Her next comment was on Page 9 Policy 1.1.3, number 2. She said the numbers needed to be adjusted. Ms. Gutcher said with this policy, in case a parcel had two future land use map categories assigned to it, it talks how to assign availability to parcels that have two future land use categories assigned to it. Commissioner Lasley asked where the numbers came from. Ms. Gutcher said they went through that at the Staff level and with the Attorney.

Her next comments were on Page 10, Policy 1.1.7 and read that construction of Class I and II utilities shall be exempt from the lot coverage requirements and asked that they could have utilities that cover more space. Ms. Gutcher explained the reason behind this policy was there might be a substation that was only ½ an acre and they need to have impervious surface on it to support the structures of the substation so instead of having whatever the impervious surface requirement was for that category it is assigned, it would allow them to build that they need to build on the property they own. She added if the total impervious surface of the development is 5,000 square feet or less would be the only way this would work. She said this was the threshold Water Management District uses for storm water. Commissioner Lasley said Class I and II utilities were booster stations, pump stations in addition to the water distribution and basically they were increasing the impervious surface on the smaller lots and Ms. Gutcher said it was exempting those for this type of use as long as it was 5,000 square feet or less.

Commissioner Lasley asked if Policy 1.2.4 that shows being deleted if it was moved somewhere and Ms. Jeglie said the Infrastructure Element was before them and explained it was included in

the Infrastructure Element.

Commissioner Lasley then asked on Page 11 Policy 1.2.5 if that was  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile and Ms. Jeglie said water and sewer was  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile in the adopted Infrastructure that they previously adopted.

She said in Policy 1.2.6 it states that developments shall only be approved when the adopted levels of service standards meet or exceed the capacities and she wanted to verify the level of service standards that apply. She wanted to verify that there were level of service standards that apply to other criteria and Ms. Gutcher explained the water and sewer would be dependent on the organization for which the service is. She said the City of Quincy had adopted a level of service standards and was unsure if Talquin had. Commissioner Lasley asked if anything that related to these categories would be in Capital Improvements and Ms. Gutcher said yes, that was part of the Concurrency Management she mentioned earlier. Commissioner Lasley commented on the lack of solid waste collection that the County has and could not believe they did not require because people have trash.

Her next comment was on Page 12 Policy 1.2.19 that was struck through. It stated no large scale land use amendment shall be approved which converts lands from AG to Rural Residential unless an agreement was recorded prior to development which required to be served by dental water and sewer and asked if it was inserted somewhere else or struck. Ms. Gutcher said she didn't move it. She added that the Development Agreement procedure is a Florida Statutory procedure which was in the Land Development Code for Procedure. She said she removed it because it was something Gadsden County struggled with which was the difference between what an Agriculture Land Use category is used for and what a Residential Land use was. Commissioner Lasley said she felt they were going in the wrong direction.

Her next comment was on Page 14, Policy 1.3.6 If a parcel is reduced or bisected due to condemnation, then each parcel is allowed one residential dwelling, she asked what it meant. Ms. Gutcher said if there was 20 acres and the State has elected to extend a road or create a new road and it bisects your property and it was agriculture at 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres and there is now less than 20 acres, then you would be allowed to have one residential dwelling unit on each part of the divided parcel because of that condemnation.

She then said Policy 1.4.5 dealing with the Compatibility Analysis. It shall be submitted by the applicant for any proposed land use change contiguous to existing land designated Rural Residential on the Future Land Use Map. She said she wanted to protect areas that were not residential that were non-conforming AG or AG I subdivisions or AG I Residential and AG II Residential. Ms. Gutcher said it would be easier to implement if they stated Agriculture.

Commissioner Henderson asked if anyone wished to speak.

**Dan Winchester, 842 Richbay Road, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board. He said in July he presented a Conservation Community concept and at the last meeting last month he was instructed to work with staff to integrate the Conservation Community Concept into a Master Plan Community definition. When he proposed the concept, it was for the Rural Residential. He said he took the pages he drafted tried to integrate it into the Master Plan Community Category. He said the first option dealt with the net/gross density issue that was talked about earlier. He said one thing that could be done in lieu of potentially adopting a conservation community would be to



allow gross density in all land use categories. He said in allowing net density or gross density in all land use categories like AG I, II and III would allow more density in those areas where they were trying to establish residential. He then went through Option 2 of what he presented to the Commissioners.

*Commissioner Henderson stepped out at 8:03 p.m.*

He distributed a plat of Centerville Conservation Community to the Commissioners and made comments regarding same.

*Commissioner Henderson returned at 8:06 p.m.*

There was discussion between Ms. Gutcher and Mr. Winchester regarding the land use element.

Commissioner Henderson said she was not sure if it was appropriate to discuss what he wanted to do on a particular development and that was something that would be approved when he was ready to propose it.

Ms. Gutcher said for him to look at his document at Table 4111 that was where the standard was for the density depending on whether he had connections.

Commissioner Lasley asked him if his lots were 1 acre plus and he said what he presented was a model from another project. She asked if there was some reason he could not create a subdivision in Gadsden County on a basic subdivision plan and do that he wanted if he had a land use that allowed rural residential. He said possibly, he had proposed a specific conservation subdivision policy, he said this was not a specific development plan, it was a model. Commissioner Lasley said her problem with gross density on one acre lots was that there would be people with wetland and septic tank issues just because developers were not going to care for all that. She said one of the properties on the lake was 50% wetlands and if they had been allowed to do a gross density they would have had twice as many lots on half of the property they could have built on all on septic tanks in scattered wetlands and that would have not worked. She said she appreciated his concept and thoughts but there were a lot of vehicles there that people would have to choose from, from the basic subdivision that had a wetland in the middle that they could cluster. He said he would like to do a project, or work with someone that wanted to do a project such as what he had. He said he would work with Ms. Lex on this and see if he could come up with something that was better.

**6. Chapter 4, Land Use Categories (Legislative) LDR 2018-05)-Discussion of amendments to Chapter 4, Land Use Categories of the Land Development Code**

Commissioner Henderson asked if they wanted to schedule this discussion for a future workshop and it was decided yes.

Ms. Lex passed out a FEMA update.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. Planning Commissioner Questions and Comments**

**8. Director's/Planner Comments**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE WORKSHOP WAS  
ADJOURNED AT 8:22 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**Edward J. DIXON, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 19, 2019 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-appeared by phone and arrived late**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Shirlean Thomas of Stewart Temple AME Church gave the Invocation and he then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker took a roll call attendance. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Hinson, who appeared by telephone.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Item 11-Confirmation of the Public Works Director and add Item 11a-Adoption of Resolution No. 2019-005, accepting and approving the State of Florida Department of Transportation’s continued assumption of legal and financial responsibility for and conduct of all remaining debris removal from roads and rights of way in Gadsden County, Florida off of the State Highway System pursuant to pre-existing debris removal contracts through May 31, 2019.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring of Economic Development Week**

Chair Viegbesie read the Proclamation aloud.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:06 p.m.*

It was presented to Ms. Kirkland and then they posed for pictures and she had a few words to say.

**2. Resolution on Honor of Mr. Jerry Buscher, Warden of the Gadsden Correctional Facility**

Commissioner Taylor introduced Mr. Buscher, Warden of the Gadsden Correctional Institute, read aloud the Resolution and they posed for pictures.

**3. Resolution honoring Ms. Sonya Hines-Hall**

Chair Viegbesie read the Resolution aloud, they posed for pictures and a few words were spoken.

**4. Presentation on CareerSource Capital Region**

Mr. Jim McShane appeared before the Board and gave a brief update.

Commissioner Holt said at one time the Summer Youth Program was through their office and was done very well.

Commissioner Hinson echoed what Chair Viegbesie said.

Commissioner Taylor asked the number of people from Gadsden County that was FEMA employed through CareerSource if he had a number for that and he did not, he said they do not separate that out. He said between Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla, they served around 30,000 people.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**5. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**

**6. Approval of Minutes**

**a. January 15, 2019-Regular Meeting**

**7. Approval to Accept the FY 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**8. Public Hearing-(Legislative) Consideration of Ordinance 2019-001 to Adopt the Bradwell Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2019-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a request for consideration of Ordinance 2019-001 to adopt the Bradwell Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendment to change the future land use category from Agriculture 3 (AG 3) to Agriculture 1 (AG!).

**Suzanne Lex, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board.

**Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner**, appeared before the Board and introduced the above item. She said the property was located off the west side of McCall Bridge Road and the Planning Commission voted 5-2 to approve this matter. She said the three options were to: 1) Adopt the Ordinance with a condition that the property owner apply for a lot split to create the 5 acre parcel; 2) Do not to approve; and 3) Board direction.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the public.

**Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental and Land Services, Inc.** appeared before the Board, representing Mr. Bradwell. She said an environmental site inspection had been done; they laid out where the wetlands were and the septic tank would be located outside the buffer as well as the construction. She added there was plenty of room to construct his home within the remainder of the lot.

Chair Viegbesie asked again if anyone wished to speak.

**Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL** spoke in support of the request and asked that the Commission approve this.

Commissioner Taylor said it looked like this was in her district and it looked like Ms. Jeglie and her Department had done their due diligence.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no heartburn regarding this item but asked of the 5 acres, was more than 4 not buildable with the wetlands and flood zone? Ms. Peppers said there was an acre left where the home could be placed and there was enough set-back and would be no problem.

Jill Jeglie said in the County there was a process to split parcels and if it was over twenty acres, they did not have to go through what was called a lot split. She said basically you would record new surveys. She said there was a high incidence where people were unaware of it and they have put as a condition that Mr. Bradwell would obtain a lot split and he should qualify once he has the Comp Plan amendment.

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

**9. Public Hearing-(Legislative) Consideration of transmittal of an amendment to the Future Land Use Map Amendment of the Comprehensive Plan by Allen's Excavation, Inc. (LSPA 2019-01)**

Ms. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the transmittal of a Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to change the Future Land Use Map category from Agriculture 3 (AG-3) to Mining on a 42.95 acre parcel.

Jill Jeglie re-appeared before the Board and gave an explanation of the above item. She said would be a transmittal of a large scale future land use map amendment for Allen's Excavation. She said they would be transmitting this to DEO, they and other State agencies will review this, make comments, it will come back to the County and once the County receives their comments, if it is ok to proceed, it will come back to the Board where it would be adopted by Ordinance. She said this amendment would be to go from Agricultural 3 to Mining and the property had been permitted by DEP for mining and the designation would reflect that permitting. She said that Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental and Land Services, Inc. is their authorized representative. A CBOR meeting was held at Bear Creek Educational Facility with no attendees. The Planning commission voted 6-1 to approve this transmittal.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone had anything to say, either in opposition or support.

**Elva Peppers** appeared before the Board. She said the owner would like to have the property to reflect that it is a mining land use rather than an agricultural property and they were trying to change the property to fit in the correct category.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any questions and there was not.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was one of the mining companies approved some time ago and asked where it was located.

Ms. Jeglie reappeared before the Board and said if you travel west on Sadberry Road (turning off State Road 267) almost at the end, there is an intersection with Crowder Road and Roberts Sand Road and there is another mining company to the west.

Commissioner Taylor said she was concerned with the amount of mining that was happening in that area. Ms. Jeglie said they were approved by DEP to operate until 2044.

Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney if there were any issues and he said no.

Commissioner Holt said they were only changing the zoning to go with the map, they could still mine there.

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

**10. Public Hearing (Legislative) Consideration of a recommendation to adopt Ordinance 2019-003 to update the Capital Improvements Schedule (CIS) of the Capital Improvements Element (LSPA 2018-011)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for Board approval to adopt Ordinance 2019-003.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments.

**Suzanne Lez, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board to explain the item. She said it was a requirement under Florida Statutes that the County annually updates the Capital Improvements Schedule. She added that they would strike the 2017-2018 year and add the 2022-2023 and the addition projects have been added for parks, schools and roadways and other public amenities that were funded either through Gadsden County or the external sources.

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

Ms. Lex said this was not considered an amendment but was an update to the Comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Morgan said this was a 5 year plan of different infrastructure projects they were considering to fund and asked how they would review the scheduled to see how the individual projects were moving forward. She said they would rely on the budget, if there was a project that was moved out a year, they would then reflect that in this Capital Improvements Schedule. She said if there were funds added by the Department of Transportation where projects were advanced, they would coordinate with them and get that information and the same with the School Board. She said they rely on their 5 year plan to inform the County as to what to put in it. Commissioner Morgan asked is there a way to see if the County was on track with the projects. Ms. Lex said with DOT projects, that opportunity exists when DOT presents to the Board their 5 year work program.

Commissioner Taylor said Ms. Lex indicated through the narrative that this was not an amendment but was an update and the Ordinance states in the heading "amending" and questioned the language.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:13 p.m.*

Mrs. Jackson said the State considered it an update and asked the Attorney to explain. Mr. Weiss said it was part of their Comprehensive Plan and anytime they do anything to make a change, the Comprehensive Plan was considered to be an amendment. He said the Legislature changed the Statute and all Comprehensive Plan amendments have certain processes.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:15 p.m.*

He further explained the reason they changed the Statute to make it an update rather than an amendment was so they did not have to go through the whole amendment process. He stated he did not think it stating "amending" versus "updating" had any real significance and they were find doing what they were doing and were in compliance. She said she was willing to do the update but the language had to reflect same in the Ordinance.

Mr. Weiss said he did not think there was any significance with stating "amending" or "updating" but if everyone preferred, he could change the language to read "update".

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

Commissioner Holt said in the third "Whereas" clause it stated "The capital improvements element must be reviewed by the local government on an annual basis. Modifications to update the 5 year capital improvement schedule may be accomplished by ordinance and may not be deemed to be amendments to the local comprehensive plan".

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**11. Confirmation of the Public Works Director**

Item pulled

**11a Adoption of Resolution No. 2019-005, accepting and approving the State of Florida Department of Transportation's continued assumption of legal and financial responsibility for and conduct of all remaining**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of a resolution accepting and approving the State of Florida Department of Transportation's continued assumption of legal and financial responsibility for and conduct of all remaining debris removal from roads and rights of way in Gadsden County, Florida off of the State Highway System pursuant to pre-existing debris removal contracts through May 31, 2019.

**Chip Starr, D & J Consulting and Wes Holden, Thompson Consulting,** appeared before the Board.

D & J thanked the Board for the teamwork and cooperation they have received while in the County. He said Gadsden County has been a model and established the footprint of the way the other counties in Florida have followed in their debris removal activities. He felt it was time to move the project forward and begin what they consider their close-out procedures.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 7:22 p.m.*

**Wes Holden, Thompson Consulting,** said the Resolution before them was an extension that FDOT has granted for an extension of funding. He said they were on an initial schedule provided by FDOT that all operations had to be completed by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 7:22 p.m.*

He continued and said last week they extended a letter to offer an extension for funding so the close-out could be completed for the public and private roadways. He added that FDOT requested that the County Commission pass the Resolution to accept that funding.

Commissioner Morgan thanked them for their efforts and asked questions about the state roads versus county roads.

Mrs. Jackson said it was for all the roads, both public and private and asked them to explain what the allowable debris was. Commissioner Morgan asked if that changed since the initial letter and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

Mr. Starr explained that eligible debris was debris that came from around the dwelling that was a potential to public safety, ineligible requirements were what was called improved and unimproved properties.

Chair Viegbesie asked about the stumps of the trucks of the trees, some have been on the public right-of-way for quite a while and asked if those were not a part of eligible debris that needed to be removed. Mr. Starr said they were but if they were speaking of stumps, that was completed as of the past Friday. He said as they go through and clear an area, there was a representative from the Public Works Department that rides with a Thompson inspector along with a D & J representative and everyone was in agreement that that certain area was clear and they sign it



off.

Commissioner Holt asked Mrs. Jackson if she had a copy of the email from the State, and she said yes, it was sent to the Commissioners. She asked Mr. Starr and Mr. Holden if they would be here until May 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Starr said they would have a presence here but would not be collecting because they did not feel there was enough eligible debris to justify a debris mission on collection.

Mrs. Jackson said the same guidelines D & J was operating under will be followed by Public Works that FEMA set forth.

Commissioner Holt said what they would have to do to move it would have their own equipment, be certified, have to be weighed, have a certified site, and have tickets issued.

Commissioner Hinson said he received phone calls regarding the subcontractors and wanted to make sure local minorities were employed. Chip Starr said it was confirmed there was 30% local minorities employed as subcontractors that participated.

Commissioner Taylor asked if their agency or company would be in place to validate the debris that is being collected. Mr. Starr said the tracking would be done through Thompson and D & J will be there to provide oversight and will have a representative in the area in case there is something that needed to be referred back.

Mr. Holden said the process will continue and remain the same with a slightly different equipment configurations and the process of reimbursement remains the same. He said the FEMA reimbursement window is 180 days and believed that will end April 14<sup>th</sup> and everything is the same within that window. He said the process does not change whether it was a county truck, City of Quincy truck or a D & J truck. He explained the reimbursement period.

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

**12. Ratification of approval and execution of Amendment to the DEP Grant Agreement for St. Hebron Park "Walk and Bike Trail"**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval and execution of Amendment Number 1 to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program Agreement for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Non-Motorized Single Use Trail.

**Suzanne Lex, Growth Development Director**, appeared before Board. She said it was a request to extend the Agreement for one year.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the \$25,000 cash match had been identified and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had to have four votes as they did last time. Mrs. Jackson said this had nothing to do with the Ordinance; it was just to extend the Agreement.

Mr. Weiss said there was an item on agenda that was related to this project to amend the Discretionary Sales Tax to use funds for this project. This item was only related to the extension

to the Agreement with DEP and did not require a super majority vote.

Chair Viegbesie said the \$25,000 was approved before the past budget procedure. He added they were extending this so they could get the money and not lose the grant.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not want to lose the money but also did not want to lose the kids' hope by not hiring them for the Summer Youth Employment and since the County was in such a fiscal constraint, they needed to look at things and save the children.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**13. Approval of Task Order with Dewberry to Provide Professional Services for the St. Hebron Park RTP Project**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Task Order for Dewberry as the Engineer to provide professional services for the survey and design of the St. Hebron Park Recreational Trails Program project.

Commissioner Morgan asked the reason for changing firms. Mrs. Jackson said the previous firm did not deliver; they had paid out money but the work was not done on time.

Taylor asked with the services rendered, was the County able to use that going forward. Mrs. Jackson said yes. Commissioner Taylor asked if there were any legal recourse because of the contractual agreement.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry**, appeared before the Board to address questions. He said there were some reports that Dewberry will be able to use.

Mr. Weiss said they billed for certain services they performed but was terminated because the work was not timely.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**14. Approval to submit grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) under the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP), Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP), County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a request for the Board to approval to submit grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation under the SCOP, SCRAP and CIGP programs.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry**, appeared before the Board. He said CIGP was the most restrictive and would need to connect to a State road system; SCOP was the least restrictive and has the largest budget. He said he had made some recommendations on the attached list.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could get some direction.

Mr. Ford said he did have a running list and could provide it to the commissioners.

Commissioner Holt said years ago there was an agreement that more roads were paved on the east side of the County and the west side of the County was still waiting to be paved.

Commissioner Taylor asked how this would be done and was probably best to see which roads could be better funded.

Mr. Ford said five – six years ago, they worked with Public Works and they picked roads they thought would be the best candidate to get funding. He said in the past they could submit two SCRAP, two SCOP and one CIGP but last year DOT cut them back to three applications.

Chair Viegbesie asked if it would be difficult or outside of the time allowed if they considered three roads and let the engineering team and Public Works drive the roads to see which needed the most work.

Commissioner Morgan said Commissioner Holt was right in her recollection. He felt it would suit the citizens better to let the engineer work with Public Works to decide the roads.

Commissioner Hinson said also something to consider, Fairbanks Ferry Road have had a lot of deaths on that road before the light was placed there.

Mr. Ford said they did something similar when doing striping projects, ranked roads individually, and was certain they could come up with some matrix to rank the roads.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought from what she was hearing and what could work, is to have a two - three year plan and stick to it.

Mr. Ford said that was assuming they get the funding and asked for approval tonight once they go through that process they could move forward because the applications were coming due.

Commissioner Holt said to Commissioner Taylor that was a good suggestion and told Commissioner Morgan that was how they got stuck the last time. She said whatever they chose this year they could look at next year.

Commissioner Taylor said each time they have an election it is staggered. She said she was willing to move forward with a plan; at least it gives them hope.

Mr. Ford said they came up with a list and Chair Viegbesie had asked that Dogtown Road be placed on the list and he failed to put it on. He also asked they keep the list to two - three per district to it make easier to work with.

Commissioner Hinson said they talked a few years ago about Lake Yvette East, the roads were in terrible shape and they were promised a few years ago to pave it.

Commissioner Holt said if they put in one, to take one off. She said what got them in trouble the last time was the population was on the east side and they used that for the paving on the east

side. She said they could not use the wealth of the community to get those roads paved.

Commissioner Hinson said he paved and resurfaced roads in private communities that no-one else was able to do. He said he started with areas that needed help first.

Chair Viegbesie said he would swap one of the roads and let Mr. Ford make his determination as to which of the three and then re-evaluate next year.

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

**15. Approval for FAMU to work with Gadsden County on the Stevens School Project**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for staff to work with FAMU students on the Stevens School project.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked the fiscal impact to the County's budget and if the dollars would be coming from the Stevens School monies that were budgeted.

Mrs. Jackson said there is money in the Stevens School budget and it was Board Direction on how they would like to pay for it.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought this was being donated by students for an internship or a grade. Mrs. Jackson said they put as an option for the Attorney and County Administrator to begin negotiations with the most feasible option for FAMU students to assist with the project. Commissioner Taylor asked if the money received from the fire was available.

Mr. Weiss said it was depending on how the funds were budgeted, it may require a budget amendment, and he thought it was moved into the Capital Projects fund.

Commissioner Morgan said with that, would the funds come from the Stevens School budget. If it was money to come from the General Fund, he was not for that at all.

Commissioner Holt said it would need to be brought back to the Board.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they should set perimeters or caps.

Commissioner Hinson said at the last budget meeting, he was shot down by Board. He had suggested the last few years they had money for students and the former Student President for FAMU worked for the Board as an aide. He said since then, he's noticed they have been paying 20 hours a week here, 20 hours a week there and has been advertised in the Havana Herald for assistants. He said now they have where someone else wants to bring it in and did not think it was fair. He said he was for it but could not vote for it because of fairness.

Commissioner Holt said this was mostly for travel that was 30 miles away. She added that this was not an intern program; it was a different type of animal.

Commissioner Morgan said he was trying to express, they could offer an internship program to the students that were unpaid, they were learning from this experience.

Chair Viegbesie said a lot of architectural design and work done by FAMU and FSU students that is done for credit. He suggested allowing the Administrator and the Attorney to start negotiations.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out 8:32 p.m.*

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

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:33 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was in accordance with the options.

Commissioner Taylor said after further discussion, she had changed her position. According to the narrative, the Fiscal Impact said to employ 2 students under the County's internship program and would make it a part of the County's budget and not part of the fire budget, according to the title. Commissioner Taylor further said it looked like now the group that was coming in was wiping out what had previously been discussed and decided in numerous meetings with people from the community that was recorded by the deputy clerk. She added that ideas and concepts came from the community and was already formulated. She thought the students would be working on the design of what they wanted or what the group had put forth they would like to see. She said from her perspective if they move forward with this, they would be tossing in the air all that had already been done.

Commissioner Holt said they used the group information, set here and met with some of the people from the school, including Inez Holt and others, they did not take away anything, and they took the same information. She said their recommendation was to work with the community, same thing she was saying. Commissioner Holt then said that Commissioner Taylor had made a motion and she made the second.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER SECOND AND WOULD RETAIN HER SECOND TO COMMISSIONER HINSON'S MOTION.**

Chair Viegbesie said this was just for negotiations there was no fiscal impact.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said he was not sure why they would not want to approve option 1, it was just the money should come from Stevens School and not the General Fund.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said it was not the same group that originally came together and the whole outlook was being changed from what the citizens had put together. She added that they were

gerrymandering the group that was being put together; it was not originally the group that came together and had clearly stated, under oath and in record, what they wanted to see happen to that school.

Commissioner Hinson said to piggyback on Commissioner Taylor, he asked the motivation behind this. He asked the Administrator how this differed from what they created and started from last year.

Mrs. Jackson said she thought that was more of a Commissioner Holt question, but said as to what she knew about the cafeteria, the part that was still standing; she still had her minutes from the last meeting where that committee voted and that is what is happening with the cafeteria area. She said if she understood correctly, what the students would be doing was a first phase, second phase and third phase. She said she was in charge of what was happening at the cafeteria and nothing was happening that was not in her notes from the January meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said there were two separate groups; the original group as well as the current group and they would not be involved in the second phase. He said it was not fair to the group that was passionate.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT CALLED THE QUESTION.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**16. Approval of Library Services and Technology Act Grant**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and execution of a Technology Innovation Project Grant in the amount of \$4,000.

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

**17. Public Transportation Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Transportation and Big Bend Transit, Inc.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action to jointly participate in a service development project.

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

Chair Viegbesie asked that she read the background of this item and Mrs. Jackson did so.

Commissioner Morgan had a question.

Commissioner Morgan asked how they would be reimbursed. Mrs. Jackson said the County would

pay originally but they would be reimbursed monthly. Commissioner Morgan asked the specific benefit. He said they already have several public transportation systems through Big Bend Transit, Gadsden Connections and asked why participate when they have to pay up-front.

Mrs. Jackson said this was an extension and asked Sean Mitchell to step forward to explain.

**Sean Mitchell, Big Bend Transit**, appeared before the Board to address questions. He said this was similar to what they have with Gadsden Express and Havana was part of the urbanized area of Tallahassee. State of Florida Department of Transportation has identified Havana as an area of Florida in Gadsden County that was recognized with low income employment people suffering from disadvantage from getting back and forth to work. Commissioner Morgan asked if these folks already had an opportunity to get rides back and forth to Tallahassee and Mr. Mitchell said no and it would take out some redundancy.

Commissioner Holt said this was a grant that they applied for before, Tallahassee had it and they paid for it.

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

**18. Approval of Intent to Lease a Portion of the Massey Building located at 680 Maple Street, Chattahoochee**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a request made by Angelcare with a Vision, Inc. to lease the Chattahoochee Health Clinic at 680 Maple Street, Chattahoochee, Florida. Tammy Ceasor has made a request to rent a portion of the building to provide an assisted living facility to the residents of the Chattahoochee community for \$800 a month.

Commissioner Morgan said Ms. Ceasor was present along with Mr. Gene Stephens, a local business owner in Chattahoochee and he was very familiar with her services and the need for this service in Chattahoochee. He said this was a project that has had life for several weeks and they have had conversations with the City of Chattahoochee and the Administrator had been involved. He added this would be a great benefit to Chattahoochee and would be a good use of the remainder of that building. He said one thing to make note of, the local Senior Services are offered through a portion of that building and Ms. Ceasor has agreed they can continue to use a portion of that building. He said the reason he mentioned that, this might be something that might enhance some of the opportunities for the seniors and the lease specifically does not mention that the Seniors can continue to maintain their presence in the building unless he overlooked it.

Mr. Weiss said it stated the location was 680 Maple Street with the exception of the portion occupied by the Senior citizens.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION ALONG WITH CHAIR VEIGBESIE.**

Chair Viegbesie said he spoke with Ms. Ceasor and she confirmed that the space the seniors were using would continue to be used by them.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make sure the County was protected at all times and asked about asbestos. Mr. Weiss said she would be responsible for liability insurance.

Commissioner Holt said one concern she had was the damage and asked Mrs. Jackson about the damages that were caused by the hurricane and told Commissioner Hinson a check for asbestos could be done at the same time it was inspected.

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

**19. EMS Write-Off and Bad Debt**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to EMS write-off bad debt and refer to collections.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked what Medicaid was not paying for.

**Keith Maddox, EMS Director**, appeared before the Board to address questions. He said some of these go back to 2012 and Medicaid and Medicare after a certain time period have a filing cut-off and a lot of these original rejections would have been rejected even if appealed and was so far back there was no point.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 9:00 p.m.*

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

**20. Bid Award for Debt Collection Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to award Bid Number 18-22 Debt Collection Services for Gadsden Emergency Medical Services to the low bidder and was to Quality Asset Recovery.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND HAD A QUESTION AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Maddox to tell about the company. He said was researched before his tenure but in looking at the different companies, it looked as if they met the qualifications as necessary compared to the other agencies but could not tell her in detail about them.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 9:03 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt asked Mrs. Jackson her opinion of the company. She said to her they all seemed the same and the deciding factor was the price point.

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



**21. Discussion and Action on the Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion to possibly amend the Gadsden County SHIP Local Housing Assistance Plan to include the rehabilitation of owner-occupied mobile homes into section (B) Emergency Repairs, (C) Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation, and (E) Disaster Recovery and Mitigation.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE TO ADD MOBILE HOMES AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said he read it was first come, first serve to these funds and she said with a priority being special needs first. He asked if there were a way to evenly divide the funds throughout the 5 districts for folks and she said they take into consideration the applications by district. She wanted to clarify that mobile homes can be added because of a disaster, they cannot be done without a declared disaster. Mrs. Jackson also clarified that mobile homes do not qualify without a disaster being declared.

Ms. Lex also commented it had to be owner-occupied and Commissioner Holt said she was glad she mentioned that because they have found for instance, the home might have been in the Grandmother's name and now grandchildren were occupying it and they would not qualify because the home was not in their name.

Chair Viegbesie asked when she talks about a declared emergency, who declares the emergency, the Governor or the person that was experiencing the damage. He said it needed to be specific. Ms. Lex said SHIP would be the one that would inform them of the declared emergency and felt it needed to be declared at the State and/or Federal level.

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

**22. Approval of Appointment/Re-Appointment for the County-Elected Official to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of reappointment of Commissioner Holt.

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

Mr. Weiss said they were asking for an alternate as well.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE NOMINATED COMMISSIONER HINSON AS THE ALTERNATE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON NOMINATED KATHY JOHNSON AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.**

Mrs. Jackson pointed out at the last meeting they approved the order that the City Managers said they wanted to go with and they agreed. Mr. Weiss said he thought this would be an alternate.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was only for the County elected official that was the way he read it. Mr. Weiss said it stated Staff was requesting an alternate be selected for the County-elected representative and the municipal-elected representative to ensure coverage for all meetings.

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

**23. Possible Moratorium on Hiring**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion regarding the hiring of staff for vacant positions.

Chair Viegbesie said this was for discussion and was not an action item and asked the Administrator why she thought there was an impression that there were new hires that would call for a moratorium on hiring and then asked had the operational budget been exceeded for the fiscal year. Mrs. Jackson said no, they were actually under budget this year, just as they were last year. She said she felt the perception of new positions being created was because of the new titles and those titles reflect merging several positions. She said some people were running with it and spreading news that was not true that there were created positions when there is not. She gave for example the Growth Management Director and was a position that used to be the Planning Director, however it is no longer called that and now the Building Official, Code Enforcement, Animal Control and Parks comes under that position. She said she felt it was practical to be able to do that versus having a lot of supervisors when they are not needed and was a way to save money. She said that has been done, not only in that department but in several departments.

Commissioner Taylor said she asked for this item, not so much as she does not believe in rumors and does not entertain that. She said she gets facts and knowledge and bases her opinion on that. She said if they look at that particular period she spoke of, there were 45 people that were dismissed and 40 that was hired. She said that was a lot of people that were being dismissed and hired, not so much in new positions, it was a lot of things going on within the coffers of this government. She said when people are dismissed, it costs money to train people and bring them back up to speed and that was what she was looking at. She said she saw this morning people placed in areas she had not seen them before and was not based on hearsay, it was what she observed herself. She said when you see within a given time 45 turnovers, it was a little more than hiring a position. A moratorium needs to be put in place so the Commissioners can look at what was going on within the management. She said that was the reason she asked for it. She said she believed that the Board needs to look closer at issues going on within this government and that hiring needs to be brought to a halt until they figure out the direction they need to go. She added this was a service oriented government and they provide a service. She said if the employee morale was not intact then there are issues. She was letting people go and hiring and with the chart provided, it was a lot of turnover. She said she was not sure if it was standard. She said she knew they knew that she had issues with the Administration and she knew that as well and when there are issues and you see things that continue to escalate, you put a moratorium on hiring. She said key people have been let go. She said there were issues and if they don't stop the hiring and don't stop what was going on, the turnovers that are happening, they then have a fragmented government. She said they could put their head in the sand because they support what is going on and say people they talk with are having a great time and Commissioner Taylor

said that was not true. She said people were talking to her and looking at the numbers, it was showing. She said she would like to see the hiring stopped and they revisit it because she was not in support of the way it was going. She added that someone came to her and apologized for not listening to her when she was on the City of Quincy Board and she apologized to Commissioner Morgan because there was times when he wanted to do some things with changes and she would not talk part in that because she wanted to give this Administrator a chance to produce and be productive but as time progressed and she watched, she was wrong. She said that was the reason she wanted to stop it and she has not had much support from the Board when it came to that and she understood. She said she was trying to see if they could put brakes on what was going on and revisiting the administration.

Mrs. Jackson said she wanted to address a couple of things; the chart was accurate but not accurate, she did not like the word "Dismissed". She said it did not mean people were terminated, it meant that some left, some were promoted and she promised she would send a more accurate chart, there was another chart that should have been attached and not sure why it was not included. She said at EMS, they were actually paying lower than anywhere else in the region, she have made significant changes and now instead of being in a place that people come just to work for a year to get the training, the County was actually that place that people were trying to come to. She said she did not know when the County had ever been in the black with EMS and they were in the black and was now the premier place where they are able to recruit and retain the best job. She said they actually hired four more people on this date. She said part of the reason they were in the red, and Commissioner Hinson had said this before, was staff overtime. She said the reason they were paying time and half was no-one wanted to work here. She said they had employees working 48 hour shifts instead of working 24 hour shifts. She said with Public Works, she did not want to talk about some of the reasons that some were no longer there, but if they would come and see her, she can show them some of the things that have happened. She said they had people wreck equipment, fail drug tests, and she will show them the reason for the turnover that it shows there. She said a lot were promotions and if they look at the current vacant positions, they were not necessarily vacant, in some cases, those positions will not be filled. She said Commissioner Taylor brought up staff morale. She said there was a culture there, when she worked as the Grant Writer and that culture has started leaving there. She said "when you have a handful of staff who have walked around as if they were County Administrator because they are close to several commissioners. Those staff are no longer able to intimidate other staff and make them feel uncomfortable here. Those staff are no longer able to just have their way and how it works. Those are the people you communicate with, those people, they are not the majority. The majority of the people are happy to come to work now and they feel comfortable. I can get the entire staff to show up and tell you that you are wrong about staff morale. She said she surveys staff all the time; I keep my Directors in here who can also say that. I survey them, I send out anonymous documents and those documents come back overwhelmingly saying that they appreciate the direction that things are going. My Directors appreciate the fact that no matter what I support them and don't throw them under the bus with the Commissioners. It's my fault at the end of the day anything that happens because I'm the Administrator and I take responsibility for that."

Commissioner Taylor said she made a comment about the people that she speaks with and said she did not know how that was possible she would know. Mrs. Jackson said they tell her that she meets up with them at Public Works (then she said Piggly-Wiggly) and asks. Commissioner Taylor responded she is in a lunch line and she does ask questions. She said she does not go to Piggly-

Wiggly to meet anyone, she goes to get food. Mrs. Jackson started to interrupt and Chair Viegbesie stopped her. Commissioner Taylor said wherever she is, she is a Commissioner, they can talk to her, they are citizens and vote in the County. She added that apparently the Administrator was walking around with rose colored glasses on; she did not know if the people were being threatened and not telling the truth and she was only trying to get to the cusp of the problem and not trying to make it sound as if it was her or them, but the fact there were morale issues. Commissioner Taylor said she was not trying to demean her skillsets or who she was but to give her facts that she could look at and maybe go from there. But to say it is all great, all good, obviously they are not forthcoming with her and she was not truly in touch with her people. She said as far as meeting them at Piggly-Wiggly, she talks with them all over, they are calling her and she listens. She said if they were going to improve, it was imperative they do some things and make changes. She added if they want things to stay as it was and the majority of the Board was good and fine with where it was going, they will take the ride. She was sitting and living on a 3-2 vote, it is not long before change will come.

Commissioner Hinson said the County Administrator answered one of his questions, he did not know that 45 people were dismissed but she clarified why. He said how she reacts in the storm determines everything about you, not when things are calm.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 9:32 p.m.*

He added it was up to them to give her direction and they were supposed to show where they want to go. He thought the Board should approve all organizational charts and job titles. He said the only two positions he felt they had to have was the Assistant County Administrator and a Building Official.

Commissioner Holt said she not one to wait, she makes calls. She said she talks with citizens and did not think it was that unusual, they've had workshops in the past where they've looked at staff. She said she did not think they needed to have a freeze on hiring because they had to have an Assistant County Administrator, they need a grant writer, a Public Works Director and they needed someone else in the SHIP program.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 9:30 p.m.*

Commissioner Morgan encouraged each member to search out and review the reason for the Board and what their primary responsibilities were. He said they are to set policy, priorities, to collectively work together to compromise and craft and adhere to an annual budget, to hire two people, a qualified County Attorney and a qualified County Administrator. He felt the conversation they just had was one that could be had in private with the Administrator to let her know what their feelings were, if they did not respond, then don't support them. He said the Board was not to run day-to-day operations of the County. He added they were four hours into the meeting; they need to stick to the agenda and get things done; have the personal, petty conversations in private.

Commissioner Hinson said in all fairness, he did not think what the Commissioners brought up was petty and he valued other Commissioners' comments and thought it was good for discussion. He said he could not believe they got rid of the Summer Youth Employment, the \$100,000 for Emergency Housing and then they started hiring people for positions before they hired an Assistant County Administrator, a grant writer, SHIP program specialist, Building Official.

Chair Viegbesie said a comment that Commissioner Morgan made that was very appropriate. He said he went to a workshop recently on Professional Ethics and a comment was made was, "Nose in, finger out", meaning your nose should be on what was going on with the Executive Director but fingers should be out of what they do in the day-to-day operations.

Commissioner Taylor said she has been around the dais for 10 years, and each have brought subjects up to discuss they are passionate about, especially when it affects the morale of the County Government. She said this was an agendaed item and was here for discussion. She added there have been issues at every meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to take the morale serious.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 9:57 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said they could workshop this.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 9:58 p.m.*

**24. Approval of a Revision to the Health Coverage Component of the Employment Agreement for the Gadsden County Administrator**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a revision to the health coverage of the Employment Agreement for the County Administrator. She said at the December 2, 2018 meeting, the BOCC voted to appoint her as the County Administrator and instructed the County Attorney to negotiate a contract for the Board's consideration. She said the contract was approved with certain changes consistent with the prior Administrator's contract. She said the contract was revised according and she has agreed to all of the changes except the change from payment of the insurance premium for family to single coverage.

Chair Viegbesie asked if she was saying there was an error from family to single coverage or single to family coverage. She said the previous Administrator had single coverage and she was requesting family coverage. She said currently the Board pays a percentage of all employees' health insurance and she was asking that hers be family coverage instead of single because she currently had family coverage.

Mr. Weiss said he drafted the original contract with the input from the current administrator as to what she was requesting. At the January meeting, there was a motion made to have \$100,000 salary, two year term, 5 months' severance and all other terms to be consistent with the previous administrator's contract. He said he made revisions to the contract, sent the letter to the Administrator, she was agreeable to everything except she wanted to have family coverage as opposed to single. She said all county employees were able to elect whether they wanted family or single and the Board pays a percentage of whichever they choose. He said the question was if the Board would pay the entire premium for single or family, whichever she chose. He said whether the Board agreed to pay the entire premium versus only a percentage that was up to the Board.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the option of family or single could be determined through the open enrollment period. Mr. Weiss said no other employees have a contract. He said they looked

at previous Administrators contracts and it looked like when Marlon Brown was the Administrator, the language changed for his contract to Mr. Presnell's contract in terms of coverage. It appeared that Mr. Brown was receiving full payment of the premium for family coverage and that was in exchange for him agreeing to a lower salary.

Commissioner Morgan said the attorney accurately summed that up. He said he was provided previous agreements dating back to 2005 and the only one where he saw the County paid was where Mr. Brown agreed to a lower salary for the premium to be paid. He said the only one he saw where the County paid the entire premium was Mr. Brown and he agreed to a lower salary in exchange for that. He said he talked with the previous Administrator and he chose individual coverage and he paid the employee portion of the premium. He felt it was important, if the majority of the Board wanted to consider that, he did not have any heartache with it. He did have a position and did not think they should set a precedent for changing that. He said with that being said, Mrs. Jackson may want to take a reduced salary for then to pay the premium if they knew what that was or if she wanted to choose family... She said she had already reduced her salary by \$5,000 already this year when she took the permanent position. He said that was a salary she set as Interim, not one they voted on. He said she initially set the salary and he voted against it because it was higher than the previous Administrator's and she was Interim at the time. Mrs. Jackson said if it was not a benefit to the Administrator for the premium to be paid, why is it a part of the Agreement anyway when it was already offered to everyone anyway. Commissioner Morgan said his understanding was she wanted them to pay the entire premium and she said exactly. He said they had never done that in the past except when the one manager agreed to reduce his salary to offset those costs. She said whatever the Board felt was fair she was OK with. Commissioner Morgan said his issue was he wanted to make this as a part of something that the Administrator was comfortable with to where it was a better option for her. He said it might make better sense for her to negotiate a lower salary to offset the premium as opposed to paying the family premium. She said that made no sense and she would not do that. He said he did not know what Mr. Brown's reasons were for doing that. He said if that was not something she would entertain, he did not know why they were having this discussion. She could make the choice of family or individual as long as she was paying the premium.

Commissioner Holt asked Mrs. Jackson what she was paying now. She said prior to the contract, they were paying a certain percentage of family coverage just as they did when she was the Grant Writer. Commissioner Holt said she was paying a certain portion and she said yes. Commissioner Holt said she way nothing wrong with that, they do that for everybody. Commissioner Morgan said there was nothing wrong with that. Mrs. Jackson asked why it was in the contract if it was not considered to be a perk.

Commissioner Hinson said they were not hearing what she was saying. Commissioner Holt said she heard exactly what everyone was saying. She said to treat everyone alike and be done with it, she pays her part and they pay their part and move on. She asked the Clerk what they paid in insurance and he said he was unsure of the exact figure but it was a big part of what the pay. She asked what they were paying for themselves individually. He said the Commissioners and employees paid their part and the County paid their part.

Chair Viegbesie asked what happened to the employees that did not use the County insurance coverage. He said the County was required to offer health insurance to everyone; there are some that do not accept it because they may have coverage with a spouse. He said back to what

Commissioner Holt was saying, Commissioners accept health insurance just like the employees. Health insurance was offered to everyone, employees pay their portion and the County pays their portion for each level, whether it was single, plus 1 or family. He added that she would be paying the same thing as an employee with single coverage or family coverage.

Commissioner Hinson said maybe they were talking about two different things, she was saying one of the perks would be great if they paid for the entire coverage because in the past someone else received the same thing. But it was up to the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said the reason the item was on the agenda was because she request the County consider paying the entire premium. She has the right to choose single or family coverage, what they were talking about is what the impact fiscally of what this would be.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH OPTION OF INSURANCE THAT REGULAR EMPLOYEES PAY AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said he understood and fair was fair, and thought they should pay for the whole healthcare.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO LET MRS. JACKSON CHOOSE HER COVERAGE AND PAY THE SAME AMOUNT AS OTHER EMPLOYEES AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Taylor asked for clarification that she would pay her portion, just as other employees and was told yes.

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

##### **25. Updates**

Mr. Thomas said he had no report tonight.

Commissioner Taylor had a question and asked where they were at with the repayment of (overtime) salary for the Administrator. Mr. Thomas said he forwarded an email to the Commissioners that had options on it almost two weeks ago to all the Commissioners. Commissioner Taylor asked when it would be on the Agenda. Mrs. Jackson said it would be on the second meeting in March. She said the Chair had not had a chance to speak with Clerk regarding that yet. Chair Viegbesie said he and the Administrator had not had the chance to discuss options to determine which options to bring before the Board for action. He said that will be done in the March meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said regarding the Clerk, was there any reason why they moved the Constitutional Officer to the end of the meeting? He added that any Constitutional attending the meeting should be shown the respect to be at the beginning of the meeting in case they have a report they need to contribute to the Board.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**26. Updates**

She had as few dates for the Commissioners:

Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 there will be a "Go Red for Women" event on the Courthouse square and asked that everyone to show and wear red.

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 is a Private Road Workshop.

The March 5<sup>th</sup> the BCC meeting is cancelled due to the Conference.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out meeting at 10:23 p.m.*

Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 is the BOCC/Senior Citizens joint workshop at the Senior center.

Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 is the regular BCC Meeting.

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> is Gadsden County day at the Capitol.

She said if they know of any citizens with trees in their yard that needs to be moved, let her know, there is a volunteer group interested in helping.

She sent each Commissioner a document showing \$21 Million in damage to County property.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 10:24 p.m.*

She said a lot has been said about employee morale. She said since last year they have had an Employee Engagement Committee that was very active and a staff person from each department and they were doing great things. The next big thing they were doing was a brown bag lunch once a month where employees are selected and have lunch with her and can bring forth any issues they have in an open forum and have a chance to know her a little better.

Commissioner Holt said she spoke with Congressman Lawson and he wanted to check on their items for the Legislature.

Commissioner Taylor said she saw at the beginning of the meeting they acknowledged GCDC without Chamber. Mrs. Jackson said it did not say GCDC on the Resolution, GCDC requested it for Economic Development Week. Commissioner Taylor asked did she not think the Chamber should have been invited to also participate. Mrs. Jackson said she did not know of anywhere else in the United States where that was a goal of the Chamber, the Chamber provides services to its members, not to go out and get jobs. Commissioner Taylor said she was looking at what they fund them for; they fund them for economic development. Mrs. Jackson asked if she would like her to invite them to the next meeting and Commissioner Taylor said if they were a part of economic growth.

She asked about the contract for GCDC; she said a year ago they did a two year deal, but do they



have a chance to revisit the contract. Mr. Weiss said it was subject to funding every year.

She said she wanted to see a breakdown by County who got jobs through CareerSource.

She said she want the Citizens Bill of Rights placed back on the Agenda.

She said with the Seniors, she wanted to share the By-laws with them and thought they need a copy of the current by-laws to see.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **27. Updates**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said he received a phone call and was told the Administrator said the Chair took off the Agenda the item for Resource Offices and thought as a Board when they vote; they could not trump the Board.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 10:32 p.m.*

Mrs. Jackson said statutorily the County Administrator made the Agenda, however with that particular situation, all parties involved said they would prefer it not come before the Board yet. They wanted to meet separate and have a workshop because school safety, from what she was told, was not just School Resource Officers but a whole district process. Commissioner Hinson said he how it worked but was told by her the Chairman took it off the Agenda because he wanted to talk with the Sheriff and Superintendent. She said that was not what she said. Chair Viegbesie said was originally it was on the Agenda; the Sheriff called him; he said they could discuss school safety generally. He said for them to meet with the school soon and they would discuss school safety.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 10:35 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said he specifically asked that they discuss Resource Officers and there were three schools that did not have Resource Officers. He said they were playing politics and not being fair because if the Board said to bring it to the Agenda, you could not trump the Board. He said the County Administrator was an invited guest, this was a Board meeting, not a County Administrator meeting.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 10:36 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said when she saw the article that Governor DeSantis had established a committee to look at funding; she contacted the Sheriff and Superintendent and asked they look into it. She said there were two pots of money they were looking at, and was not a positive article from things that was said.

Commissioner Hinson said he supported the Senior Citizens efforts, they all were passionate and he hoped they could come to a resolution and felt they were mistreated.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT ASKED FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT ASKED FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR FREDDIE FIGGERS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

*Commissioner Taylor left at 10:41 p.m.*

She said the Four Star Freight Training Grant that was received by Gadsden Vo-tech, the Board was able to get.

She was going to tell Commissioner Taylor that she thought the group would do well, to get everyone back together in the committee meetings for Stevens School.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

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

Chair Viegbesie thanked TDC for organizing the 2019 Crappie Fishing Tournament and thanked Ms. Baker and Ms. Burns for their assistance. He thanked the Vice-Chair for representing BOCC on Media Day

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 28 AS IDA SIMMONS DAY, SHE WILL BE 102 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR EDNA ANDERSON, WHO WAS TURNING 100 ON MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>**

Hinson proclamation for Edna Anderson turning 100 on March 2

Commissioner Holt asked Mrs. Jackson to check with FDOT on the Beautification Project at I-10 and Highway 90.

**Receipt and File**

**29. Documents**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

19. December 6, 2018-5:00 p.m. BOCC/GHI Joint Workshop
- December 18, 2018-6:00 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
February 19, 2019-Regular Meeting

**January 1, 2019-6:00 p.m.-BOCC Regular Meeting Cancelled**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:46 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS ON AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA HELD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2019 AT 5:00 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-absent**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 5**  
                  **Dee Jackson, County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**WELCOME**

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the Private Road Workshop. He asked Mr. Arthur Bodison to step forward and give the Invocation.

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

**Linda Barkley, 530 Dusty House Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. She stated she was in the process of petitioning for the road she lives on to see if it would qualify for the County to adopt and maintain it. She suggested that prior to citizens spending the money for surveys, etc., the County review the roads beforehand to see if it were one they would consider taking over.

**Michael Dorian, 145 Alligator Run, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He stated he was on Bill McGill’s Better Roads Committee in the 1980’s. As Federal and State money became available, a County Road Paving list was established and roads were paved. He said the money has run out and Gadsden County is on its own. He felt homeowner associations should be banned. He said currently homeowners were responsible for maintaining roads in small neighborhoods. He added that most homeowner associations failed so the roads failed. He further stated that currently a contractor could make a small development out of 5 – 7 homes on any paved county road and it could be done without any notification of neighbors and without any County meetings. He said he understood it could be done over and over again, one next to another.

He said the Board needed to take responsibility of past mistakes and take care of their citizens. He added they also needed to close the door on Homeowners Associations and made developers pay for their own roads.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**2. Discussion of the Private Road Ordinance**

Chair Viegbesie asked if any Commissioners had anything to say.

Commissioner Holt said at one time they went through the process to tell homeowners that part of the Development Order was they had to take care of the roads. She also said there had not been anyone to apply to develop large or small subdivisions. She added that the State warned them before taking on private roads, make sure they could maintain the roads they have.

She said at one time they bonded (borrowed) the money and started paving the ones they had. She said to this day they had not been able to do an upward scale of the roads. She added if they borrow money, they have to have a way to pay it back.

She further stated they try to base the acceptance of private property along with what the State says they will accept.

She told Mr. Dorian he was correct in that they tried to get the developer to accept those roads.

Commissioner Hinson said this was something he heavily supported. He said in Section 2 (a) (2) it stated "Pay any and all costs associated with the voluntary conveyance..." He said he did not think people would have a problem with that, but a lot of senior citizens live on fixed incomes.

Chair Viegbesie said the point he was about to make has been made by the other commissioners; acquiring private roads is not something they could flip a switch and do. People that own property along the private road have to sign off on it; the property has to meet specific criteria and that is developed by the State of Florida. If the road does not meet FDOT standards, the County cannot adopt the road. If people want things done, they should be willing to pay taxes. He said his personal opinion was if the road was brought up to that standard, he does not understand why they would not adopt it.

Commissioner Taylor said what has been said to this point is true, but she was a firm believer where there is a will, there is a way. She said there were benefits the County would get in paving the roads that they need to consider as well. One being, when the roads are paved, there would be more homeowners wanting to build on the paved roads. There are ways to get this done and they must be smart about it. There are two things that must happen: Public Works must be able to maintain the additional roads; and make sure no public dollars are spent on the roads to develop them. She added if they bring in more roads, it would bring in more revenue and that would mean hiring more people to maintain. She said there was somewhere between 300-500 private, unpaved roads in the County and she would like to see the roads adopted.

She said they could open a sales tax and there would be a designated source to pay for the roads to be paved. She said there were avenues to get this done. She said there was a ½ cent sales tax that generates almost \$30 Million a year and they could do another ½ cent sales tax that could help with roads, that was currently being used for the hospital and EMS.

Mr. Dorian re-appeared before the Board. He said the Commissioners had an entire conversation and nothing was said about homeowners associations and they need to have developers do their job.

Chair Viegbesie said for them to not forget the impact of homestead exemption on the revenue generating aspect of property taxes. He said if someone owns a home that was worth less than \$50,000, they do not pay property taxes. He added a number of homes in the County are modular homes and a number of them are not worth more than the exemption.

Commissioner Hinson said he didn't think they needed to talk about money right now, people wanted to make sure the County adopted the roads.

He said they didn't want to talk about paving roads, the people wanted them to take over the roads so they could be able to travel up and down them.

Commissioner Holt said the numbers have to make sense. She said she had never thought about not helping people. She said the citizens voted in 2008 and 2010 for Amendments 1 and 3 and they were going to be able to get property taxes reduced. The taxes were reduced but it took money from the projects they were trying to get done. She said when the property taxes reduced; they were unable to go after the other roads. She reiterated they had to look at the numbers and be able to pay to take the roads. She added the roads had to be built up, the bed done, dirt brought in, ditches have to be pulled and if you had a road without ditches, the water would settle back in the road. She said the County was about to work on the budget and they could increase the millage rate if they wanted to. She said the County accepted two roads, Quail Ridge and Ames Barineau, and when the County accepted those roads, those people agreed to be taxed on those roads. To maintain road, she said the costs were approximately \$90-\$95/hour. She further stated if they borrow the money, they have to have the means to pay it back. She said until she saw the numbers, she could not support it or vote for it.

Chair Viegbesie said when the County waived permits, it was to the developer who was building the property and it should have been waived to the homeowner that the developer was building the home for. Unfortunately some citizens were not aware of this and the developer was ripping off some of the citizens.

Ms. Barkley reappeared before Board. She wanted to point out the fourth "Whereas" clause, it did point out it was not for paving, just asking for the road to be maintained. She said she needed to know if she invested in having an easement done and partition off the property, that the County would adopt the road and maintain it. She said they had the County pull the road, they had lime rock put on it and when the storm came through, the road washed away. She said she needed to know if they were going to invest their money; the County could take the road.

Commissioner Holt said that was something they could do now, when the process was put in place was people would call Road and Bridge and they would come out and look.

Commissioner Taylor said she has listened carefully to the other commissioners and agreed with them. A process is what they need to develop. Citizens need to make a request; then the citizen needs to make sure there is 100% participation on that road; develop a template, without that, they would not be able to go any further; Step three would be where the citizen could identify their own engineer and then said they have an engineer on staff that might could look at the road and charge a basic rate of what the costs would be to bring it up to standard; complete the application with an Easement to the County. She said once the application was completed, it would go through the regular process of adopting the road. She said she did see in the Ordinance where it stated not paving, but the problem they would have in not paving the road would be every time it rained, the road would be washed away. She said they needed to see if they could come together and get this on the Agenda. She said if she was to do this with the ½ cent sales tax, she would get the schools involved and would make more people want to vote for it.

Justin Ford appeared before the Board. He said if the citizens have the petitions and get to the point to know the costs, he would be glad to do that, but he did not want to do all 600. He did say as the petitions come in, he would be glad to meet and give an estimate of the costs to bring the

road up to standard.

Commissioner Taylor asked for direction to formulate a process. She said the Chair made a comment about homestead and homes valued at \$50,000 or less did not pay property taxes. She asked how many of those homes are sitting on public roads because when you look at the unincorporated areas where the dirt roads are, you do not see houses under that value. But people that live in these houses would still pay gas taxes and sales taxes as opposed to property taxes. She did say at the end of the day they have to have a funding source. She then asked the Attorney with regards to the possible ½ cent sales tax, was there a limitation on how many could be opened at one given time. He said the short answer was it depends, there are a lot of different potential taxes including fuel taxes, there were sales taxes, four different types and the uses are restricted in certain cases and sometimes it takes a Referendum, other times it takes a vote of the Commission. He said he would need to look into the specific type of funding source. He added that generally they were not limited to having multiple types of sales taxes and fuel taxes. Commissioner Taylor said the Sheriff may be another entity that would be interested in a tax, he always needed additional funding for protection, equipment, or manpower and the protection would take care of all 49,000 citizens.

Commissioner Holt said she was in favor of a sound process, if there is a way to pay for it and they are able to do it. She said they needed a couple of more workshops to make sure this will work. She said she was not willing to put this on the Agenda because if it was voted in incorrectly and they get a sales tax, they will be stuck with it no matter how they do it for 30 years or however the length of time is. She added it did not cost anything to do workshops. She told Mrs. Barkley when they do this, make sure they look at a special tax for just their road because they could get together for their road, whether it was County-wide or not and they have another option. She said for them to look at the special taxing district to see what the costs would be. She said these were things they needed to look at before it goes on the Agenda because when they vote for it and start doing it, if it does not work, people will not believe if they have to come back. She said she was fine as long as they look at the Millage Rate, can look at County-Wide and they need to make sure it is worked out before it gets to that point. She said she was not interested in this until they have all the public roads paved and those people have been waiting for a lot longer.

Chair Viegbesie said all have agreed there is need to develop a plan of action to maintain the dirt roads, but did not think it was something that could be rushed into. He said haste makes waste and they will need to work on this as to how to work the plan to accommodate the dirt roads. He said if they were look at imposing a special option tax, it could only be used on what it was collected for.

Commissioner Hinson said that was the reason he said to stick with the plan they had, a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 6:58 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said they were about to start Brickyard Road and High Bridge Road and they will have milling from that project. If they adopt a road, they might be able to use that milling on the dirt roads.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:01 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor concurred with the Commissioners the need for another workshop but did not want to workshop this to death. She asked the Attorney if the three entities mentioned joined together, the School Board, Sheriff, and the County, for this possible tax, in the referendum that goes on the ballot does have language that defines what it is for and what the money would go toward. In the language when they are looking at 100% of the funding and may want to go 1/3 each, could it be done and with those three on it, it would give them the greater chance of getting voter approval and was why she was looking at multiple entities on this Referendum. Mr. Weiss said he would look into whether or not there was a certain tax they could spread and was uncertain how that would work. She said for example, the schools could only use the dollars for technology, physical fitness activity and facility for build-outs. She said her concern was whatever the guidelines were could do with the dollars, could it go on one Referendum. She asked that he look into it. She said they did need another workshop to make sure moving forward they have all the kinks worked out. She said she knew how to win elections but more than anything, this Board needed to be on one chord and stop the divide they had. She said the comment was made there were still public roads waiting to be paved and that was true. She said the Commissioners needed to talk this in a positive manner and join together.

Chair Viegbesie said they were talking about a plan of action and they will workshop this until they get the kinks worked out. This was not something that they can rush into. This workshop is the beginning of something that will be implemented to change the bad roads.

Commissioner Holt said their options in looking at the templates were: County-Wide sales tax; special taxing districts; ad valorem taxes (millage rate) and needed to make sure they equal one mile. She said the Engineer and Road and Bridge director needed to give them data on the costs for a mile of road of what it would take to bring it up to standard.

Mr. Ford reappeared and said each road would be different.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 7:13 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**



**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA HELD ON MARCH 19, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:**       **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2-absent**  
                  **Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5**  
                  **Eric Hinson, District 2**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared by phone initially**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Dee Jackson, County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Taylor called the meeting to Order at 6:02 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

*Commissioner Morgan appeared by phone until his arrival.*

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Agenda Items 1, 15, 17 and wished to table Items 12 & 13. Mr. Weiss pointed out that the tabling of items was the Board’s decision.

Clerk Thomas pointed out Item 17 was his item to give updates. It was pointed out that after the Agenda was published in the newspapers; an amended Agenda was sent to the Commissioners and put on the County’s website. Before the meeting this was brought to the attention of the County Attorney by the Deputy Clerk, who then in turn advised they needed to work from the original Agenda that was published in the newspapers. With the original Agenda in hand, it was agreed items 1, 15 and 17 would be pulled from the night’s Agenda.

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to add the County Administrator’s overtime pay back to the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY VICE CHAIR TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO ADD THIS TO THE AGENDA AS ITEM 16A. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

- 1- ~~Gadsden County SWAT~~**  
Item Pulled

**CONSENT**

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

- 2. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. February 5, 2019-Regular Meeting**
  - b. February 12, 2019 BOCC/Senior Services Workshop**
  - c. February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting**
- 3. Approval of Resolution in Support of HB191**
- 4. Approval of Agreement for Government Affairs and Legislative Consulting with Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.**
- 5. Approval to Add Additional Roads to Attachment A of the Interlocal Agreement for the Town of Greensboro**
- 6. Approval and Authorization for Signature on the Audit Compliance Certification-Exhibit 3**
- 7. Tolar White Road SCOP-Professional Services**
- 8. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP**
- 9. Approval to Extend the Current Lease Agreement with the USDA for the FSA Service Office**
- 10. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien**
- 11. Ratification Memo**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Roderick Palmer, 79 Laschelle Court, Quincy, FL** Project Hope

Mr. Palmer appeared before the Board and said he was the Community Liaison for Project Hope. He told the Board that Project H.O.P.E. (Helping Our People in Emergencies) was collaboration between FEMA and State of Florida covering Gadsden County, Liberty County and Franklin County. He said they are trying to assist the community with unmet needs and will have a small staff and will be here for at least 9 months, maybe longer.

Vice Chair Taylor asked if they would be offering services from the two storms and he replied no, the help was for Hurricane Michael only.

**Mary L. Smith, 3137 Atwater Road, Chattahoochee, FL** Trespassing on property

Mrs. Smith appeared before the Board to inform them of problems she was having with neighbors. She said while she was in New York, the neighbors succeeded in getting roads put in across her property by Talquin Electric. The Hornbergers own the property and is letting

someone live on site and they get anything they want and do not have their name on anything. She said her children get locked up; the Sheriff's Office sent 12 cars to pick up her son and he was a correctional officer. She said "your people" sent them out to clear roads; whatever they want to do they do. She then said if they think she is going to stand by and let them do it, they were mistaken. She said she was going to be there and was not moving any place; going to put up a fight until there was no breath left in her body and that was what she came to tell them. She told the Board they could send anybody they wanted out there; she said "I'm putting up a gate and if you come across my gate, you might not make it back". She then yelled "RACIST, RACIST, RACIST".

Vice Chair Taylor asked the Administrator if anything could be done to help out to deter the situation. Mrs. Jackson said they need to meet with the Sheriff and come to some type of resolution. She added it seemed "everything getting hung up at the Sheriff's Office and the Property Appraiser's Office".

Vice Chair Taylor said she did not know how much could be done. Mrs. Smith said "That's alright; I'll show you how I do it."

*Commissioner Morgan arrived at 6:16 p.m.*

Vice Chair Taylor said they would see what they could do to help. Mrs. Smith replied they could see if they wanted to.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **12. Public Hearing Approval of Ordinance 2019-004 of the BOCCGC Adopting Procedures to Acquire Property Interests in and Accept Into the County Road Maintenance System Certain Private Roadways Located Within the Unincorporated Area of the County Under Certain Conditions; 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**

Commissioner Morgan said the Agenda he received was different from what was published. Vice Chair Taylor explained the difference in the Agendas and that they would be working from the paper copy, the one that was published in the newspapers.

Mr. Weiss said the intent was to recommend tabling both the Public Hearings. He explained when the original Agenda was published, it was done so with both public hearings and it was later determined that they would not be heard this evening and was why an amended Agenda was put out but for record purposes, since it was published, they needed to go by the published Agenda which was the paper copy that was placed before them. Vice Chair Taylor said they had approved the Agenda and will address tabling those two items when they reach that point.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Holt asked the reason they were tabling the item.

Mrs. Jackson said it was not the will of the Board to bring back a private road Ordinance, it was to

be a workshop; however it had been placed on the Agenda for the first advertisement and was why it was amended on-line. Commissioner Holt asked about Item 13. Mrs. Jackson said Item 13 would require a super majority vote.

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

**13. 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 'Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights' (LDR 2018-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**14. Purchase of Eight Short Barrel Rifles for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval to purchase eight short barrel rifles for issuance to deputies who serve operators on the GCSO Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT).

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

**15. ~~Barack Obama Boulevard Roundabout Bid Award~~**

Item Pulled

**16. Appointment to the Big Bend Continuum of Care Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to appoint/reappoint a representative and an alternate for Gadsden County on the Big Bend Continuum of Care Board.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could have them send all scheduled meetings to them so they can be there on time.

**VICE CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

**16a. Discussion of Overtime Pay Reimbursement for County Administrator**

Vice Chair Taylor said she had a sidebar with the County attorney and wanted to caution the Board on discussion of this particular item and stated that comments were to remain in a general form.

Mr. Weiss said he wanted to make sure everyone understood that because the Administrator is now represented by Counsel regarding this issue and they could not have a conversation directly with her without her Counsel present and their consent.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated this being put back on. He said he wanted to add this item because it was the plan to have this on at this meeting so the Board could be updated as to where they were. He added that it appeared the direction they were moving in to get this resolved has taken a turn and felt the Board as a whole needed to be prepared on how they want to move forward in those discussions and what they want to take from this. He wanted some input from the attorney on how to bring this to a close one way or another.

Vice Chair Taylor said her understanding this matter was given to the Chair and the Administrator in consultation with the Clerk to come up with a resolution to resolve this. She said they received options from the Clerk and felt the options were amenable and it looked like what Commissioner Morgan put on the table previously with the Chair along with the Administrator to come up with an option has fallen through. She thought in looking at the attorney, the Board could come up with some options and then get this resolved. She also felt they should look at other salaried employees that received compensation as well.

Commissioner Morgan said his reason for adding this was specifically for the Administrator, the others were employees of the Administrator and did not want to readdress any of the other employees. He said it was worked out where the Clerk saw approval of that and he talked with the Administrator at that point and time and everything was great and obviously there has been a change in that direction and as a collective Board, wanted them on a swift path to get this situation resolved so they could move forward.

Vice Chair Taylor said she concurred.

Commissioner Holt said they could not question the Administrator so did not see how they could logically make a decision and with her attorney not present, they could not continue.

Commissioner Morgan said Commissioner Holt was correct. He said he was putting it on the table that the Board has a path forward with a date certain on moving this issue along. He did not want to be here six months from now without this being resolved because that was an expense to the taxpayer not having the issue addressed and they had to opportunity to do that several different ways. He said he was just mentioning to the Board as a whole if they were still sitting here the next time they meet and it still had not been resolved, there had to be other options that they could consider.

Commissioner Holt said she felt they need to workshop it, bring in her attorney and hammer it out. She said the Clerk was there with his recommendation but the Chairman was not present. She said they need to workshop it or hold a special meeting if it requires a vote.

Commissioner Hinson said he was just listening; his mind was already made up so he was just listening. He said whatever the Board wanted to do, he was committed.

Vice Chair Taylor said the Clerk mentioned three options and asked the Clerk what they were.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they should be discussing that and Mr. Weiss said he did not think it would be a problem. Commissioner Morgan said they had options that the Clerk was good with and the Administrator at one time was good with them.

Vice Chair Taylor said she did not receive emails and in order to come up with a resolution needed to know what the options were.

Mr. Thomas said he gave six, twelve and eighteen month options.

Commissioner Morgan wanted to close discussion and ask for this item to be placed on the next agenda and would like updates at every meeting until this issue was resolved.

Vice Chair Taylor said her only concern was, it appeared in order to resolve this, they may have to get some direction from the Board because she felt a position had already been made that paying it back was no longer on table and with each meeting they would get the same results.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood where she was coming from and was hoping they would know if that was going to be definite decision, and then they would need to make some other decisions. He added that it was not originally agendaed for this meeting and was why he asked for it to be added and now that they have talked about it and know it's coming up in two weeks; it should have been on this agenda and was what the direction of the Board was and there may be a reason it was not that he's unaware of. He further stated he wanted it publically advertised and placed on the Agenda so they could have a discussion and understand how some of the decisions were being made and if they need to make any other decisions based on that.

Vice Chair Taylor asked the Attorney, based on what was sent to them by the attorney, and one was public discussion on this issue, she wanted to make sure they were protected on what gets agendaed.

Mr. Weiss said this was an employment-related decision that the Board has to make.

Commissioner Holt said in their directions, they gave directions for the Manager, the Clerk and the Chair and do not have any recommendations from two of them and it made sense to bring it back.

Vice Chair Taylor said on the floor was to have it agendaed at the next meeting and also to have it workshopped. She said she would take motions.

Commissioner Morgan said he would agree with the will of the Board, if a workshop was preferable, he had no issue with that.

Commissioner Holt said they could hold a special meeting and Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with that.

Vice Chair Taylor said at that meeting, they would have the Chair and the Attorney there and a decision can be made.

Vice Chair Taylor said she would like to see it before the next meeting.

Commissioner Morgan asked if it could be scheduled prior to the next meeting.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE REPAYMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING AT 4:00 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

- 17. Approval of the County Social Media Policy Number 19-01**  
Item Pulled

**CLERK OF COURT**

**18. Updates**

Mr. Thomas said this was the time of year they were generally flushed with cash because of having approximately 83% of the ad valorem taxes on but it is short-lived. He said they have about \$20 Million; \$9 Million in General Funds but for them to keep in mind they spend \$3-4 Million a month on average. He said they currently have cash but it was short-lived. He said he passed out some information that they could look over later.

Vice Chair Taylor asked if there were other revenues that would be coming in and he said yes, there are others that come in on a regular monthly basis. He said the Ad Valorem taxes were almost \$11 Million and they have received most of that. He told them the Fund Balance was so critical because during October and November they operate off of it and he said most grants are reimbursable, meaning they have to put the money up first.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**19. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said there was a request from Talquin Electric for a Proclamation for the students that traveled to Washington.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR THE STUDENTS THAT TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

She reminded them that the next day was Gadsden County Day at the Capitol on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor and will be from 8:00 – 3:00 and a reception would follow at 5:30.

She said there was a package in front of them with Gadsden County Day promotional items with a t-shirt included and asked that they please wear it at the Capitol because there was strength in numbers.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the Building Official issues and about the service and response and how they were moving forward. Mrs. Jackson said she had heard a few rumors but she knew for sure they were caught up. They had three inspectors at one point but starting tomorrow they were cutting back to one. She said the Building Official position was advertised, they had interviews and a recommendation will be coming before her for approval for that position. He asked her to comment for the citizens that were having the permit repairs done the need to have the inspections. She said there was a need to have the inspections for life safety purposes and several have been cited that were doing repairs without permitting.

Commissioner Hinson asked the status of the Summer Youth Employment. Mrs. Jackson said she approved the applications this week and they should go out by the end of this week or the first of the next week. She said the training date was on the application. Commissioner Hinson asked the number of students and Mrs. Jackson said she would have the exact figure tomorrow for him.

Vice Chair Taylor asked about permitting for Sarge's Trailer Park and according to one of the residents, there were some hold-ups with the Zoning Department. Mrs. Jackson said there was a little more information involved than what she wanted to say publically but could hold a conversation with her after the meeting.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **20. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he has prior scheduled appointments tomorrow morning but did plan to come to the Capitol but may not be there until the afternoon.

Also noted on the Agenda it stated that the upcoming meeting would be April 1, 2019 and was not sure if it was an April Fools' joke but Tuesday is actually April 2<sup>nd</sup> for record purposes.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone for everything. He announced that Harry McGill passed away today and asked for a Resolution for the family.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR HARRY MCGILL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

He said they needed to have the Summer Youth Employment discussion again when they have budget talks. He said his daughter has said she could not wait until she turned 14 so she could have a job and now he has to tell her that she probably would not be able to get a job.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THIS PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA TO ENTERTAIN AND DISCUSS BUT NOT VOTE.**

Commissioner Taylor said she has the highest regard for their Chair and in some instances he would say if a Commissioner wanted something on the Agenda they would not have to have a vote on it. She said she would follow him, and asked it to be placed on the Agenda for discussion only. Mrs. Jackson said she thought the Attorney said it could not come back. He said no, for timing purposes, advertising purposes, it may not be able to be on the next Agenda for action but if it was just for discussion, he did not know of any reason it could not come back. Commissioner Holt said she also wanted to see what other governmental agencies (municipalities) and School Board was doing as far as what jobs they were providing. Vice Chair Taylor said her only concern was they would not be able to take any action. Commissioner Hinson asked if they could vote on



it. Mr. Weiss said no, it would require a budget amendment so it would have to be advertised and did not think it could come back at the next meeting, but could at the second meeting. Vice Chair Taylor said they would have a discussion at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the Seniors and the outcome from last Friday. Mrs. Jackson said they had four board members that resigned, now have three Board members, ads have been placed for other Board members, two must be seniors and also placed an advertisement for three of their top positions, including the Executive Director.

#### **Emergency Housing Repairs**

Commissioner Hinson said normally this was for Seniors and handicapped and at the October budget hearing they took away \$100,000 from the fund and he said then they would have a storm and Hurricane Michael happened. He said he wanted discussion again to add the \$100,000 and asked for it to be added to the Agenda.

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

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

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

Commissioner Holt asked regarding the Housing issue did they have extra money from FEMA and was told yes. She asked when they could expect more people to help work that department and Mrs. Jackson said they were advertising next week. Commissioner Holt said if the people do not have funds to get where they need to be with their property, they would not be able to get the building inspector because there would be nothing to inspect if trees were still on their house. Mrs. Jackson said they were not behind on the hurricane but did need additional help for other projects.

She said regarding the Summer Youth jobs, asked Mrs. Jackson to check with CareerSource and see if they would take over and they would go through a professional interview and would help prepare for life.

#### **Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)**

She pointed out signs on the corners for the CRA projects. The County is on there and City gave credit to the County for some of the tax dollars that were being used for those projects.

#### **Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Vice Chair Taylor first thanked the County Administrator, and Commissioner Hinson brought it up also, for seniors. She said yesterday was their first time back at the site and they came in great numbers. She said the Administrator had her staff there to help serve and they thanked them. She said the Seniors made a wish list of things they would like to have and was unsure if it needed to be brought back before the Board, but they would like computers, some educational materials, and a PA system.

#### **Summer Youth**

With regard to students, she concurred with trying to get some additional slots and at this juncture of the budget wanted to see if there might be revenue to support it and asked for information regarding that.

### **Housing**

She said they approved \$200,000+/-and was a grant and that money was out there. Mrs. Jackson said that was in addition to all the SHIP dollars. She said the Board approved changing the policy so it could all be used for Emergency Housing as well as what it was traditionally used for. Vice Chair Taylor asked if that would come back before the Board and Mrs. Jackson said no. Vice Chair Taylor asked for a report so they would know what was happening in each district.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to let folks know that the majority of the tarps came through the BOCC, even from the Sheriff's Department came through the BOCC, the water, tarps, MRE's and wanted that out so everyone would know that BCC was in front of it and it all came from BOCC.

Commissioner Holt said the BOCC didn't purchase, they came through them, but the BOCC was over Emergency Management and he was right about that. She said one thing to look at, when the communication went down, generators for the towers are needed and need to be funded some kind of way because once they go down they need the generators to kick in.

### **Funds for Courthouse Renovation**

Vice Chair Taylor said she knew funds were ear-marked specifically and also knew there was a deadline and wanted to make sure it was extended and asked if they were still on task to receive? Mrs. Jackson said they were still in extension phase. Vice Chair Taylor asked for something on the agenda. She said she was looking at a lot of build-out and they were not being productive and know they approved a construction company and did not know what the hold-up was. Mrs. Jackson she did not want to blame anyone but believed the Clerk's office was enforcing the policies of the Board and she understood once they got a construction company, they would be able to do the work, however, they are having to bid out all of the jobs even though they are the construction company because the money has to come from the Clerk's office to pay them for their sub-contractors. Because of that they are bidding every little tiny project out and that was what was taking so long. Vice Chair Taylor asked if that was anticipated and Mrs. Jackson said she did not and did not think they did either but those are the policies of the Board.

Mr. Thomas said this grant has sat for months and years that nothing has been done. There was a deadline for February and saw where it had been extended until June. He said the Clerk's Office was in no way a hindrance to this matter and very much wanted this done and their Staff was in charge of making this happen. He said this was a reimbursable grant where the work has to be done first and then get reimbursed by the State and would like to see it and should have been done. He said this went back to when he had an environmental study done and brought up the issue of mold and water seeping in the basement and under the steps. He said the Legislature approved the grant, in part because of the problems and has been there for years and their staff was in charge of administering the grants. He said also with the Ag Center, the State awarded an appropriation several years ago. He said there was \$1 Million appropriated that the work has to be done and then submit for reimbursement and could have started work long ago. He said they do not have key people in place like a Building Official that has to approve plans, they lost Mr. Lawson and lost their Procurement person and lost a lot of experience and knowledge of getting projects done and now people want to pass off blame. Mrs. Jackson said "First of all, I wrote the grant for the Courthouse and so I want to see this move forward. I just want to be very clear, both of those projects, and it's well documented; they sat for years and you are correct and they had already sat for years before I became the Interim County Administrator. For the record, a lot

of these processes did not start until I became THE Interim Administrator or the County Administrator. There are processes where things go back and forth, back and forth with the State. Trust me; I don't want my part labeled where I stayed up in the middle of the night writing grants to go in vain. We are very close to getting construction on the Ag Center. David did the final nail in the coffin today, well, David and I and so you should see some construction happen very soon. We've been meeting with the construction managers on that project so you will see that move very soon. Also, I would like to add that because of our insurance and the damage that was done to the old to Ag Center; we are going to be able to outfit that as well. We are actually getting two buildings for price of one and it is going to really be nice and something that our County can really be proud of. As far as the Courthouse is concerned, and let me go back to the Clerk. I did not blame the Clerk; I was just saying they were enforcing our policy, that's their interpretation of our policy. No blame on them, not upset about that, that's the process and we're going to follow it. As far as the Courthouse is concerned, there is water intrusion and the bulk of that money is going to be spent on water intrusion. However, there is some insurance dollars that should be able to take that project a little but further. We have asked for an extension and don't know why the Clerk's Office gets involved in certain things the way that they do but I am open if you ask questions to give you those answers. But, the way that the Department of Historical Preservation wanted this to be done, they wanted us to wait until the time had lapsed, they gave us a time period as to when we could ask for the extension and so even though we knew that we needed an extension four months ago, they wanted us to wait until a certain time before we asked for that extension. So, it's actually in the works and we're not in jeopardy of losing either one of those grants. Allan Meeks has taken over all of the old projects, the capital projects and I will be the first to say that the ball got dropped in some areas but I'm very confident in the work that Allan Meeks has done. We have actually seen some work being done on these capital projects. We had two Building Officials prior to that and both of them sat on the projects. Allan Meeks has taken them over and there is , every day he gives me his wonder list, don't know if you guys have heard that yet, but it shows me what he has done that day on the projects. So all of these capital projects are moving, you may not see it but all of a sudden you will see them all come to a head at the same time. What I can do, as he starts to send me that daily list on the capital projects, I can send them to you also. You can be confident in what's going on."

Commissioner Holt said on the Policy and Procedure in place for construction projects, they need that brought back to the Board because there will be other projects and the Board needs to be aware of what the Policy and Procedures are and how they need to be corrected or updated.

Vice Chair Taylor said to the Clerk she did not hear the Administrator's comments as accusatory and the Clerk apologized if he misheard it.

Vice Chair Taylor said to the Administrator it did look like they were not producing; Stevens School was to be on the Agenda this week and they were supposed to be looking at a couple of students and things are not happening.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:30 p.m.*

She said Stevens School and the Courthouse have seemed to drop by the wayside.

She recognized the representative from Senator Montford's office and Councilwoman Kathy

Johnson that was present from Havana.

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

**Receipt and File**

- 22.** February 11, 2019-Letter from the Florida Department of State  
Proclamation honoring the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)  
Proclamation honoring Ms. Ida Price Simmons  
Resolution honoring Mrs. Sonya Hines-Hall  
Resolution honoring Mr. Jerry Buscher and the Gadsden County Correctional Facility

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- 19.** April 1, 2019-BOCC Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:32 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 APRIL 2, 2019 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, County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and asked everyone to mute or turn off their phones. **Pastor Gerrard Lindsey of Mt. Zion AME Church, Havana, FL** gave the Invocation and Chair Viegbesie 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 Items 1, 14 and 16. Mr. Weiss said he thought they would be bringing Item 20 back at the next meeting. Mrs. Jackson said she wanted to respect the wishes of Commissioner Hinson and if this would not adversely affect the event, she would pull it. Commissioner Hinson said it would not. Chair Viegbesie said Items 1, 14, 16 and 20 would be pulled.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out and returned at 6:05 p.m.*

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

- ~~1. Proclamation Honoring the Students that Participated in the Talquin Electric Youth Tour~~  
Item Pulled

**CONSENT**

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

2. Scotland Road LAP Project Agreement
3. Strong Road Sidewalk LAP Agreement
4. Iron Bridge Road LAP Agreement
5. Approval of Resolution 2019-009 Urging the United States Congress to Pass Tax Relief for Individuals and Employers Suffering from Hurricane Michael

**6. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Ryan Tucker, Purvis, Gray and Company

Mark Payne, James Moore, CPA, 2477 Tim Gamble Place, Tallahassee,

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**7. Public Hearing-Approval of the Receipt of Hurricane IRMA Reimbursement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the receipt of the Hurricane Irma reimbursement and recognition of the funds as revenue. She said a total of \$103,452.16 will be deposited in the Transportation Fund of the Fund Balance Account.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was anyone that had any comments and there were none.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**8. Public Hearing-Budget Amendment for DSNAP Program**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of a budget amendment for the DSNAP Program. Due to limited staffing and resources at the Sheriff's Department, the Sheriff allowed other Law Enforcement Agencies Countywide to work during the DSNAP Program event to provide Law Enforcement and Traffic Control services during the event. She explained the State of Florida agreed to reimburse the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department for all expenses incurred during this event and the expenses were unbudgeted. The Sheriff's Office received \$79,410.07 from the State of Florida for the Law Enforcement and Traffic Control Services.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any comments from the citizens and there were none.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was a one-time refund and Mrs. Jackson responded yes.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**9. Confirmation of the Public Works Director**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board confirmation of the employment of Fredrigas McNealy as the new Public Works Director.

Chair Viegbesie said Mr. McNealy was a fine young man, on the day he volunteered to work with Public Works, Mr. McNealy was his supervisor and he had confidence from what he observed on

that day.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if he met all the minimum obligations and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

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

**10. Confirmation of Assistant County Administrator**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for confirmation of the employment of Wesley Hall as the new Assistant County Administrator.

Chair Viegbesie said the narrative was not on the website currently but imagined a copy was available outside so it could be viewed and Mrs. Jackson said that was correct.

Mr. Hall appeared before the board and said he was excited to be here. He said he would love to bring his experiences and skills to the County.

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

**11. Bell Road (SCRAP)-Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said to was for approval to award the bid of the Bell Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction in the amount of \$899,354.00.

Mr. Weiss said the low bid actually exceeded the amount in the construction budget and approval should be contingent upon Peavy & Sons accepting the amendment since low bid amount exceeded the construction budget amount. FDOT said it was OK to award the low bid but needed to make sure it was clear they were not awarding the contract at the bid amount.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry**, said DOT requires before negotiating with the contractor, they enter into the agreement and this was not the first time it had been done this way.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH THE AMENDMENT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Holt asked about the tabulation of each bidder. Mr. Ford explained three bids were received and Peavy was the low bidder by approximately \$70,000. He added it was an open bid and thought all three contractors were present when the bids were opened.

**12. Bell Road (SCRAP)-CEI Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to execute a Task Order with Dewberry/Preble-Rish for the Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services of the Bell Road SCRAP Paving Project.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE**

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

Commissioner Hinson asked when they would be working on Glade Road. Mr. Ford said that one was not one that was in the work program to be done now; it would be evaluated and put in the hopper.

**13. Approval to Award RFP 19-02 for County Auditing Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid for County Auditing Services to Purvis, Gray and Company. She said two proposals were received: Purvis, Gray and Company and James Moore, CPA. The audit committee reviewed the proposals to determine if both proposals met the technical qualifications. The committee ranked Purvis, Gray and Company number one with a total cumulative score of 867 out of a possible 900 and James Moore was second with a total score of 767. The committee unanimously recommended that the Board award the contract to Purvis, Gray and Company for a three year period. It was her recommendation to reject the recommendation of the audit committee to not approve this item. She explained that common practice was that the auditing firm was switched every 5 years. She also said Staff was concerned that although the County pays for the audit, Purvis, Gray and Company refuses to show all information and the audits seemed to be biased based on the office as County staff have found discrepancies that were not identified in the audit. When Purvis, Gray and Company was notified, no investigation or changes were made. This was also confirmed by two other departments. She said it seemed with the length of service they have, that departments that have had issues before, they searched more than those that had no issues. Therefore some will always have a clean audit and the same departments always have a bad audit.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem in taking the advice of the committee and their recommendations. To the Administrator's comments, there have been issues with other auditing firms as far as the ability to effectively communicate and work with the Constitutionals Officers and has not seemed to be an issue since they have had Purvis, Gray and Company. He said he had never had any problem getting any information regarding the audits or any other issues. He said it would be his motion to approve option 1.

Chair Viegbesie asked if he could hold on his motion as there were two speakers that had comments.

**Ryan Tucker, Purvis Gray and Company** appeared before the Board. He said this was the first time seeing this, heard there was a discrepancy in the audit and they met with the County Administrator on a couple of occasions and no discrepancies were brought to their attention in relation to the audit. He said they have been the County Auditor the past eight years and have had a partner rotation.

Mrs. Jackson asked if it was not true that she told him that there was "a pot of money" that was not a part of the audit and no investigation was done. She said she and Jeff Price talked to him about a pot of money that was not in the audit and nothing was said. The Sheriff also said they mentioned discrepancies that were not investigated and also County staff requested information from other audits and he refused, even though the County paid for the audit, was told it was the responsibility of the departments to provide information that they would need to create the general budget.



Mr. Tucker said the question to them was could they provide a General Ledger details and transactional information from a Constitutional Officer to the Board and their response was they needed to ask for their permission as required by professional standards as a courtesy to them. They felt those type of requests should go straight from County staff to the Constitutional Officers and not involve the auditors. He said he did not recall a separate part of money being brought to their attention and could assure her there was no separate part of money that was not being included in the financial statements of the audit. Furthermore, they have not issued their September 30, 2018 report yet and any findings were still being finalized at this point. He said there was no report for her to say that they have not reported on anything.

**Mark Payne, James Moore, CPA** appeared before the Board. He said he read the recommendation from the Constitutional Officers and appreciated it. He said when you look at the scoring, the biggest discrepancy on the scoring, he read the committee determined that both proposals met the technical qualifications and at the end of the day they would get a report from a CPA firm and they all follow the same standards. He said he was in Dr. Viegbesie's Economics class 32-33 years ago. The economics of the whole situation was if you compare their price to Moore's price over a three year period, Moore was \$86,500 cheaper than Purvis, Gray and Company. He said that was a lot of money that could go to further staff increases in salaries, help the community and the County.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SHE WAS ON THE COMMITTEE AND HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Taylor said she was on the committee and there were discrepancies and they had to call the attorney in. She said there were specifics in the specs they had required of the auditor and when she originally sat down, wanted to see change. When the Audit Committee met, they asked questions and got the answers. She said being a part of that committee, she stood with that committee.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND TO THE MOTION.**

She also said it was most embarrassing that this type of information was put out at this particular point of the juncture about the company they have used for years when they probably should have given some information while they were either looking at the company or at some point and time and just like the gentleman from Purvis, this was the first time she heard about this.

Commissioner Hinson said he had reservations initially and when he called them, they were able to give him information and the only he problem had, the County gave them an increase when the County decreased his Summer Youth program but they had been fair to him.

Commissioner Holt asked to speak to Mr. Tucker. She said over the years they have not had a full audit. He explained the Financial Statement Audit as opposed to the Operational Audit. She said when it comes to funding, they have no idea what goes on in other departments. She said she had no problem with rebidding any contract. Mr. Tucker said if the County wanted them to provide any information, let them know and they would do the best they could. He added they did feel they needed to get the Constitutionals permission as it was their records before just turning over any audit documentation and thought it should be a conversation to come from the County. He added he thought the scope of what she was talking about was outside of what they were doing as

part of the professional auditing standards, Florida Statutes and so forth of what they were required to do. Commissioner Holt said this may be a conversation the Board needs to have.

Commissioner Taylor called the question.

Commissioner Holt asked the length of the contract.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was a second to the call of the question and Commissioner Morgan said yes. The Board voted 5-0.

Commissioner Holt said he did not answer her question and Chair Viegbesie asked that he respond to her question.

Ryan Tucker said three years is the usual length of the contract.

Commissioner Holt wanted to continue the conversation and Chair Viegbesie said the question has been called and it was out of the hands of the Commissioners' conversation.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**THE VOTE PASSED 4-1 WITH COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSING.**

Commissioner Holt said she had a question for the auditing firm because they have been selected and the reason she called the question earlier was the County did not say if they wanted them to go in a new direction, they just agreed for them to continue what they were doing.

Chair Viegbesie said point well taken and asked the Administrator to take that point into action and have a follow-up conversation with the audit firm.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt that conversation should be around the Board, she did not want to paint this firm into a corner with what has been posed as opposition from the Administrator with her not approving them and it be biased.

Chair Viegbesie asked that the Administrator work on scheduling a workshop.

**14. ~~Consideration of Partnering with SynergyNDS to Repair Hurricane Damaged County Buildings through the Florida League of Cities~~**

Item Pulled

**15. Barack Obama Boulevard Roundabout-Bid Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the Barack Obama Boulevard Roundabout to North Florida Asphalt in the amount of \$176,500.00.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:50 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie asked if this money was funded by the paving money appropriated for that district and Mrs. Jackson said yes.

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

**16. Approval of the County Social Media Policy Number 19-01**

Item Pulled

**17. FAMU Student Assistance for the Stevens School Expansion Project**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the stipend and duties of students from Florida A&M University surrounding the Stevens School Expansion Project.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:53 p.m.*

Commissioner Morgan asked where the \$1,000 would come from and Mrs. Jackson said from the Stevens School insurance proceeds.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not in agreement with this because the committee has already met and this was another method of making this drag out. The committee has already met and came up with a design as to what they wanted to do and the students have come up with something totally different. She said having the students do a portion of it, yes, but at this juncture this was not, they needed to see some movement there. She said she did receive an email or text (from the Administrator) indicating she was going to meet with the citizens to tell them they now had students that would come tell them what to do, that all the meetings they held would be null and void because the students would now take lead of it. She added that the people had wasted their time coming out. She said that overtaking what the citizens had done was unfair and all those meetings that the people participated in was unfair to take that responsibility out of their hands and drag this out even longer. There was to be movement on that building five – seven months ago and nothing has happened. She said now they were putting in another element that would cause even more of a drag-out and she had a problem with it.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Citizen Advisory Committee was aware of this and Commissioner Taylor said no, this was another... Mrs. Jackson said she wanted to answer without sounding biased. She said there was an existing structure; the community voted on what they wanted in that structure and staff was proceeding with that. She said there is a large piece of property that exists with nothing on it and the FAMU students will come and help design that under the direction of the committee. She said that was why she wanted to call a meeting with the committee and she wanted Commissioner Taylor to preside, as she has previously. She said this was not her decision. Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any reason why they could not have the Advisory Committee made aware of this, let them write the Board a letter of support or non-support and get their feed-back. He asked if there was anything “on fire” that they had to vote on it tonight or if it could wait until the next meeting.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Taylor had a good point and she mentioned that to the members when they called her. She said they had discussed getting the building up to hurricane

standards in case they needed to use it for a shelter. She also said the Sheriff said if the building could be brought up to hurricane standards to be used, even if only used for the disabled during the hurricane. She told them that Commissioner Taylor had heartburn about everyone not buying in and told the ones there for them to call the other members and notify them so they would know.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not hear any discrepancies or disagreement on the purpose the facility should be developed. He heard from Commissioner Morgan the item should be pulled and brought back after the Advisory Committee has agreed to work in the direction that the school students want to go and bring the item back to the Commission.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS MATTER AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said he had requested \$5,000 instead of the \$1,000. Chair Viegbesie said that was noted so when it was brought back, that could be discussed.

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

**18. Discussion of the Summer Youth Program**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion on increasing the Summer Youth Program from \$50,000 to \$132,250 in the FY 18/19 Budget using the General Fund Balance. She said currently it would yield 44 jobs based on the numbers. She said Staff surveyed local counties, Leon, Liberty, Calhoun, Gulf, Wakulla and Jackson, asking if they had such programs and out of the six, only one had such a program and was Leon County. She said the estimated cash General Fund balance was \$2.8 Million as of today and the demand of the funds were high due to the recent hurricane. She said Staff also learned of termite damage and other health concerns for the Ed Butler Building. It should be noted that revenue is expected to decrease considering declining property values due to Hurricane Michael and the recent tornado. She also said in Leon County their funding for the Student program does not come from the County budget.

Chair Viegbesie said this item was very near to him and added if they recalled he insisted that \$50,000 remain in the budget because the program was going to be entirely taken out of the budget. He said his take on this was, in Leon County the Summer Youth program, private agencies that hire youth are the ones that pay them and was not taxpayers' money used. He suggested they solicit private agencies and would have a lot more able to be hired. He said maybe GCDC and Chamber to start soliciting private companies to hire the youth.

Commissioner Hinson said they must invest in the youth. He added with reducing funding from \$132,250 to \$50,000, there is crime in the communities and they do not want to employ the kids.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**Janice Maxwell, 715 Harden Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. She said she was an educator and the success of the community is the youth.

Chair Viegbesie said this was agendaed for discussion only so there was no need for it to be tabled.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Ms. Maxwell for coming. He asked for this to go on the Agenda for the next meeting so they could vote on it.

Commissioner Holt thanked Mrs. Maxwell for her comments. She said there said there were citizens that would say different; that they do not pay their taxes to the County for that purpose. She asked how much the School system contributes to the Summer Youth program and the local municipalities also. She also said she was sure this would be the last year she voted for this program unless it was conducted by an entity like CareerSource. She further stated they were at \$2.8 Million and it was recommended they be at \$3.5 in the Reserves and did not want them to go too much further down on that number. She said it was not the Youth program, just how they managed the money.

Commissioner Hinson said they just put on the floor to pay some students from Tallahassee to come here and do some work. He said now they want to pay students in Gadsden County to do work in Gadsden County and now say they need to go to the School Board and other resources and something was wrong with that statement.

Chair Viegbesie said for the record that the money that was to be used for the FAMU students was coming from the fire insurance fund, not the General Fund that was already in serious stress.

**Leslie Steele, City Manager from Midway**, appeared before the Board and said she stood in support of her Commissioner's desire to keep this program and asked that they do reach out to the municipalities and ask how they could play a role with the businesses. She also asked they take the extra money from Purvis Gray and apply to this program.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:20 p.m.*

**Jim McShane, CareerSource**, appeared before the Board. He stated they would like to help and work with the County next year in putting something together. He said they were stretched because they were also in the middle of doing work with Leon County and doing their Summer Program. He said they could bring additional resources to the table. He said they would like to sit down in August and put some perimeters in place. He said they had discussed with Ms. Black on how they could make this work smoothly from beginning to end.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:22 p.m.*

He said the program can grow and he agreed with both Commissioners on getting GCDC and the Chamber involved.

Mrs. Maxwell appeared before the Board again. She said if the applications were out, everyone should know about them; there should be a set time they were sent to the schools.

Chair Viegbesie asked that she schedule an appointment with Mrs. Jackson and HR.

## **19. Discussion of the Emergency Housing Program**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was presented for discussion of a possible re-establishment of the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY 18/19 Budget using the General Fund Balance. She reiterated that the Cash General Fund Balance was \$2.8 Million as of today and the demands for these funds were high due to the recent hurricane.

Commissioner Hinson said this was another item he brought up as well. He felt this was something they should look at as there were a lot of serious needs in the County.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THIS PUT ON THE NEXT AGENDA.**

Commissioner Holt said there was \$100,000 in the fund for Housing.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:33 p.m.*

She said they needed to spend that money wisely. She felt people should put some in to get some out and said there was a lady that called her and said the County spent \$68,000 on her house and said they should see how a wall was painted. She said there had to be a way to look at the situation and wanted constraints on the money.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:36 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson asked for research to be brought back regarding the Senior Citizens that live in this County.

**20. Black Biz Crawl and Expo**  
Item Pulled

**CLERK OF COURT**

**21. Updates**  
Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**22. Updates**  
Mrs. Jackson said Gadsden County Day at the Capitol was a huge success. The Black Caucus was impressed and was considering adopting Gadsden County and putting some funding behind it. She added that they will be touring the County to look at the damage later in the week.

She informed them that applications for the Summer Youth Program will be accepted from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Jackson asked for direction regarding Task Orders. She said it was her understanding if it was under the threshold of \$25,000, the Board wished for the Administrator to execute all the Task Orders versus bringing them all before the Board. She said they were confused about it between them and the Clerk's Office and the Attorney as to what the Board's direction was and asked for clarity.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that particular item with regard to the threshold that would not have to come to the Board for approval of the expenditure if that was in a meeting they had and thought it was specific and took care of that. He said he was not sure how that was coming back for question in regards to their Procurement Policy.

Mr. Thomas said he heard what was said and there was a statute that says all contracts, agreements, etc, were to be signed by the Board, regardless of your amount. He said the problem becomes with the County Administrator signing the documents. They should be presented to the Board, signed by Chair, that's the Clerk's interpretation. He added they believed the Board ought to know about these things, even if the item was presented on the Consent Agenda for ratification.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought that particular concern of the County Administrator has just been addressed with the comment the Clerk just made, put it on the Consent Agenda. He said also, if he understood the Clerk correctly, he was saying if the expenditure was to be for an item that was not contractual; it did not have to come before the Board. Mr. Thomas agreed. The Clerk said the Board ought to see the Task Orders, Change Orders, Contracts, and Agreements and them be made a part of the record.

Mrs. Jackson said publically, she did not agree or disagree with that, she just wanted to follow the will of the Board. The Task Order that was in question the Board had accepted the bid of an Architect. She said they were currently trying to get the Communications Systems up and going at the Sheriff's Office and this Task Order was presented by the Architect who designed that room and will need to bring that back at the next meeting according to the Clerk's Office. She said she would prefer to move forward with the Capital Projects if it was not \$25,000. She added that according to the County Attorney, if this Board approved her authority on that, then she could move forward with it in the future. She said it was just for Continuing Services Agreements they have already approved, not for everybody.

Mr. Weiss said they have certain Continuing Contracts that they have approved as a Board and under those Continuing Contracts; there have to be separate Task Orders to be approved. He added that they approved certain contractors so they do not have to go out to bid everything pursuant to their Procurement Policy. He added they did have to have a Task Order that was approved. What the Clerk was referring to, there is a statute that says under the Administrator's authority, they could negotiate different contracts but they were subject to Board approval. Their Procurement Policy says was somewhat inconsistent in that it says under \$25,000, could be approved by the Administrator without coming back to the Board. He said their policy did not expressly state that the Administrator was authorized to execute contracts, task orders and did not think the Continuing Contracts specifically state that either; he thought they stated they would be approved by the County, but it was a matter of interpretation. He said his advice to the Administrator was if it was the will of the Board and if the Board wanted everything to come so they could see it again as a Consent item that was fine. If it was the will of the Board they do not want things that were under \$25,000 to come to them, even in the form of a Consent Order, they could make that expressly clear in the Continuing Contracts and in the Procurement Policy. He said he did not know if that would change the Clerk's interpretation of the Statute, but it would be something they could do to make it clear in their contracts and policy that that was the will of the Board.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a conflict between the local government policy and the State policy,

the State policy actually supersedes. He said for them to do what was right by the law and will operate in that way. He told the Administrator if they need to bring that back to iron out the Procurement policy to make sure they were not in conflict with the State Statutes and hoped the Clerk of the Court, the County Administrator and the Attorney read from the same sheet music with regard to the interpretation so they were not verging in different directions. He suggested they meet and see how it could be resolved.

Commissioner Holt said "previous practice" and was all she had to say.

Commissioner Taylor said it sounded like change orders to her and the Board needed to consider them. She added that \$25,000 was a lot of money to give free rein over, when she hears someone say they need to look at the contracts or what was being done, it makes her pull back. She said earlier, some months ago, they voted on something that they did not vet thoroughly and because of that "we had to hold our nose and let this thing go on by". She said in her opinion, the threshold should be at \$5,000 and \$25,000 was too much money given what has happened in the past. She added they were telling the students there was no money for summer employment but they were giving free rein to the County Administrator to spend \$25,000 at will and it concerned her. She said she thought they needed to look at that threshold and Commissioner Hinson said he would second that. She also felt when a bid needed to be changed after approval; it needed to come back to them for further approval. She said she heard what the Clerk was saying when he said for them to look at it and she wanted to look at it.

Chair Viegbesie said if they recalled, when he was elected, the limit on the expenditures of the County Administrator was \$25,000 and they voted to make it \$5,000. Then some of them voted and raised it back to \$25,000. Now, where have they gotten the epiphany to cut it back?

Commissioner Holt said the difference was when it was \$25,000, they were building libraries, fire stations, etc. and it saved them from running back and forth. She said they could not do it according to who the Administrator was that was not how to do policy; they do policy according to what their needs were. She said they really need a grant writer.

Commissioner Hinson said he was the one that made the motion to reduce the amount when Robert Presnell was the Administrator because the funding was low and think when they knew it was his last month in office; he made the motion made to increase \$25,000. He said at that time they had about \$7 Million in the bank and now they are down to \$2.8 Million and they need to look carefully at every penny now.

Mrs. Jackson said the Clerk provides oversight over the dollars that she spends and they make sure nothing is spent except what has been budgeted; having the threshold at \$25,000 actually saves money because the business that they are doing, a lot of it comes to that threshold that has been budgeted and the reason it saves money was because they were able to get quotes under that amount versus bidding where everyone increases the amount. She pointed out during her tenure they have actually saved money in a whole lot of areas, whether personnel, whatever and have also increased revenue.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **23. Updates**



Mr. Weiss said at the end of the special meeting there were questions at the end of the meeting regarding advice or opinions he had given and he wanted to clarify to the extent if there was any misunderstanding or miscommunication, he apologized. He said to start with the premise of what the policy said and recognized that and thought it was understood what the policy said. He added his only point in responding to the question the Administrator asked was at the time the Board decided vote to pay all employees overtime compensation, unless they were to take the position that there was some intentional misleading, they could not treat the Administrator different from other exempt employees. He said that was the question that was asked and was how he responded. If the Administrator wanted to voluntarily give back the money that was fine but if not, this Board should not be in a position where it was treating the Administrator differently from other exempt employees and trying to have that money paid back involuntarily and was his point and sorry if there was a misunderstanding.

Chair Viegbesie asked about the contract with CRMC. When was the contract up for renewal and when will the Board have updates on revisions that were being made to it before it runs out and renewal is necessary. He said to the attorney his law firm was the one that represented the County and Mrs. Jackson was the one that was the Chief Executive Officer for the County. She said she has requested a three month extension on that to go past June and was waiting on them to agree to it. Mr. Weiss said Mr. Glazer has been working actively on this and has sent a red-line draft lease to them for their input. He added that with respect to the dates, they recognized everything would take some time in terms of back and forth and wanted to make sure there was a sufficient amount of time for everyone to have input. He said they believed that at the end of June in terms of the automatic renewal but they were trying to get an extension on that date for three months to make sure there was a sufficient amount of time and they had communicated that at this point and was waiting on a response from Capital Regional.

Commissioner Holt said she sent some emails out requesting information on this item because she felt they should do a proposal and a counter-proposal. She said if they were not allowed that opportunity even by their own attorney and he may propose something to CRMC that they have not looked over. She said there was one member of the GHI Board that wanted to look at a copy of the contract. She felt this required more work than the last contract. She asked Mr. Weiss to let Mr. Glazer know the need to get on this.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Weiss to impress on his law firm the sense of urgency with regards to this so it would not be delayed and the contract be automatically rolled over.

He assured them they understood, appreciated and agreed and they have been pressing ahead and do appreciate the urgency. He added in speaking with the Administrator on how to process this, they felt they had enough information based on the joint workshop and from staff to go forward.

Commissioner Holt said this was a time factor.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson asked Justin Ford to come forward. He asked the status of Brickyard Road. Mr. Ford said that was a DOT project and they understood that project was scheduled to move forward to the construction phase in August of this year.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Ford about the Beautification project at I-10. He was not familiar with the project. Chair Viegbesie asked her to email that concern to the Administrator and then her to him and he would check on that at the next CRTPA meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said had a lot of concerns from citizens, there was a major road development off of Martin Luther King and Ms. Steele spoke up and said it was a gas line from Jacksonville to Texas.

**Suzanne Lex, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board regarding the FDOT beautification project and said it was not through CRTPA, it was through Economic Development. She said Freightliner had come to them and asked what they could do to improve the intersection and get more visibility for businesses. DOT had some mitigation money and offered that to Gadsden County and it was the responsibility of Gadsden County to design it and there needed to be a maintenance agreement for that.

Commissioner Hinson said he brought up a couple of years ago, when coming from the Quincy exit toward Midway/Tallahassee it doesn't show Midway and asked who was responsible for that. Mrs. Jackson said Mr. McNealy could take care of that, he was also working on Gretna.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan requested to have an item agendaed at the next meeting regarding the County Administrator's position for discussion and action and asked for a second. Commissioner Taylor made the second. Chair Viegbesie said it will put on there.

**Facebook Live**

He asked if they were currently on Facebook and did not recall that being brought before the Board to discuss and requested that be brought back on the agenda also.

He said he asked about the repaving on Little Sycamore Road, he saw some emails and appreciated the updates and wanted to make sure citizens were aware it had been addressed and would be taken care of.

Mr. Ford re-appeared and said he assumed they were talking about the crack that developed in the widened portion and said they were not inspecting the job but obviously there was a flaw in the construction. He said the project was not near complete and still quite a bit of work left to do on the job and thought there was confusion because sod was laid and common practice is they install the sod before the final lift of asphalt. They are going to have to tear out that section.

Mrs. Jackson asked for clarification regarding the County Administrator, was it to remove the Administrator. Chair Viegbesie asked what would the options of the actions to be taken be in the discussion. Commissioner Morgan said it was a general agenda item to have an open discussion to make a decision if necessary on moving forward with the County Administrator's position.

Mr. Weiss said by statute removal requires notice and felt it right for it to be agendaed and the

Administrator had a right to request a hearing.

Commissioner Morgan said if that was the decision they make and the action they take based on discussion that was great.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to see the Grant writer position agendaed to get some money in here.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 8:19 p.m.*

She also wanted some discussion on SCRAP and SCOP money.

She also would like to schedule a meeting after this legislative session to see how better they could work it.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:20 p.m.*

**Capital Regional Issue**

She said it was very important to discuss that ahead of time.

She said the distance between Quincy and the high schools were too far to travel during hurricanes. She said they need to work with the School Board. There is a box they can check if they do not want to retrofit to hurricane standards when building a new school that it does not have to be built to hurricane standards. She said they need to discuss that with them. She said she wanted the two Boards to sit down together.

She said she had discussed before about going to Columbus, MS and they need to get a bus.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked about the Gulf Pipeline, was that the same outfit that tried to come before? Someone reached out to her and she had discussion with a particular business about eminent domain about the pipes. She said she was told that they would not be trying to take land but now was getting letters from property owners where land was trying to be taken.

She said Hurricane season was coming back. The County failed previously to get Red Cross to certify some of buildings to be shelters. She said hurricane season was almost here and they still had no input from Red Cross as to who could be identified to open a shelter.

She wanted to talk about the Change Orders and it not to go by and was concerned. She said she wanted to protect her (Administrator) and the County moving forward with regard to the change orders and not having any oversight when spending \$25,000 at a pop. She said someone mentioned they needed to have a workshop regarding the Procurement Policy and having a little more control because \$25,000 could be spent over and over on the same project if there was not language to stop it. She wanted to make sure there was language in place to make sure the Board has control of expenditures.

She said she heard earlier about purchasing schools, not hiring students because it was the

school's responsibility, but purchasing schools for economic development and she differed on that. She said when students learned, that was economic development because they were given wealth and knowledge they would need in order to go into the workforce and make dollars.

She also heard it said tonight they should have people meet halfway regarding housing but if they look at who is getting the help, seniors on fixed income, disabled and handicapped, they have limited income. She said the next year all the money was still sitting there and no-one has been helped because there were not many people that could meet the match and after a while SHIP will want that money back because they were not spending it. She said that the piece of property that they increased the value of becomes paying revenue to the County.

She asked the Administrator to find out about the Gulf Pipe Line and peoples' property being taken; want to target Red Cross about facilities; and want to bring back the \$25,000 threshold to have agendaed for discussion as to whether they want to continue moving forward with the \$25,000 threshold that the County Administrator has to spend without the blessing of the Board. She said the Clerk said some contracts have gone forward and the Board has not seen them and she wanted to see what has gone forward without their blessing.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the opportunity to break bread with the Appropriations Chair and Al Lawson's name came up. He said they need to do what was right and he made motion to put (lobbying) on the next agenda to do what was right. His team has the relationship and the County needs all the help that can be got in Gadsden County. He said they need to look at that process again and wanted to discuss and vote on it at the next meeting. Chair Viegbesie said he and the Administrator will consider that because of the ramifications that will go into another fiscal constraint. He said with the lobbying firm they currently have, the monies to retain them not only came from the County but the municipalities as well. He said they talk about monies to spend and there was no money in the coffers. He said they could agenda it for consideration.

Commissioner Taylor said she concurred with Commissioner Hinson it be agendaed.

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

Chair Viegbesie said there was a good job done at Gadsden County Day at the Capitol. All he heard was the raving of Gadsden County during that day.

**Receipt and File**

**25.**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
April 2, 2019-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:39 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA HELD ON APRIL 16, 2019 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, County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie asked everyone to please mute their phones and called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. He asked Pastor Mark Moore, Calvary Baptist Church to come forward to give the Invocation. Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:03 p.m.*

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:04 p.m.*

Mrs. Jackson said there were several amendments. She wanted to pull Item 1 as the youth was not able to attend and wanted to pull Item 15 and replace it with an item that was sent to the Commissioners last week regarding the EMS Data Collection Funding Assistance Grant Award.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked why Item 15 was being pulled and Mrs. Jackson said it should have been scored by staff.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

~~**1. Proclamation Honoring T’Onj McGriff for being selected as an Alternate in the Talquin Electric Youth Tour**~~  
Item Pulled

**CONSENT**

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

**2. Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP Down Payment and Closing Cost**

**Assistance Program**

- 3 Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County**
- 4. Ratification of Approval and Authorization of the Chairperson’s Execution of the Contract Amendment Request to DOS/DHR Grant No. SC731 Old Courthouse Renovation**
- 5. Ratification Memo**
  - a. March 19, 2019-Ratification Memo**
  - b. April 2, 2019**
  - c.**
- 6. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. August 14, 2018-Special Budget Meeting**
  - b. February 12, 2019-Senior Citizens Center Workshop**
  - c. February 19, 2019-Regular Meeting**
  - d. March 19, 2019-Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Don Stewart, 102 Timber Run, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board and said the Mosquito truck came through Lake Yvette and killed all of a neighbor’s butterflies and bees. He said there were other ways of handling mosquitos beside chemical spraying and asked the County to look into alternative ways.

**Gary Moore, 437 Lincoln Drive, Chattahoochee, FL** appeared before the Board and said he had a question about the Mosquito Creek Bridge on Lincoln Drive in Chattahoochee. He said patchwork repairs were done approximately a year ago and was starting to wash away. He asked if the County had proper engineers to inspect it because it has taken some serious hits recently. He said also the work done had changed the flow of the creek and did not think that was environmentally right and wanted the bridge thoroughly inspected.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:12 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie said the County Administrator heard his concerns and she will be working with the Public Works Director to look into this matter.

**Stephanie Brown, 614 Reed Street, Chattahoochee, FL** appeared before the Board and said during Hurricane Michael County Road 270A took a big hit and washed out the road at the bottom of the hill. She said the County repaired it and it was ok for a while but now there was a large dip and it was a heavily traveled area with trucks and cars. She said another problem road was Lincoln Drive and that was another major thoroughfare. Chair Viegbesie suggested the County Administrator along with the Public Works Director look at the roads.

**Debra Chatham, 6277 Flat Creek Road, Chattahoochee, FL** appeared before the Board regarding Item 7 and a non-agenda item on Debris. Mrs. Chatham wanted to talk about storm debris and said District 3 was hit hard and was having to deal with forest fires, and have trees that were still

falling. She said people were still putting debris beside the road and asked what the County was going to do and if there would be more pick-up service?

Chair Viegbesie said at the CRTPA meeting, the Commissioners also expressed the same concerns and was told the State was going to begin some pick-up with debris and he asked if it would include State and County roads. He said he understood the State will come back with more pick-ups. He asked the County Administrator to give an update.

Mrs. Jackson said she could look into what the State could do but the debris company left about a month ago and had cleared the entire County before leaving.

Commissioner Holt said she was told by Congressman Lawson that neither the State nor FDOT have received FEMA money yet and was one of the hold-ups.

Samuel Stevens, 45 Imani Circle, Midway, FL Item 8

Danny Miller, 1600 Reynolds Road, Quincy, FL – CBOR-

Ben Albert, 814 Dodger Ball , Quincy

Dorothy Smith, 814 Dodger Ball Park Road,

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **7. 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 'Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights' (LDR 2018-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Ordinance 2018-018 for the Amendment of Chapter 1 and Chapter 7 of the Land Development Code.

**Danny Miller, 1600 Reynolds Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he was a real estate developer and this ordinance was one of the most oppressive and confusing Ordinances to try to comply with and was full of ambiguities. He said there has to be a meeting with the public with ones that would be impacted by the development and it specifically states that as a developer, they have to notify people within one mile of what was happening. He went through that process on a development and that was one of the most difficult jobs he had ever done. He said the whole thing needed to be scrapped and re-written. He said if they were going to require a meeting, it should be managed in a forum such as the Commission Room and should be governed by County Officials, not by developers. One of the recommendations was to abolish it and rewrite it and he was in favor of that. He said the way it was currently written discourages development. He added this was the only County in the State of Florida that has an Ordinance such as this. He said Paragraph D requires a super majority vote for all Comprehensive Plan amendments as well as major land development reviews, including variances, special conditions, major site plans, major subdivisions and to repeal the CBOR Ordinance. He asked why a super majority vote was needed and not a simple majority vote and that needs to be changed. He then read from the Agenda Request Item. He said he was experienced in developments and had done it for 45 years. He added that if this was not changed, he did not think they would find developers willing to come in.

**Don Stewart, 102 Timber Run, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he would like this



put aside and get a group of citizens, developers and environmental people from the Homeowners' Associations together and look at the CBOR to see if it could be revised and make it more agreeable. He added he would like to have the opportunity and asked it to be tabled and appoint a group of citizens. He said he agreed with Mr. Miller that there were problems with this.

**Debra Chatham, 6277 Flat Creek Road, Chattahoochee, FL** appeared before the Board again and said her pet peeve was the super majority and she was in favor of it and felt it was a good thing. She said she knew if something was good, they would be voting in favor of it. She agreed that it needed to be redone and she would be willing to sit on the Board.

Commissioner Holt said she did not speak in favor of CBOR and it was one of the worst laws they had ever passed and was why they never saw any growth in the County. She said when businesses decide they want to move their company, they do not call, they investigate things on the internet and when they see all the hoops they have to jump through but could step into Madison County or an adjoining counties that did not restrict a company before they come and was not the way good business was done. She added that Jackson County applied for grants for their intersections at I-10 to run sewer, water and electricity and changed their zoning to attract the business. She said there were other places in the State that has the CBOR but not a super majority vote. She added this was the only County in the Panhandle that has four exits off I-10 and hopefully FDOT was considering another one off Highway 65 because of the Hurricane. She added this hurt them more than it helped and they should vote to get rid of it.

Commissioner Morgan chose to look at this in a different manner; the CBOR was about communication, notification and process. He said this might require another step in the process and would never apologize in taking another 30 days to make sure that the citizens were notified and aware of anything that might be going on within the County. All growth in the County was not good growth; they want growth but for it to be growth that made sense and compliments the rural integrity of the County. He said citizens would want to know if they owned property in a rural area and a major development was going to take place next to their property that would affect the integrity of their property. He said other counties use the process and he had no issues with talking about ways to improve this. He said the super majority vote was important because it allows them to protect the integrity of the County. He said there were six municipalities in the County and none were alike, have different size communities and different voting bases there and was not evenly geographically spread out among the County and did not have an even tax base or voter base. He said he was not going to budge on the super majority vote and felt it was important for the taxpayers and citizens of the County.

Chair Viegbesie said he has been calling for a revision of the CBOR and the way it was now he felt was work in progress and did not see any reason why to approve the recommendation and the revision that was currently made. He added that he was not ashamed to say if left to him, it would not be in place, this was a work in progress and with the changes and revisions they have, he will support this hoping that they would begin to talk about it and dialogue would continue and the workshop will continue until it was made more pro-economic development.

Commissioner Holt said it was an intimidation to citizens that were trying to develop their own property because they have to pay fees and may have someone next to them that wants to build a house on one acre lots and they have to go through this whole process in order to do so. She said the other thing was, to require four votes to change the Ordinance itself, which requires four votes

to change the zoning. She said she did not believe it was illegal to require four votes to change the zoning, but thought it illegal to require four votes to change the CBOR. She added that it was very important that they do this.

Commissioner Taylor said this item was one where they have to look into it to see if it were a disadvantage or an advantage. Gadsden County has a lot of other things causing businesses to not come here. The exchanges have been there for years before the CBOR was inducted and to date, there were still no infrastructure. There were a lot of other factors that businesses look at when choosing their location. She said this CBOR has nothing to do with their property. She added that three commissioners flew themselves to Hawaii with their (taxpayers') money because there were three to vote on it and they better be careful. She said the only reason she supported it was because she was terrified of three people running this County; terrified of the integrity and whether or not they meant good to the County and the Citizens. She said she did not want to see a nuclear waste plant being put in this community because three said it could go there and nothing else could stop it. She said jobs were coming, just not at the rate they would like; there were a lot of factors businesses would look at before coming. She said she would like to workshop this again because she was the one that asked it be placed on the Agenda because so many people have been lied to about what it actually meant. She felt this needed to be workshopped so the citizens could be clear what this was all about.

Commissioner Holt said if she had a choice and it could not be removed altogether, she would vote for the changes because that would be an improvement for the citizens, especially when it came to jobs. She said in looking at the process, they could not look at the fact they have businesses. When looking at the businesses that came, Four Star Freightliner came inside the city limits of Midway because they refused to come because of the County requirements; Midway did not require all the laws the County did. She said they had to talk to Hoover several times to keep them here because they were frustrated with the process and was getting ready to pull out. She said this was about economics. She said if there was a choice, they should not table this but approve the changes because they were sensible. She said she felt they should pass these things that would help to look at these items.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not think this item should be pulled or tabled because there was a meeting while he was out of the country and this item was scheduled for a public hearing and vote. It went to Planning and Zoning, now it was back and they want to pull it again and send it back to Planning and was not what they were elected to do. He suggested they vote it up or down and let the chips fall where they may.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1.**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with talking about it in the future but tonight he made a motion.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 2 TO NOT ADOPT.**

Commissioner Holt said she made a motion while she still had the floor.

Commissioner Hinson said he believed teamwork makes dream work. He said they need four people to vote for this; he voted to abolish it last time and will go with the commissioners if they

want a workshop. He said they need to workshop this next Monday and believed in working together.

Commissioner Holt pointed out both she and Commissioner Morgan made a motion and neither was seconded.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID HER MOTION WAS FOR OPTION 1, APPROVE THE CHANGES AND COULD HAVE A WORKSHOP AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**MOTION FAILED BY A VOTE OF 3-2**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 2 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH AN AMENDMENT THAT THEY RESCHEDULE A WORKSHOP/MEETING IF COMMISSIONER MORGAN WAS WILLING TO AMEND.**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with workshop, but a special meeting was an issue. He felt they should have a workshop so citizens could come and voice opinions and then have it agendaed for a meeting and do it step-by-step to make it better. Commissioner Taylor said she was willing to work with him.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID HER SECOND WAS TO NOT ADOPT BUT TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN WAS GOOD WITH THAT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO SCHEDULE THIS ITEM FOR A WORKSHOP.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if they would vote that night and was told no, but it would be on the very next agenda. Chair Viegbesie said it would be on the May 7<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

Commissioner Taylor said this item has appeared on the Agenda twice in the last three months because they did not have a full Board and they were advised by the Attorney that since there was not a full Board, it was required to be rescheduled.

Mrs. Jackson asked if it could be on the next Agenda and Mr. Weiss said yes because of the extra week.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 8. Consideration of Providing Notice to the County Administrator of Intent to Remove and Right to Request a Hearing, and to Schedule a Meeting or Hearing to consider Removal and Termination**  
Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of providing notice to the County Administrator of the BOCC's intent to remove her from her position and her right to request a hearing and to schedule a meeting or hearing to consider removal and termination.

Commissioner Morgan said he requested this and the reason why was to go through the proper steps and provide her with an opportunity to request a hearing if they decide to terminate or remove her from this position and terminate her services with the County and move in a different direction.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood this item was for discussion and action and did not recall the Board determining the intent of the meeting and thought the Board had decided for her to vacate the position and now the Board was voting to give her a hearing after the decision was made and asked how the BOCC got here.

Commissioner Morgan said his personal opinion, he wanted the item scheduled to discuss the position and action taken at this meeting and part of the process was to offer her the opportunity to request a hearing if she so chose to do so according to §127.73(2) Fla. Stat. , but at the point where he asked for a vote on this item, it would be his intent to give her that opportunity if she should would like to do so. If not, it has been offered to her and they could move forward in whatever direction this Board as a whole chose to take.

Commissioner Holt asked the Administrator if she was interested in a hearing if the Board chose to terminate her position and she said yes if she was terminated.

Chair Viegbesie said in looking at the package, what was the specific reason for attaching the Agreement for the previous County Administrator. Mr. Weiss said he would have to defer to Commissioner Morgan. Commissioner Morgan said it was for comparison purposes and to show the contracts very comparable in the two agreements. He said as far as the Statute attached to the item, if it were the will of the Board to consider Option 1, he wanted her to understand they intend to remove her from the position and her right to request a hearing. Chair Viegbesie said their vote now was for approval of the intent of the Board to remove the current County Administrator and following, whether or not she wanted hearing. Commissioner Morgan said she already indicated she wanted a hearing by the response she gave to Commissioner Holt. He said Option 1, if it passed, was to let her know their intent was to remove her from the position and that she had a right to request, which she has already indicated she would like to so; there is only one action item in Option 1.

**Samuel Stevens, 45 Imani Circle, Midway, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he had a problem. He said he heard words like “Rookie of the Year” and “Freshman Quarterback” directed to Mrs. Jackson at the last meeting and was the first meeting he had been to. He said he did not understand how they (Board) give them a County Administrator who collectively brings all the cities together, go to the Capitol to make a showing, like putting lipstick on a pig and not mean anything? He said they were trying to get legislation passed to the County. Midway was the fastest and more attractive city in the County. Mrs. Jackson spearheaded all of the meetings with the delegates for them to be where they were and they were waiting on money, They may be the only city to receive the money and now they were telling them today that they are going to fire her and everything was done in vain. He said they had to get out of their personal feelings, they look like Midway used to. He said “the last time I played cards, they took the joker out of the deck, there were two of them and the Ace of Spades was King”. He said it was 2019 and they needed to come together. He added they needed to move the County in a positive direction and if she was not here, they were separated and don’t need the County.

Chair Viegbesie made his comment and quoted a scripture from the Bible.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>NO.</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 3-2.**

Chair Viegbesie said they voted to remove the current Administrator. He asked if it was effective immediately or something that had to be done another way.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt Dee Jackson is a very smart, intelligent woman and they have had conversations where her skills far outweigh a lot.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:32 p.m. and passed the gavel to Commissioner Taylor.*

She said the only concern she ever had was her hands were tied and she could not do the things she had the skills to do and her confidence became compromised. She said she was a smart woman and thought in a few years no-one could unseat her from this job when she comes back, because she will be back.

Roosevelt Rogers asked why get rid of her.

There were other comments from the audience and Vice Chair Taylor stated when the Chair stepped out, she became the Chair and asked that Mr. Rogers be removed and said there was to be no more hostility, as that was not necessary. She said the question asked was a valid question, they were not looking to relieve her tonight, never had those intentions and thought it should be a transition if she was willing to work; should be done with respect and integrity.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:34 p.m.*

Commissioner Morgan deferred to the attorney and said the next step was to schedule a hearing and proceed from there.

Mr. Weiss said that was accurate under the Statute it was clear the vote was a Notice of Intent and right to request a hearing and same has been requested and the hearing should take place presumably at the next meeting but that was up to the Board in terms of when that was scheduled and that would be the opportunity for the Board to actually vote on termination under the contract. Commissioner Taylor asked when that would be scheduled and Mr. Weiss said he assumed it would be the next meeting. He said under the Employment Agreement, there was a 30 day notice termination provision. He said if at the next meeting, if they want to consider the hearing at the next County Commission meeting that would be the opportunity to potentially

provide 30 days' notice.

Commissioner Holt said she did not think should be done in a regular meeting because the hearing may take a while, it should be at least two hours before the regular meeting because there may be issues they will need to look at.

Chair Viegbesie said if it was going to be in a regular meeting, that should be the only item on that agenda because there will be positions to be provided, some legal representations and comments that will be made and felt it was something that could last a while.

Commissioner Morgan said with that being said, he certainly agreed with the comments and had no problem with scheduling for May 7<sup>th</sup>, which was the first Tuesday in May for 4:00.

Commissioner Holt said if there were any items that was pressing that the citizens have and Board won't know about, things coming up, zoning change and DCA, they needed to allow them the opportunity so if they run over into 6:00, it may push theirs back. She said there were deadlines and they could do it on another day. She said it may be better to do on a Thursday and would have enough time and would not conflict with other items on the Agenda. Commissioner Morgan said he was fine with that.

Chair Viegbesie said that would be the day they will be returning from Mississippi from the Hurricane Disaster Relief Educational Training. He said they were due back on Tuesday with a Commission meeting that day. He said his intention was to get back right before the meeting and that would be rushing.

Commissioner Morgan asked how April 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 worked. Commissioner Taylor said she liked that, she did not want to see anything happen this week and asked they give it some time and come up with a meeting and do it the right way. She said she agreed that they did not need have it on a meeting day. Commissioner Taylor said she preferred a Wednesday or Thursday and Commissioner Morgan asked if Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> would be better. Mrs. Jackson said she would be at Shands that day.

Chair Viegbesie said to allow the Administrator to look at her calendar and check the availability and coordinate a hearing date with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem in doing that but to make sure they have something scheduled before May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Discussion and Action regarding the County Attorney Position**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action regarding the County Attorney position. She further stated it had been documented by staff that County processes were delayed due to a limited or last-minute attention given to matters referred for legal opinions. She further stated there were recent delays with federal and state grants due to the attorney changing standard Federal and State agreements; concerns with monthly invoices billing in excess hours and services rendered; and have been frequent absences and/or periods wherein he was not accessible and left no direction as to who should be providing legal services in his stead.

Chair Viegbesie said he requested this be agendaed and have discussed some of the concerns with the attorney himself. He said they should have an attorney who does not capitulate or pander to specific County Commissioners by wavering in his legal opinion when items came up; the statutes and laws have a ground. He said they should have an attorney that stood on the correctness of statutes and laws and not state he had no opinion and when the Commissioner spoke, the law was interpreted to suit that Commissioner. He said he had no problem with the level of intelligence or ability of the current attorney, but many Commissioners have expressed the lack of the good, solid sense of legal opinions on items that have been requested. He said he would like to have another attorney from the firm. He said for example, the Private Road Ordinance expired in 2014 and they have had discussions on private roads using an expired ordinance and there were other things of that nature. He added he was not of the opinion to cancel the contract but would like to see another attorney from the firm.

Mr. Weiss said he did not want to prolong this matter but wanted to address some of the representations made on record and he strongly disagreed. He said suggesting he has tailored his opinion to and play politics calls into question his integrity, his legal ability and he strongly disagreed that he ever engaged in that.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:49 p.m.*

He added that his job was to advise the Board on what the law is and do it without compromising or pandering to anyone in particular. With respect to the statement he was the cause of any delays, frequently he was sent things at the last minute and was expected to immediately turn around and review them and send them back after review. He said frequently he was asked to drop things to focus on matters for the County. He said he does his absolute best to turn around everything and to pay attention to all working matters. He said he has a lot of things going on and a lot going on for the County. If anything, he neglects other clients and family in order to complete everything he was asked to do for the County. He said with respect to not being able to change or not voicing any concerns about standard State or Federal agreements, his job was to review these things and if he saw something that was not advantageous or advisable to the County, it was his job to advise of amendments.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 7:51 p.m.*

He added that because it was a State or Federal agreement, did not mean the County had to enter into it or that they could not request changes. He said this was the first he heard of the invoices, he said he was given a lot of projects, a lot of items to review, a lot of things to consider, they have been having frequent meetings and as they knew, his contract has a certain number of hours under the retainer at a very discounted rate and if the number of hours he spends goes over the hours under the retainer, he would bill at a discounted rate. He said he had never heard anyone say anything about the amount of invoices and he assured them that he was as efficient as he possibly could be and was very mindful about the amount of time that he spent and would do everything he could to minimize legal fees. He said he took this job, his role and oath as an attorney seriously and it was not his role to be the sixth board member and try to shape policy.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Board decided to not keep him, could the firm find another attorney. He said he did not know, he would need to have a conversation with the partners and see if someone was willing to do it.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the comments and could see if there were frustrating issues they had with the attorney he could see where they would want to have those addressed. From a personal standpoint, it was natural to want to defend their integrity and he has always appreciated his stance and position he has taken with the Board. He said he has made it difficult sometimes when talking with him, he wants a yes or no answer and sometimes he cannot give same but at the end of the day it was a better answer than what he was looking for. He said Ausley McMullen has a depth of experience that the Board benefits from. He said the County was not their only client and he was not a full-time County Attorney. He said they knew it could be hard to follow the direction of the Board and it got confusing and could be frustrating when you have a Chair, Commissioners and Administrator looking at you wanting opinions and was not an easy thing to do. He added he felt Mr. Weiss had always responded to the Board very professionally and when he himself comes to meetings, he gets a lot of information thrown at him at the last minute that he had not had the opportunity to review or the day before and was hard to make decisions on and was frustrating. He said he felt that some of the frustration the Board may feel is a direct result of Mr. Weiss not receiving complete information on a timely bases, it may not be all the time and the claim that he was pandering to one group of commissioners, he had never seen that. From his chair, he wanted the opportunity to continue with Mr. Weiss.

Commissioner Holt said she was here when the previous attorney from Ausley was here and when the contract came up she said to bid it. She added that she had no problem with working with another attorney with that firm.

Commissioner Taylor said she had had the same concerns that the Chair had, but have gone to the attorney about her concerns. Whether or not she was convinced when he spoke with her was a different subject. Her opinion is the timing of this item she has issues with, why now, have an idea and what concerned her most was the reason behind it. She said she did have concerns but was not at a point where she wanted to remove him, but thought they could put in stipulations to occur in next 3-6 months. She also said she thought he has given the honest opinions to best of his ability. She said if anyone wanted to entertain a probationary period, which was where she is but not termination.

Chair Viegbesie said he was the one that put this on the Agenda and there was no ulterior motive. He said he had talked with the County Attorney over the phone, via emails about the concerns he had and felt it was time to have a discussion. He said there were citizens in the community that shared the same concern as him. He said he had no question of his legal knowledge but had questions with how he used it.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT THE CURRENT ATTORNEY SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH ANOTHER ATTORNEY FROM THE AUSLEY LAW FIRM UNTIL THE BOARD SEES OTHERWISE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>



**VOTE FAILED 3-2**

Commissioner Taylor agreed there were concerns and felt a probationary period should be put in place. She also felt they needed to come back and have a workshop with him for them to present deliverables to him to given an opportunity to show where improvements could be made.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR A PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR CLARITY ON THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD.**

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to have the Board chime in as to what they would like to see. She said she heard his rationale and he had been fair and will lend to him. She also said she felt they needed to have a conversation with him, one on one.

Commissioner Morgan commented to the Board as a whole, it was so important for them to consider the level of experience they have in place and because they have such a new senior leadership team and some potential changes coming before them again, he recommended they maintain the same firm and attorney that was aware of what was going on and asked that they reconsider. He encouraged them to have conversations with Mr. Weiss and thought they would find him to be effective.

Commissioner Holt said before they have a probationary period, maybe they should have a meeting with him as a Board and have a discussion with him. Commissioner Taylor agreed they should come together as a Board and then give him direction, she felt he was a good attorney, just some areas that needed improvement and she hoped he stayed.

Commissioner Morgan said if he heard someone say they not wavering support for him but was going to put him on probation that was sending mixed messages. He said they should have that conversation in private and give him the opportunity to make the changes.

Commissioner Taylor said as was said earlier by the Chair, they each have a right to their own opinion and to voice it. She said the Probationary period was to say things that needed to be improved on and she knew he wanted to stay and would make the improvements.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR RESTATED HER MOTION FOR PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID THEY NEEDED TO TALK WITH HIM FIRST. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 3 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY REVERT TO CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT ATTORNEY. COMMISSIONER MORGAN WITHDREW HIS MOTION.**

Commissioner Holt made a motion to bring this item back at the first meeting next month after everyone had an opportunity to talk with the Attorney individually. She then said she could do that under her comments.

**10. Lease of Four Type 1 Chevy 4500 HD Diesel Frazer Ambulances**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a lease agreement between Gadsden County and Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of four Type I Chevy 4500 HD Diesel Frazer

Ambulances in the amount of \$744,198.26 and for authorization for the Chair to sign all necessary documents. She also stated this was a budgeted item.

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

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem leasing and asked about the math. Mrs. Jackson said this was a State contract rate. Commissioner Morgan asked about purchase versus leasing. Mrs. Jackson said they were saving a significantly and technically they would own this with a municipal lease. At the end of the five years however, they had plans to trade them in and do the “buy-back” program. Commissioner Morgan asked how the lease payments would be made. Mrs. Jackson said they were five annual payments of \$166,885.44 and was budgeted as a capital expenditure during the Fiscal Year 18-19 budget.

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

**11. Gadsden County Emergency Services Budget Amendment**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for a budget amendment to acquire items needed for medical operations.

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

**12. Approval of Resolution Recognizing Gadsden County Emergency Services as a Professional Fire/Rescue Department**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval and recognition of Gadsden County Emergency Medical Services as a professional department that provides emergency medical services and fire/rescue services within Gadsden County, FL. She said she was proud to say for the first time in over 20 years they were in the black and had 100% staff. She added that the transition to Fire/Rescue served as a dual purpose. She said that currently they had 20 full-time dual certified paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians on staff.

**Keith Maddox, EMS Director**, appeared before the Board. He said they had identified the need in the County for volunteer fire departments that need support and other Counties had been a part of and had tried to take over the entire fire department for the whole County and was a fiscally constraining thing to do and did not think it was a good thing to do. He added as they had improved their fire code and building structures, the volumes have reduced in number but different types of hazards have arisen. He said they were proponents of supporting the Volunteer Departments in the community.

Commissioner Taylor said it sounded like an excellent idea and was a very good initiative. She said with additional training with the current EMT’s, what would that cost the County to bring those trainings and what guarantee was there to fulfill the requirements they would stay. Mr. Maddox asked if this was training for the medical personnel and he said they had looked at several models but they had 20 dual certified firefighters in place currently and the number was increasing. He said one thing he was going to bring up as another time, but this was a good one, there was a paramedic shortage throughout the Panhandle and nationally and with firefighters, if they assist in

educational training, they could look at developing a contractual agreement so they could retain their services for a given period of time.

Commissioner Holt said if they had dual training, he was right about a contract but how would the funding make it look differently if they were now going to the City of Quincy doing training there, would the City of Quincy not get funded at that level.

Mr. Maddox said it was easier to give a brief model idea. He said they were currently operating six ambulances and could handle the load most times with five with the understanding there are times they need to bring up a sixth truck and sometimes even a seventh. The model is to bring up the sixth truck to keep the cost under control. He said they operate the fifth truck and bring down the sixth truck and try to administratively operate it as needed through the Administration but that does not meet the needs at night and on weekends. He added that coupled with the need for improved fire service and to be able to support the volunteers with manpower and to be very dynamite, they were proposing and think would be a good model, is to run a First Response truck to back up medical crews, provide advanced medical care, make decisions, instead of them responding on that First Response truck, they use a type of mini-pumper, a smaller fire truck with a pump that could handle and carry foam, it would increase the water volume that could be delivered and can respond with a four man team; they can operate that with a Captain who is a Paramedic and a Paramedic/EMT and an EMT/firefighter. He said if that made sense that would give them the ability as a Paramedic. If an ambulance was needed, they could pull up and still have two men on an engine. He said they also needed to look at funding and how it was distributed for the good of the County.

Commissioner Holt said she was not in favor of looking at a rough draft at the hospital right now and the funding going anywhere until they look at that facility.

Commissioner Taylor said in full approval of this item and wanted to move for approval; but this money that was coming in every year would not necessarily need to be earmarked for them because they were trying a new initiative. Mr. Maddox said to meet the fire needs that would require equipment and that was the biggest impact in looking at the budget for apparatus and gear and after the initial investment, they would have the life span of the apparatus and equipment.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR (SHE PREVIOUSLY SAID SHE WANTED TO MOVE FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM IN HER COMMENTS) AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Chair Viegbesie asked if he had discussed this model with the various Chiefs of the volunteer fire departments within the County and what was their position.

Mr. Maddox said they have been open about that and explained that idea and the plan was to become a supplemental system to support them. No-one told him during that meeting or subsequent meetings and thought they clearly understood they want to help and that model was what they wanted to embrace and had no negativity.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Holt asked the Administrator if this could be paid for without touching any of the

funding that may be reimbursed for the hospital and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely. Mrs. Jackson added that the City of Quincy currently gets \$680,000 (it is actually \$460,000), there was some discrepancy and she said whatever the amount was, they have calculated the cost and will not need it once the adjustments were made. She said also with EMS being a dual certified group as EMS/Fire that tax becomes one tax and all the costs have been calculated out. She said Fire and EMS will become one and same with the Resolution.

Commissioner Taylor said she could see this causing a terrible rift with the City of Quincy. She said being a former City Commissioner, they use that money to balance the budget and they count on that money. Now they were talking about taking that money out and she had concerns with doing it that way. She added that her motion was to approve utilizing the dollars that were earmarked and not bother the City of Quincy money right now. Mrs. Jackson said this proposal was not changing the model they currently have other than, the way it goes, City of Quincy responds to a fire and the volunteer chiefs were in charge with they respond to that fire, they come as added support. Mrs. Jackson said what they were saying was they already have 20 dual certified staff who can operate instead of calling on the City of Quincy, they could respond as the County. They had the manpower, the budget, and while she understood it might hurt the City of Quincy but it was her job to look out for County. Commissioner Taylor asked if the twenty trained firefighters will be ready whenever there is a fire, or what was on duty at that particular time. Mrs. Jackson said they would staff in accordance to what was needed. Commissioner Taylor pointed out they could not staff in accordance to what was needed because they have to look back at the budget. She said she had to be mindful before saying things like that. Commissioner Taylor said she was trying to get them to see it will have a ripple effect because City of Quincy responds but because of their responding it saves lives and structures and she did not want to see that go away and this was in her district. She said to get money from another entity to do this, was wrong, wrong, wrong.

Commissioner Holt said she was not for taking money from anywhere until they compare to see what would happen.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 8:43 p.m.*

She said the negotiation on the hospital is coming up and if that is a 10-20 year negotiation, that means they may be dead and gone in 20 years but the people left here may want a hospital. She said they could not pull money out of the Endowment and say they were going to fund something before they finish negotiations in that process. She said she could not vote for this until she saw the two comparisons. Mr. Maddox said he agreed that they would want to see a future plan on how it would all come together, this would give them the ability to start the process to become an administrative department, which is turning the wheels to finish with the State Fire Marshal's office.

Commissioner Morgan said he had listened to the discussion and thought EMS was trying to come to them to ask for them to approve a way that would put them in a better position to offer quality services to the citizens.

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

**13 Approval to Begin Negotiations to Acquire the WA Woodham Building from TCC**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. T1710 Between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and GCSBOCC and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEGOTIATION OF THE PURCHASE AND CHAIR VEIGBESIE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION.**

Commissioner Hinson said the motion was to begin the negotiation of the purchase of the facility. Commissioner Holt said if the building was owned by TCC, if there was a FEMA filing for improvements to building, do we not have to own the building at time of the hurricane in order for the money to come to that entity. She said even if they did get the refund from FEMA, do you buy the building before you know what you were going to get. She said they needed to know the amount of money.

Mrs. Jackson said when they talk about reimbursement, they were not talking about FEMA, they were talking about the insurance policy they had and the County does insure the building as if it were their own. Commissioner Holt said what they had was possible FEMA reimbursements and if they were going to reimburse on the building, and there may be FEMA reimbursements on that building, would that not go to TCC if they owned it at the time of the hurricane. Mrs. Jackson said there had been a couple of FEMA specialists to work with them and they had no concerns about it but they were aware. Commissioner Holt asked for that documentation to go with this item.

Mrs. Jackson said she did not have that with her and they could table this item until another time. She said Staff had made a determination that there was sufficient funding for this and Commissioner Holt said if there was funding for this she was good.

Commissioner Morgan asked on a building the County was leasing it for \$1.00 per year that was in desperate need of repair and has huge upkeep costs on a monthly and annual basis, along with needing a new roof, why would they want to purchase an albatross such as that. He said TCC wants to get rid of the building for that very reason and it made no sense to purchase that building.

Mrs. Jackson said there had been discussions with the Chair and the Sheriff and the Sheriff was on board with this item. She said this was about beginning negotiations and finding out terms. She said the staff rationale was if they have insurance dollars to fix the building, they did not want TCC to change and say next year the County had to pay real rent on the building that they fixed.

Commissioner Morgan said they have a \$1.00 lease until 2049 and they could not do it.

Mrs. Jackson asked if they could get out of the lease.

Commissioner Holt said she did not think it was a good idea right now.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

Commissioner Morgan asked what the motion was.

Mrs. Jackson said before vote carries, the Facilities Manager sent her an estimate that was given by RAM for them to completely fix everything, including the roof, and the total \$158,525.86 and is less than what the insurance is.

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**14. Approval of the Amendment to Agreement No. T1710 required by the Department of Environmental Protection for the Extension of the Grant Agreement for the East Gadsden Park and Multipurpose Complex at St. Hebron**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. T1710 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the GCOCC for the extension of the Grant Agreement for the East Gadsden Park and Multi-Purpose Complex at St. Hebron.

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

**15. ~~CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Bid Awards and Recommendations~~**

**Item replaced with**

**Emergency Medical Services Data Collection Funding Assistance Grant Award**

Mrs. Jackson said Mr. Maddox has written a grant in the amount of \$35,360 for information technology and computer systems for Gadsden County Emergency Services as part of a cost reimbursement program grant awarded to the Department by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight (BEMO).

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

Commissioner Morgan asked the fiscal impact to the County and Mrs. Jackson stated there was no fiscal impact, but it was a reimbursement project. Commissioner Morgan asked where the dollars would come from and Mrs. Jackson said directly from EMS.

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

**16. Approval of Architectural Services Task Order for the Dispatch Center at the Woodham Justice Center**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of architectural services task order for the dispatch center at the Woodham Justice Center. She said the proposed task order was to provide professional services for the design phase to create a new 911 Dispatch Center renovated into the north first floor of the Woodham Justice Complex.

Commissioner Holt said there was an architect on staff and asked if that meant they received all the low bids or if some were bid out. Mrs. Jackson said they do not bid them out; it was bid for this company to be selected. Mrs. Jackson said if it was over the threshold of \$25,000, it had to be bid but the Board decided last time that even though it was under the \$25,000, they still wanted to see all task orders and was why this item was on the Agenda.

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

**17. Approval of the Utility Easement for Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Station**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said to was for approval of the Utility Easement for Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Station.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND AND SAID BEFORE CARRYING THE VOTE, HE HAD TWO SPEAKER FORMS.**

The speakers stood in support of the item.

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

**18. Discussion and Action on the Contract for State Lobbying Services with Lawson and Associates**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action to renew the contract for State Lobbying Services with the lobbying firm of Lawson & Associates.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan questioned why they needed another lobbying firm and Commissioner Taylor responded that everyone knew that one and Commissioner Morgan said that was not a good reason. Commissioner Holt asked where the money would come from.

Mrs. Jackson said staff did an analysis after Gadsden County Day and paying the Gunster firm, found there was \$15,000 that remained for the lobbying effort.

Chair Viegbesie said his question was ethical and that Lawson is his frat brother, can he lobby while being a Congressperson without violating ethics. Mr. Weiss said he could not lobby for the federal government and did not think there was any prohibition against lobbying at the State level when you were a Federal Representative but he would look into it.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the services would begin now. Chair Viegbesie said session has two to three more weeks. Commissioner Morgan said it was past time to hire a new lobbying firm and did not see the need especially with the fiscal shape they were in. He said he did not see this a as proven investment of taxpayer dollars.

Commissioner Holt said she was ready to vote and the time limit was concerning. She added he was doing a lot of work on their requests to help.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the opportunity to have dinner other night with him and added it was not fair to put out Congressman Lawson's name; it should be Lawson and Associates.

Chair Viegbesie asked who would be the lobbying effort at the Capitol and said the other person that would be there was Al Lawson, Jr.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE**

**THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE OPPOSED.**

**19. Ratification of Brock Electrical Services, LLC Invoices**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said they were advised by the County Attorney and the Clerk's Office to ratify the purchase to ensure payment to Brock Electrical Services, LLC.

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if he had any issue with this item and he said no, this was brought up by the Clerk's Office and was then forwarded to him to ask what to do. He said if the Clerk's Office was asking for it to be ratified; it had to go to the Board to be ratified.

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

**20. Update on Facebook Live**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item. She said they found a way Facebook could do a closed captioning but the only way they could do Facebook Live and meet ADA requirements was to have an additional staff person. She said another way to meet the ADA was Closed Captioning and that costs was \$67,875.00 for custom on-line and off-line automatic closed captioning assistance.

Commissioner Morgan said he asked for this to be put on the Agenda for discussion and asked if they were currently on Facebook Live and Mrs. Jackson said no. He asked if it came before the Board to stop Facebook Live and Mrs. Jackson said there was a discussion between Staff and the County Attorney. She said the County has already been sued. Commissioner Morgan asked if that came before the Board and she said she would leave that for the County Attorney. He said it was just a question and she said no. Commissioner Morgan said they should be the ones, in his opinion, making the decision whether or not they were going to have Facebook Live. He said he understood the new requirements or compliance issues regarding the ADA. He said there had to be other ways and did not want to take away their ability to effectively communicate with those without a disability just because they wanted to be compliant with ADA. He said there had to be another way to do that. He said if they could not provide closed caption for someone that needed it, perhaps there was a way they could make it available through written minutes they could review. He said why penalize everyone else if there was a way to remain in compliance and offer the service where everyone could see it.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Weiss if there was any reason why service was terminated. Mr. Weiss said first, he did not make decisions in terms in terms of whether Facebook Live was on or off. He said he advised the Administrator because a number of lawsuits have been filed recently by ADA clients, research was done on what could be done for closed caption, but this was not his decision. He said he advises of potential liability and the decision was made to avoid that potential liability to pull it. He said it was clear that closed caption was required and the County could be sued. Commissioner Morgan said his point for bringing this up, it never came back to the Board to discuss the options and make a decision. He said has the question been posed to ADA of any other solution work other than providing closed caption. He said they do want to be in compliance and not penalize others that are without disabilities.

Commissioner Holt asked if person walked in and recorded the meeting, they could put it on Facebook and it would not have the caption. Is there anything in ADA that required them to have the caption? He said he was not concerned about the individuals; he was concerned for the



County. She said that was a whole other option to consider if an individual recorded it.

Chair Viegbesie said from his understanding of the media outlets all that serve the public were required to meet ADA standards. He asked if any kind of cease and desist that came across for them to make the decision. Mrs. Jackson said they had been served with a lawsuit and the County settled. Mr. Weiss said he would bring up under his comments.

Chair Viegbesie asked the direction of the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said to have the Public Information Officer work with the attorney to keep the County in compliance and make a genuine effort.

Chair Viegbesie said this was for discussion and felt the Board had made their recommendation. He said before leaving this item there were individuals out there specifically looking for agencies in violation of ADA standards. He said there was investigative reporting of a group going across the entire country measuring handicap parking and if it did not meet the ADA standards, they would sue the County or City.

Chair Viegbesie told the Administrator to do what the suggestion of the Board was with exploration of ADA compliancy.

**21. Black Biz and Crawl Expo**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item. She stated that Commissioner Hinson submitted an application on behalf of the BOCC to use the Courthouse grounds to sponsor a “Business Expo and Crawl” on May 11, 2019 AND ASKED THE Board to appoint him as the representative for that purpose.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if there were any issues and Mr. Weiss said no, it was pulled from the last meeting because he had concerns. He wanted to make sure it was inclusive of all types of businesses and made sure it was approved as a Board posted event and it has been revised. He also wanted to make sure everyone understood and the need to absolutely verify the County’s insurance would cover this event with the County’s carrier.

Chair Viegbesie said his question was the intent and the event itself was a very commendable event but was concerned of the lack of inclusiveness. He felt it would be more inclusive if “Black” was taken out and call it “Gadsden Biz and Crawl”.

Commissioner Hinson directed them to look at pages 6 through 8 of the Agenda item and pointed out it had been revised and he called the question. Mr. Weiss said obviously the County could not discriminate.

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

**CLERK OF COURT**

**22. Updates**

The Clerk was not present and there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**23. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson announced they recently received a call from Columbia County and others and they inquired as to who did the annual report and wanted to pattern their next year report after Gadsden County's and she was proud of it.

Under the direction of Oliva, TDC has received a \$20,000 grant from Visit Florida to produce a Destination Market and video.

The Spring Bulk Item pick-up is under way and the schedule is posted on the website.

They have started back with dirt deliveries today.

The Summer Youth applications are being accepted and will close on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

The new website launched today and was a work in progress.

She thanked the Directors that were still present and thanked the Commissioners for giving her the opportunity to serve and felt strong about the family that has been built.

Chair Viegbesie asked how they, as a Board, obtain actual fiscal expenditures of the Constitutionals to enable the Board to prepare a more viable and sustainable fiscal budget. He said he did not think they had the correct project expenditures of the Constitutional Officers to enable them to make their projection of the future budget before the budget was passed. He said he was working with the Clerk to see how they could get the actual annual expenditures so they could include that in their budget projections for the next fiscal year.

He said to Staff, he suggested that the County Administrator and the Attorney work on an Ordinance that could be used to determine disposal of County property. He asked if there was an ordinance where they could use County property to develop low to moderate income housing as it relates to State Statutes as well as what prime properties the County could develop to enhance County services and what properties the County could sell.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 9:35 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor asked with regard to the County Administrator, two things, as she said earlier, she felt she was excellent in her capacity and hoped they would retain her in some position and would like to see that and did not know where she was with that. She said she was hopeful and did not want to see her not have that she needed.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**24. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said there was a pending lawsuit against the County alleging violations of the ADA Act with respect to the website and document accessibility.

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 9:39.*

He said more than 100 lawsuits related to that particular plaintiff and the law firm have been filed and he intended to have a private attorney-client meeting at the next meeting.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said at the last meeting he asked that the Summer Youth Employment be placed on the Agenda so they could vote on it and Mrs. Jackson said she did not recall that being requested and asked the Attorney if it could be put back on the Agenda.

Mr. Weiss said the Ordinance did not prohibit considering items that was up for vote before, such as the Citizens Bill of Rights. Commissioner Holt said it always had been if was on the winning side it could be brought back, if on the losing side, it could not. Mr. Weiss said if it was reconsidering an item, it was different.

Hinson said the question was not about this or that; it was that she responded that it was not true. That meant if it was not true, then he did not say it. He said he was sure every Board member and people that was present heard him and she sent an email that she had checked the video and it was not there. He talked with almost everybody there that day and they said they did recall that. He said regardless, she sent a text and said even if it was, it could not be placed on the agenda based on the Statute and that was not true. He said the same thing happened when he brought this to them in October. He asked that when he asked a question, for them to be straight up with him.

He thanked the Board for their texts and calls as his father-in-law passed away.

He also thanked the Board for approving the Biz Crawl for him.

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

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

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to bring back that they to talk with the attorney and then they could end that issue so it does not come back.

She said they have discussed the automated phone service and was interested in getting rid of it and to make it more personal.

She said she met with the School Board, they are looking to get rid of St. Johns and Gretna Elementary and her discussion was to look at those facilities for economic engines. With Gretna, they have Highway 90 in front, the Railroad in back and it was good for shipping. She said they needed to know something by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. She said they were also looking at approximately \$500,000

for both schools and it has water, sewer, and electricity at both schools. She asked if the Board was interested in having a workshop with the School Board the next week.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood her reason why the Board should meet with any governmental entity to discuss collaborating efforts. He said there was an issue with school public safety where Commissioner Hinson requested additional resource officers. He said they have the resource officers they need and he met with the Superintendent, the Chair of the School Board and the Sheriff and they found there were other avenues that never came to light as to sources of funding to get the resource officers that were needed. He said it was a good thing for intergovernmental conversations to occur and he was in support of meeting and discussing that particular item.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

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

Chair Viegbesie suggested to the Administrator that the Director of Public Works begin to attend CRTPA meetings to hear concerns and issues coming to the Transportation program and they better understand SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP, etc. so as to how they could submit applications in a timely manner. He also suggested if the funds were there, to send him to MPOAC workshop so he could get a better understanding of the project and sources of funding for transportation.

He also suggested seeing if they could organize public engagement sessions to get citizen input on road improvements.

He said the last thing, May 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Day of Prayer and they have been invited to pray for Gadsden County and America at the Courthouse at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Jackson said she left out that EMS and Public Works Week is May 19-25<sup>th</sup> and asked for a Proclamation.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR THE PROCLAMATION AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED FOR A RESOLUTION FOR SHILOH PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH FOR THE PASTOR’S 25<sup>TH</sup> (INAUDIBLE) AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**Receipt and File**

**29. Documents**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- 19. May 7, 2019-Regular Meeting**
- May 21, 2019-Regular Meeting**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
April 16, 2019 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:03 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, 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 APRIL 30, 2019, THE  
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,  
VIZ:**

**Present:** Dr. Anthony O. Viegbesie, Ph.D., District 2 Chair  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Dee Jackson, County Administrator  
Attorney Weiss, County Attorney  
Suzanne Lex, Planning and Growth Management Director  
Muriel Straughn, Clerk's Office

**Absent:** Eric Hinson  
Gene Morgan

**Welcome**

**1. Anthony O. Viegbesie, Ph.D., Chair**

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**General Business**

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

Chair Viegbesie called for Public input on non-agenda items. There was no response.

**2. Proposed changes to the Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights**

Dee Jackson, the County Administrator, introduced the Planning and Growth Management Director Suzanne Lex, who addressed the board.

She made the following points:

- The Citizens' Bill of Rights came into being approximately ten years

ago by county ordinance.

- It has been a topic of discussion of the county commission for the last eight years.
- Each time it was revisited, the board declined to take action despite the recommendations for change by the planning commission.
- One factor that prevented a change is that it would require a supermajority vote by the county commission.
- The staff and the development committee (comprised of professionals) has been hampered in delivery of development review services due in part to the requirements set forth in the Citizens' Bill of Rights for additional public hearings which also imposes additional costs to the potential developer.
- Staff is looking to find a balance between the need for public hearings and public input with the need to expedite the development process and costs to potential developers.
- At their last meeting, the planning commission recommended that changes be made such that the county would **retain the mandated citizens' participation plan** for the special exception Class 2 commercial uses. They are listed in the future land use category (of the Land Development Code) and uses that could create some incompatibility with adjacent properties. (RV Parks, truck stops, flea markets, taverns, outside kennels, light industrial uses, theaters, auditoriums, circuses and other land use activities that may not be classified, but, if determined by staff to be recommended by staff as a Class 2 such as daycare facilities, adult day care and adult release (inaudible)). Of these 12 items listed as special exception uses, 11 specific (inaudible), they will come before the board, and they will have a citizen participation meeting. Ms. Lex recommended that these be retained.
- She recommended that they **retain the public (citizen) meetings** on the comprehensive plan amendments. Comprehensive Plan amendments are noticed once before the planning commission and again before the county commission **along with the citizens' participation meetings.**
- The planning commission **recommended deleting** the neighborhood association notification process because they already have a citizens meeting which notifies affected parties that live within ½ mile proximity being noticed.
- Remove the Seven-Day "Cooling Off" period – Plan amendments

cannot be changed in the seven business days prior to the advertised public hearing. If revised within this period, then the hearing must be rescheduled.

- Remove the supermajority vote that is now required for all comprehensive plan amendments, major land development review, variances, special exceptions, major site plans and major subdivision(s).
- Remove the clause requiring protection of environmental resources on all comprehensive plan map amendments and “site development applications.” This already occurs. It is a given. It is in the Land Use Code and the Comprehensive Plan. The county is required to do this by State law.
- Remove the “No Free Density.” There is no definition for “Free Density.”
- Remove the establishment of a reasonable urban service boundary. This mandate came from the State in 2014 to Gadsden County. Since Gadsden County has no urban services, the mandate was futile, and there is no need for this provision. If the county should ever have services to offer, regulations over the urban service boundary would become necessary.

Chair Viegbesie called for comments from the public. He recognized the following people.

**Debra Chatham 6277 Flat Creek Road, Chattahoochee, FL**

Good evening. Debra Chatham, 6277 Flat Creek Road, Chattahoochee, FL. I am just coming back to talk to you again. You have heard me before, but, I wanted to bring something up.

She was just talking about urban services. I was at the last meeting, and you were talking about an overlay at the I-10 interchanges. Until we have some sort of infrastructure in place for those things, we can't grow there. We see the giant mounds of septic tanks still out there at the old Jai-Lai facility. They are huge, and they are still there. They never had any infrastructure. I guess that they have their own giant well out there also. We don't seem to have the ways to provide those services to those exchanges.

I keep hearing that this “Bill of Rights” is holding us back from growth, but, I think it is our lack of infrastructure in areas such as the I-10 interchanges.



**Chair Viegebesie:**

I think that sound was from Commissioner Hinson on the phone.

**Ms. Chatham:**

It just doesn't sound reasonable to me. I know that I want growth in the county, too. I don't want bad growth. I want good growth. I want it in the appropriate places.

I am still for holding onto the supermajority requirement. I think it is a good thing to do. It keeps things in check. I have told ya'll before. I have seen it when things are right; everybody comes together and votes on it. You have a consensus among the group, and it goes through. I have seen it work several times and I spend more time than I should here at these meetings, but, I am here, and I want to stand up for what we need. We citizens do need to know when things are happening around us. I like the part when you tell us that something is going on. I have had a personal experience with that where if I had not known it, I would have had a junkyard leaking all sorts of junk next to my property and ruining the environment. I just want to keep bringing it forward. Keep working together. I know ya'll can.

Thank you.

**Chair Viegebesie:**

Thank you, Ms. Chatham.

Mr. Don Stewart?

**Don Stewart:**

My name is Don Stewart, 102 Timber Run, Havana, FL I don't know whose voice that is, but – (laughter) thank you for this opportunity to learn more and speak on the Citizens Bill of Rights.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> when I appeared before the board, I asked for a meeting where all parties could ask questions and have input into the discussion. I didn't learn until today that is not what this is. This is basically a public hearing with 3 minutes for each participant. So, it is not what I envisioned when Commissioner Hinson said: "teamwork makes stream work."

I was told by multiple people that when you participate in these

workshops that they have been to these before and nothing came of it, so, they were not going to come today. That was disappointing, and I certainly hope that is not the case. I hope that the commission can come to some kind of consensus and we can move on because like Ms. Lex and Ms. Chatham said, you have revisited this over and over and over for several years.

I wanted to say that number one of my main influences has been in the field of mental health. I am a retired physiologist, mostly in the prison system, but, also in the community and in private practice. There is a psychiatrist named Gerald Jopolski. Last week when Dr. V invoked love from his faith during the meeting, it reminded me of Gerald Jopolski because in his books, tapes and workshops, he simplifies things for people by saying that we are motivated by some form of fear, which can take the form of anger, frustration, anxiety, etc. or some form of love, which is respect, care, concern, peace and that sort of thing. Gerry says that we make better decisions when we are motivated by some form of love.

That doesn't mean that all decisions will be a "yes." A loving decision can be a "no." It doesn't mean that two people who believe they are coming from that space are always going to agree. It has been my experience that people who are at different consciousness of love; there is a greater probability that individuals will treat others with respect and often increase the possibility of agreement. So, I am inviting everybody to listen to this. I have learned that when we are tuned into our bodies, we can tell what is going on in the outside person is invoking fear or love. It manifests as tension in our bodies, or butterflies or something like that. I invite everybody while we are discussing this to tune into from time to time. If you notice that you are getting some tension or frustrations, maybe anger – just breathe in and wrap that around what is happening and then breathe out. That is what works for me, and it works for everybody. Breathe, release, relax and repeat.

Now, I will move on. I will also submit that what former President Bill Clinton said in his 2012 democratic convention is relevant. "We are all in this together." That is better philosophy and being on your own.

With respect to land use, I believe that each of us needs to consider the impact of any proposed change will have on our

neighbors, our community including our community of plants, animals, air, water and the food that sustains all of us rather than the idea of we should be able to do whatever we want to do with our real estate. Since we don't have the opportunity to ask questions when someone else speaks or when ya'll say something, ask questions, I am going to have to move on and say that from where I am right now, these are the specific changes I would like to see in the Citizens Bill of Rights.

I think Section 7001.1 needs to be clarified. I have been told by people who are not county staff, but, people who have been involved in this for a very long time, that this does not apply to any exceptions, lot splits or minor subdivisions. If that is true, I think that needs to be clarified in those sections because many people still believe that it does. I think that is because it lists special exceptions and small scale comprehensive plan amendments. If I am not correct about that, then that is something that you definitely need to look at. I don't think it should apply to family exceptions, lot splits, etc.

**In Section 7001.1 (A) & (B)**

I think that should be revised so that the county notifies property owners and neighborhood associations impacted by the relevant proposed developments or changes and someone from the county, logically from the planning department, would conduct one meeting with the developer and affected owners and neighborhood associations with a deputy present in order to assure civil respect for meetings and to streamline the process. I have been told by a developer, Danny Miller, that there had been meetings that got pretty rowdy and disrespectful and I would like to see that not be the case.

It is my understanding and correct me if I am wrong that developers have to pay an application fee at the outset. It seems to me that money could be used to pay for the notification and the conduction of the meeting. With a county planning representative present, minutes are taken, a second meeting should not be necessary. Of course, I think that DCA doesn't exist anymore. That doesn't need to be in there. But, I would also ask that citizens be allowed to submit questions and input in writing that is read into the record in case they are unable to attend.

My wife and I plan to do a lot more traveling. If a subject came up while we are gone, I could shoot an email and have my input in there. I want to do that.

Now, here are the changes to which I am opposed:

Proposal to eliminate the Super-majority vote (Mr. Stewart was in support of the supermajority vote.)

As I said last time at the commission meeting, Gadsden County consists of 6 incorporated municipalities that together include just 39% of the population. The majority of the population (61%) lives in the unincorporated areas, which is spread out through your five districts. So, since there are no "At-Large" commissioners, you five folks really represent the whole county collectively. You represent the whole county. There is no single point of contact like our good sister county of Leon where they have "at-large" commissioners.

When I was looking at this issue (and I didn't seek out this issue,), I was contacted last September by a couple of people and made me aware of it. So, the universe sort of presented it to me and I had to get educated about it. One of the things I did since the last meeting is that I contacted my former commissioner, Doug Croley. His sister-in-law was a friend of our families, and I knew him indirectly that way, but, I also contacted former Commissioner Lamb along with Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Morgan who unanimously approved this ordinance back in 2010. I wanted them to tell me why they thought the super-majority was important then and if they thought it was still important to continue. I even invited them to the meeting. Mr. Croley is in Pittsburg today, and Mr. Lamb is in Tallahassee, so they were not able to be here.

Mr. Lamb stated that the supermajority is critical to maintain so that the county makes the best decisions for all of the county. It is like four heads are better than three idea. Mr. Croley was the person that reminded me that we don't have at-large commissioners and he posited that a supermajority vote provides a form of checks and balances. He said this, "You (I would add any citizen) can only vote for or against one single commissioner, but all five get to vote for or against you." He also said, "It's my opinion that it has worked pretty well and if it is not broke, don't fix

it.”

I wanted to reiterate and clarify what I said on April 16 because it was then said after I spoke that contradicted what the actual facts are. Thomas Hawkins of the 1,000 Friends of Florida, has provided the commission a list of 10 governments in Florida (and I present that to you today) but, for the audience, I will list a few of them that have the Citizen Bill of Rights that includes a supermajority. It was said after at the last meeting that they didn't. But, that is not correct. They do. There are now 11 of them. Ten of them require a supermajority vote for land use actions and as of today, the City of South Miami requires unanimous approval to amend land use and development regulations in any manner to make them less restrictive.

Gadsden County is not alone in having a supermajority vote. The way I would like to see it is that Gadsden County is taking the lead in providing the wisest use of planning.

Now, I have reviewed all of the minutes concerning this. I did not find that anybody presented any clear evidence that the Citizens Bill of Rights is hindering development in Gadsden County. There were opinions stated that it was, but, I didn't see any evidence that it was the case.

I would like to remind folks that our bigger and wealthier sister county of Leon doesn't have a supermajority vote and they are always constantly struggling to attract economic development in businesses and jobs. So, if a supermajority vote is a problem, it just can't be true.

That being said, I do believe we can attract green energy and jobs to our county, and we should be working with FAMU and FSU and the UF to help us do that. I believe we can have more affordable housing, too. We need to figure out how to do that in a wise, respectful way.

To the folks who say, “Well, none of the other neighboring counties have it,” reminds me of when our children were in elementary school and would say something like, “Johnny’s parents let him stay up until 10 p.m., why can't I?” We were really strict about, especially on a school night. My wife and/or I would respond, “Well we think this is best for all of us if you go to bed by 9 p.m.

We didn't say was, "we want time alone for the health of our relationship." But, that was certainly part of it, and we are going to do what is best. What Johnny's parents do in that regard is their right, but, not what we think is best.

This is why it is not particularly relevant that only 11 governments have this. Twelve, counting Gadsden County. It is just like Johnny's parents. We are doing what is best for our county and in my opinion, they are not.

It certainly is not a good reason to abandon the supermajority.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, I gladly will yield.

**Dr. Viegbesie:**

Thank you, Mr. Stewart.

Ms. Diane Sheffield?

**Diane Sheffield:**

Diane Sheffield, I live in Lake Tallavana. (291 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL) It has been a long time since I have been in this room. I actually was on the planning commission for almost 20 years, and I participated in the writing in the Citizens Bill of Rights. I can tell you that we spent many, many, many, many meetings putting that bill together. I am still in favor of the supermajority vote. I don't want to see the notification cut down too much. For example, I didn't know about this meeting until about 3:00 p.m. today. I apologize, I didn't have time to read all the information, which I am going to do. I will probably attend the next meeting. This is just a workshop, right? You aren't making any decisions tonight? O.K.

I think it is important for there to be a 30-day notice. People have busy lives and to get involved in something like this is something you have to work into your time.

I appreciate what you do. I will come back to your next meeting when you discuss the subject. But, I don't want to see many changes. I haven't had time to read all the changes that they are proposing. I think we did a good job writing the bill and I would like to see it stand.

**Chair Viegbesie:**

Thank you, Ms. Sheffield.

Elva Peppers?

**Elva Peppers:**

Good afternoon. Elva Peppers, 221-4 Delta Ct. Tallahassee, FL 32303.

I wanted to come as someone who actually comes and presents and deals with people on a regular basis who are trying to get these land use amendments and subdivision developments. I can speak to my experience and their experience. I have some notes which I will provide afterward to the planning department so they can be shared with you later.

I went through the agenda item and just kind of made some notes upfront before I even read the analysis at the end. It was interesting to me that a lot of the notes that I wrote were the same notes that they wrote — the same experience for all of us.

To me, the underlying question of the Citizens Bill of Rights is "Are the citizens getting notified adequately and do they have adequate time to make comments?" Really, that is the underlying question other than the supermajority vote. Those are the two items.

I will just read some of my comments.

I would suggest eliminating the requirement for small scale comp plan amendments and minor variances from being subject to the Citizens Bill of Rights. They have been incorporated into their review.

**The Citizens Participation Plan** – I find it unnecessary to have the second citizen meeting. You have the first citizens meeting then it goes to the planning and zoning and then it goes to the board of county commissioners. Then it gets sent off. If it is a major amendment, then the applicant is required to have another Citizens Bill of Rights meeting after the DEO reviews it and sends it back to the county with comments or no comments. I have consistently found that at the second Citizens Bill of Rights meeting, no one comes. They have already had a lot of opportunities throughout the whole process to review it and to

attend meetings, to provide written comments and so forth. Nobody has ever come to the second one in my experience. I don't know that it is being utilized.

I will get to the schedule in a minute, so I will skip it for now.

Another item that I saw was that (I didn't refer to what section this is in) there will be no changes to the application after a certain date. It seems like that should be clarified as to substantial changes. I don't think that changing a road name should trigger a changed item and I don't know if it does or not, but, that is something that should be clarified as substantial or not.

I don't like the supermajority vote. I have been caught in that. Recently, this year, I had an amendment come through, and all commissioners were here except for one who was calling in by phone. That call dropped off; therefore, it was a "no pass." No pass means that it is a fail. My client had spent \$10,000 on this application and because it was a "no pass," it was dead. They chose not to pursue it and that economic opportunity was gone. They got very frustrated with the process and walked away.

That is one example of how a supermajority can catch in a situation.

The other comparison that the gentleman before me was comparing supermajority in the City of Miami to Gadsden County. That was not relevant. We are completely and totally different communities. That was an inner-city, and this is very rural. That was not comparing apples to apples.

In addition, I would be interested to see in those other counties and cities that use a supermajority how many commissioners are on their board. Each commissioner vote is weighed less as the more commissioners sit on the board. We are a very small board, and each commissioner has a very large vote. I have not done that math exercise, but, it is just a suggestion that if you are going to fall back on that, I would say that the criteria should be analyzed.

The requirement to do a fair and equitable exchange – that quote is not defined at all for land for development. It really should be.

Protect environmental resources – they are not defined either. There are so many options there. I would say just to get rid of that.



There is plenty of protection in the Code that protects natural resources.

Major Subdivisions – I am not sure why this process is necessary. It also applies to subdivisions, but, you know, I can see that there is another opportunity there for the owners to get involved and to weigh in. There are three different meetings associated with major subdivisions already: the conceptual, the preliminary and the final. There are opportunities available to adjacent property owners and nearby residents to weigh in.

Notifications of Neighborhood Associations – It is too burdensome and really opens the county up for liability because there is no very good way to track that.

Now, it is time for Show and Tell. Some of you guys have seen this before. This is the schedule that refers to the time frame for a comprehensive plan future land use map amendment for 2019/2020. I wouldn't want you to have to go through this right now, but, if you have the opportunity, pretend that you have a piece of property and try to figure this out. Honestly, I dare you. It is very, very complicated. One thing that is not included in this schedule is the newspaper schedule, which really dictates a whole other insert because the newspapers only publish once a week.

**Commissioner Holt:**

Mr. Chairman.

**Chair Viegbesie:**

Yes, Commissioner Holt.

**Commissioner Holt:**

May I ask a question? Go across this chart starting with December 1 and go straight across. Tell us about it. December 1, 2018.

**Elva Peppers:**

O.K. This is with the Citizens' Bill of Rights for a major land use amendment. December 1. Before you can submit the application, you have to advertise and hold a community meeting 30 days prior to even submitting your application. So, that means that with the newspaper, you would be 45 days potentially ahead of that. You have to give people adequate notice, and you have to get it to the

paper at least ten days ahead of them publishing it.

To begin with, it is not really December, and you better get your stuff in order in November.

So, on December 16<sup>th</sup> will be the pre-application meeting, which is required to be held within 15 days of filing an application. The pre-application meeting, I think the requirement of it being in a certain time frame and located in the Citizens Bill of Rights, is probably not the best place for it. Honestly, your staff is great. If I call them, I will get an appointment, and we have a pre-application meeting. We can work things out, and they are available if I have any questions. I have never had an issue with that.

So, if you look at the way it is worded, it says, "Pre-application is required to be held within 15 days filing of an application." I ask you, does that mean 15 days and then you submit or prior to the 15 days? It is not clear. That wording is very confusing.

**Commissioner Holt:**

O.K. go to the next one.

**Elva Peppers:**

The application must be filed 15 calendar days prior to the public hearing notice mail-out to allow completion review and processing of public notice. So, once we get the application, we have to wait another 15 days to submit that public hearing notice mail-out. The public hearing notice must be mailed, and the application filed within 30 calendar days prior to the planning commission hearing. I think that is self-explanatory, but that brings up to December 20<sup>th</sup>. Newspaper legal ads must be submitted within 21 calendar days prior to the Planning Commission meeting. So, that would be December 27<sup>th</sup>. Again, subject to when they publish. As you can see, who in the heck knows when they are going to publish. It is very confusing.

Notification to the local newspaper of general circulation at least ten calendar days and sign placed. – Now that is all on the planning department which has to do that by January 3.

The planning commission meeting is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday after the first Tuesday Board Meeting. Again, this is the very soonest that this can happen if everything goes according to plan. **I might**

**add that in the past couple of years, some meetings with the planning and zoning commission have not had a quorum. Then all this starts over again from the beginning.**

January 31<sup>st</sup>. Newspaper legal advertisement to be submitted 19 days prior to the public meeting to meet the ten-day notice requirement.

February 19<sup>th</sup> – Board of County Commission meeting and hearing. Assuming that it is approved, March 1<sup>st</sup>, it is transmitted to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity within ten days of board approval. March 1 is potentially the first day it can be sent.

DEO Comment letter within 30 days. Final for small scale amendments. That is April 1<sup>st</sup>. After that, it comes back, the applicant will be notified, and at that point, we try to get back on the newspaper schedule and schedule another community meeting. So, you figure 10 days to get back on that schedule and then you want to give people at least a week. I prefer two weeks notice of a community meeting. So, that is another month before the community neighborhood meeting would be held. So, April 1<sup>st</sup>, now we are on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Newspaper legal ads to be submitted 19 days prior to a public meeting for the Board of County Commission adoption hearing. I don't know when the actual adoption would occur. But, according to this schedule, if everybody meets every possible first date and the quorums are achieved by the Planning Commission and the County Commission, there is a minimum of seven (7) months.

**Commissioner Holt:**

Mr. Chairman, may I?

**Chair Veigbesie:**

Yes, Commissioner Holt, you have the floor.

**Commissioner Holt:**

There was a young lady who spoke earlier (and I didn't get her name) made a statement about what I said about doing an overlay at the I-10 exits. The overlay means that you go in and look at those I-10 exits and determine if the commercial land use designation would be more appropriate than the Ag category.

After a period of time, if no commercial development has occurred on it, it would revert to whatever it was before. There is a misunderstanding in that to be designated as commercial use; the interchange would have to already have the commercial designation as well as have the infrastructure in place. It is not necessarily true. With the commercial overlay, then you would be able to apply for federal funding for the CDBG, the \$750,000, to come in and put in the infrastructure. They don't have to give you a penny for Ag designation. The federal government will fund infrastructure in a commercial area. That is the whole purpose of it.

The reason that I am bringing this up now is because I am glad you did this chart. If you did the overlay at the places where we want to have the infrastructure and development, if we did that first, then we would be able to say, "Businesses, we have done this for you." The County Commission would have had the meetings. The County Commission would invite everyone into this room or wherever (we need a larger venue,) with the community and ask them, "Do you want this business at this intersection?" You may not want it. But, the County Commission would be responsible for that. No businesses are going to come in and do this. They are not interested in doing this at all simply because they can go to other locations where it is already done. That is the problem with not being prepared for development.

What we are saying now is that we want the businesses to do all of this. That is not going to happen. This right here explains it. The same thing at DCA. Is it DCA. It used to be DCA. When I spoke with Secretary Pelham that was over DCA under the previous governor, he said, "If you prepare for the type of growth you want, then you will get what you want. If you do not prepare, you are not going to get anything, or you are going to get something that you do not want."

There is a certain industry here now about which people are complaining. But, that was done through the Legislature where we were not at. So, when we are looking at this, ladies and gentlemen, I don't think anybody has a problem with the Citizen's Bill of Rights supermajority vote if you were out there aggressively planning for development and the type of development we want. People who are unemployed are complaining about not having

jobs. The reason they are complaining about not having jobs is that we are not planning.

The Planning Commission recommended these changes because they see exactly what the people in the planning department see. The developers do not want to come. They do not want to be responsible for this. Now, we can do this. The county can do it.

**Suzanne Lex:**

Commissioner Holt, just to clarify, in terms of new development, that is a very good approach. If you have the infrastructure there with the interstate, you want to serve the interstate and the traffic. If we were to go forward, currently, the developer would still have to go through this process under the special exception. (inaudible) So, if we are going to approach that, I would also suggest that we consider that that development be approved as a whole with these uses. It is typically what you see. That way you would be able to avoid that happening on the back end. I just wanted to point that out to you so you understand that is a good approach and we can work with that if it is something that the board wishes.

**Commissioner Holt:**

My point in that and you are totally correct. My point in that is saying, "If we plan for this, there is not such a big fight throughout the county because you are looking at the areas that we've got the development council to designate those areas where we (you, as citizens) may want to develop. That means that if we do those improvements there, the developers don't have to do it. You are totally correct. The infrastructure, the sewer, the water, the electricity – unless we have the money to do it, it is not going to come at any of those areas unless we look at the zoning first. That is why we do the overlay. You may say after ten years; maybe they weren't. But, if the board rezones it as commercial (it may be ag right now,) but, if the overlay is commercial when the developers look at it on the map, they see, "Yes, they have done all the groundwork, and I don't have to do that. I can come in and make my proposal there. That way we make the top three.) Usually, three top locations are identified. Right now, we are not making anything at all. It is not really one or the other. It is how well do we plan to be successful.

Thank you, I am sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you.

We need about 2,000 more of these charts. Jill Jeglie. We need about 2,000 more of these.

**Elva Peppers:**

I have a few other comments. Back to my original point – there are two questions I wanted to address. 1) The supermajority and 2) Does the public have adequate time to comment and weigh in on the new projects in their area?

I know you guys hear it all the time. I hear it almost every time I am here. Someone will always say, "I didn't know about this." But, I just wanted to read through the notifications that people actually do get through the regular process and then the additional ones that they get through the Citizens Bill of Rights as it is written at this time.

Public Notifications: I will count them on my fingers.

1. There is a sign placed out front.
2. The Planning and Zoning advertisement is put in the paper.
3. There is a Planning and Zoning public hearing.
4. They can write in anytime. I will add that one as well. They can also call in anytime.
5. There is a mail-out to the adjacent property owners.
6. There is a Board of County Commissioners advertisement in the paper.
7. There is a Board of County Commissioners public hearing.
8. I will add in the DEO comments because DEO actually takes comments from other agencies. If you have a problem with something, you can write in to this agency as well.
9. If it is a major change, you get another Board of County Commission advertisement in the paper.
10. If it is a major change, you get another public hearing for the adoption.

That is ten (10) opportunities for people to have been noticed and invited to participate in the process. In addition to those ten (10), the Citizens Bill of Rights requires a personal mailing by someone like myself or an applicant to every person and landowner within a ½ mile of the property. That does not include tenants. I have to

point that out, so, a tenant does not get personal notification. It goes to the property appraiser's address of record.

The Citizens Bill of Rights meeting is noticed in the newspaper. You hold the Citizens Bill of Rights meeting. With a major land use amendment, you have another personal mailing, another newspaper filing and another Citizens Bill of Rights meeting. So, that would be a total of 16 opportunities for someone to weigh in with their comments.

I have called this office many times, and they always take your call and emails. So, I think there is ample opportunity with the ten (10). If we keep part or all of the Citizens Bill of Rights, sixteen (16) are certainly an ample number of opportunities to weigh in, call in, or attend.

One final thing. I have a client who has a small piece of property. He is trying to move back to Gadsden County. He has been living in Miami, I think. This is his home. He doesn't have a lot of money. He has to do a land use amendment to put a mobile home on his piece of property. The Citizens Bill of Rights requirements – My point being, he doesn't have a ton of money. He wants to be home in Gadsden County. Let's welcome him. The Citizens Bill of Rights has added \$1,300 through newspaper advertisements, mail-outs, and my representation at the additional meeting required for minor land use change.

I appreciate the opportunity to spill my guts up here. I am available if you have questions. I will be happy to participate further during the process.

**Chair Viegbesie:**

Thank you, Ms. Peppers.

I don't have any other speaker request forms before me, but, is there anyone in the audience who has anything to say, please feel free to come down to the podium and let us hear what your contributions are to this conversation.

Until I see any other person in the audience who wants to speak, Commissioners, do you have any comments?

**Commissioner Taylor:**

Yes, I have a few.

**Chair Viegbesie:**

Commissioner Taylor, the floor is yours.

**Commissioner Taylor:**

Thank you. I apologize for having to go in and out of the meeting. I needed to take care of some business matters.

In the analysis in this packet, **Item A**, the current version of the Citizen Bill of Rights requires the following: “A mandated citizen participation plan – this step requires public notice to property owners and neighborhood association within one-half mile of the development site property boundaries.”

You know we asked for this workshop, or at least I did, because I thought there were some things that we really did need to change in the Citizens Bill of Rights and there are some things we need to keep. In particular, I believe where the mandated citizen participation plan comes in, that language should include staff and the commissioner that represents that particular district. But, I think it should be planning and zoning staff that should be responsible for notifying the citizens and not the business. I am willing to support that language change as far as staff – planning and zoning picking up a principle part in notifying the citizens.

I also think it should be increased from one-half mile radius to a mile radius. I don't think it should be just a half-mile. I think it should be a little larger than that because if something comes into that area with regard to industry or commerce, it will probably have a lot more citizens than just a half mile around that area. I think it should be changed to one mile.

I agree with the gentleman who came to the podium with regards to there being no language whatsoever, possibly some language, Mr. Attorney, that says that this particular Bill of Rights has nothing to do with subdividing your personal land, your residential land. We need to have some language in there that says that or eliminate – I will not support any language that is in here that has to do with this Citizens Bill of Rights impacting what people can do with their land. So, I know that it is not in there, but, people are being told something different about that language being in there



about you not being able to subdivide your land because of the Citizens Bill of Rights. It needs to be spelled out clearly that there is no such language and this Bill has nothing to do with that.

I agree with the seven-day cooling-off period.

**Item B** - Oh, let me go back to **this Neighborhood Participation**. I have to agree with Ms. Peppers on this calendar of activities. By the way, it is a little bit more convoluted. All of these are projected things that can happen. These are not things that have happened. I am looking at your dates. These are projected things that happen. It makes it look like, "My god, how in the world can you get anything done in this county?"

We have always echoed the same sentiment. Let's streamline the process to get people turning dirt immediately. But, as someone so eloquently said, "We want smart growth and development." Not just growth and development. We have seen what growth and development happen out in Midway. It cost them more than it helped them.

Going back to this 10-day, 15-day, 30 days and all this – I agree that all this should be streamlined and a lot better done.

I don't know why DEO has to be notified. I think we should change that language with regard to DEO being notified or how was it said. I think there has to be a community meeting prior to a submittal to DEO. A 30 day required meeting prior to submittal to DEO. I don't think we should keep that in there either. I think that we should be more responsible for the county government and whatever applications and whatever response needs to come before this county government as opposed to DEO unless it is a mandate. And I don't think there is such a mandate that we submit. I know that at some point in time any business development has to be submitted to DEO, but I don't know if this is the right kind. It does hold progress with regards to turning dirt. I don't agree with that. I think that we should have a better streamline moving forth in Item B under the Analysis.

**Supermajority** – I am not going to touch it. I am still concerned with some of the mindsets around this daises. I am concerned with businesses being sprung up just about everywhere. I can tell you where it worked against me. That was out on Strong Road when

they brought the idea of putting that industrial park back up in a bedrock community. You are going to put a plant that makes paint in a community where there are convalescent homes, where there are rehab centers, dialysis, a school, apartment complex with families – you want to put an industrial business in the middle of that? Someone said, “Well, it was there some time ago when they were making paper or whatever it used to be called.” But, when that was over there, the community had not been built up the way it is now. What was the name of it? It was called Paper something. (She was referring to the Printing House.) It closed down. Someone said, “Well, they used to do it.” But, at that time, you didn’t have a school out there when that mill was open and running. You didn’t have all those other bedrock communities around the area. So, I have a big problem with them putting it in that neighborhood. But, four out of five commissioners voted to put it there. But, God said, “No.” I am proud to say that. That thing has not opened. That has been five years ago. Four of the five voted to put it there in that bedrock community.

**Item E - Requires all comprehensive plan map amendments and “site development applications’ to protect environmental resources.** Let’s keep that out of there.

**Item F. No Free Density** – If we don’t have a definition or a total understanding for what “no free density” is, then, yes, I agree that it should come out as well if we are not able to find it and can’t understand it. But, before we take it out, let’s make sure or that there isn’t anything that could replace it.

Now, when I think of density, I think of something in an area that is – how do I put it? A target for that particular area – it mirrors what is there when I think of density. If I am going to be in an area where it is Ag3, then don’t bring me commercial. If I am going to be in an area that is commercial, then let Ag3 stay where it is at. If I am going to be in area where it is just residential, then don’t come and put a commercial business right in the middle of that. I don’t know if that is what it means. I am not for sure, but, I don’t want to take anything out that might help citizens continue to live in a community that is safe.

**Requires the establishment of urban service boundaries by 2014.**

Now I heard the young lady say that there aren't any urban service boundaries. But, I am not at the position of getting rid of that statement. What I would rather say is, "Regulations will be set forth when urban service boundaries are established."

I don't want to set limitations on us in our growth and development. If we are going to grow, let's grow and not take away what can help us with the development of it. So, I will have to say keep that sentence in there, but, write it in such a way that if it should happen in the future, then we would come up with regulations.

That is pretty much all that I have. I guess it is a quick little wrap up and then I am going to have to skedaddle. I asked for this meeting and I am grateful that it happened.

- Real quick, staff along with commissioners, if they choose, can and should attend and hold these workshops with the citizens. That is the way I would like to see it go.
- We should be responsible for public noticing the meeting with the citizens and not the business. Someone from that business should be there so that citizens can ask questions and get them answered intelligently. I don't want to cause a hardship on a business.
- I think this 10-day, 15-day and 30 days is confusing and I voted for it. So, we should streamline that.
- No, you don't need to make 2,000 of these charts. Let's just get rid of all of these different activities that are happening so that we can get people to turn dirt. That is what we are here for – smart growth and development.
- The cooling-off period – let it stay.
- Supermajority – let it stay. I know there are some developers that would like to see it go away. I don't see any commissioner turning away economic development. We don't do that. I voted against putting that thing out there in that bedrock community, and I will vote against it 1,000 times when you try to put something like that in the back door of a community that is not built for industrial. You would, too.
- There is a question as to where these meetings should be held. I think we should go to the community. I think you

will get more participation in you are in their back yard. I think they should be held at a time when people can come. We need to get a consensus of what these people are thinking. If 4:30 is better than 6:00. – Some are leery of driving at night. If we could send some notices out and get some feedback as to when then find a location in that area. That is better than having them come down here.

I think that is all I have. Thank you.

**Chair Viegbesie:**

The only thing I am going to say is that the hearing is to hear comments and the things that they have to say is very valuable. So, Mr. Attorney, if you can get a copy of these statements that have been recorded, you can take on some of those positive things that he articulated – not about the “breathing in and breathing out,” I think it is valuable input.

**Ms. Lex:**

I wanted to request a point of clarification.

**Chair Viegbesie:**

That is from whom? Commissioner Taylor?

**Ms. Lex:**

When you said the community meeting, the 30 days prior to filing of the application- is that what you were referring to that should be done by staff?

**Commissioner Taylor:**

The community meeting, yes. Now, there is a neighborhood association meeting. I thought that was one that was convoluted with 5-day, 15-day, I am exaggerating here a little bit. But the Neighborhood Association is where there were so many different blocks of days.

**Ms. Lex:**

I will be sure to do some built in charts so we can be very clear and I will visit with the attorney for any suggested changes.

**Commissioner Taylor:**

You don't have to do a chart. Just get rid of some of those steps in there. There are too many. That is too obvious. Streamline them.

**Ms. Lex:**

Thank you for the clarification.

**Chair Viegbesie:**

Commissioner Holt.

**Commissioner Holt:**

I have two or three things. One thing, I definitely want the chart. This is too impressive.

The other thing is that this does not affect family or residential land. If it affects residential, then we need to get rid of it. If it does not, then why is Ms. Pepper representing someone putting in a mobile home here that is going through the Citizens Bill of Rights. That is proof right there that it does represent residential land. I would not want it included in the Citizens Bill of Rights at all. So, there are families out there dealing with this.

Family exemption is something that is totally different. That is something that is different in this process. So, if you are talking about family exemptions, those are ones with immediate family. But, this could be property that is owned that is not necessarily the immediate family, but, they cannot put a mobile home on. It needs to be five acres or 10 acres depending on how it is zoned. So, if you are going to say, "It doesn't affect residential land," then that statement is fine. See what we need to do with that. I need to make sure that it is in your suggested possibilities.

The county notifications – great. We had those before. We need to push for that.

The minor subdivisions – we do need to look at that because if it is five (5) acres and it could be residential land and the residential land may be relatives, but, not immediate relatives. So, minor subdivisions are what you are going to find when you are looking at a lot of people that are distant relatives. We have a large population of people that have heir property. So, they will qualify as immediate family. There are 20 acres, 30 acres, and there is a

lady right now dealing with 48 acres. She can't do anything with it other than what has already been done. She is zoned 1:20. She cannot do anymore because they have two houses on 48 acres. She cannot do anything with her property. She is elderly, and she wants to be able to give it to her children and have them come back and build houses on it.

I am absolutely for everything that the Planning Commission recommended. The reason for that is it looks like planning. That is what they do. They are looking at how we plan the county. I feel like they have looked at these over and over and over again. So, they are not absent-minded enough to think that this is going to work if we don't make these changes. At the planning board meetings, they see this over and over again.

A developer told me this morning – I called two. One that I have worked with before and the other one I have talked about because I want to see another mural in the city, so I was talking to him about that. He said he would no way try to put any homes or developments outside of the city limits in this county because he doesn't want to touch the Citizens Bill of Rights. They do not want to have to be involved in this.

We need to plan better. We need to work with the developers and the citizens and see if we can get this out of here. If it is terrible, we need to look at it. If it is good, we need to look at it.

This workshop will not solve the problem. We need to sit down with the planning and zoning board. There have to be reasons why they recommended this. We are meeting with a few citizens, but, we are not meeting with the group that recommended these changes. We need to see what those changes need to be and get it done.

I don't see any sense in meeting like this. I will be honest with you. I think I said that in the County Commission meeting. We don't have any reason to meet like this. The board members that are going to vote; we already know how they are going to vote. They never voted to change it before. The only way this is going to change is that the citizens are going to have to change it. They are either going to have to change us, or they are going to have to make sure that we vote the way we need to vote. That is it. You

do it at election time.

Thanks a lot, Mr. Chairman. I am ready to go home.

**Chair Viegbesie:**

Thank you, Commissioner Holt.

If there are no other comments from the audience, let's consider this meeting adjourned.

**3. General Discussion**

There was no general discussion.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Chair Viegbesie adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

---

Anthony Viegbesie, Chair

ATTEST:

---

Nicholas Thomas, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 7, 2019 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-absent  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Dee Jackson, County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

**Elder Ronald McCloud, St. John COGIC, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and gave the Invocation.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:03 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson asked to pull Item 14 from the Agenda.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER MOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MR. WEISS HAD A COMMENT.**

Mr. Weiss said with respect to Item 4, it was not clear to him if this was authorization to execute all the loan documents associated with the loan or for general approval of the term sheet. He said if it was approval of the term sheet, he felt that was ok, if it was for approval to execute the loan documents, he would like to review them first. Mrs. Jackson said it was approval for just the term sheet and they had not received any loan documents yet.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND TO THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION ABOUT ITEM 5.**

Commissioner Taylor said previously the Board had asked approved that the representative represents the districts and she has not seen any updated documents. She added that she was willing to go along with the appointment tonight.



**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

1. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **April 2, 2019-Regular Meeting**
2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **Midway Building Official Services**
4. **Approval to Accept Construction Loan with Centennial Bank for Completing the Requirements for USDA**
5. **Appointments to the Gadsden County Planning Commission**
6. **CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grant-Amendment Request No. 1**
7. **Approval to Dispose of Old Electronic Devices**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was anyone that wished to speak on non-agenda items and there were none.

Auburn Ford, 249 Peters Road, Midway, FL 32343, Item 10

Stephany Wood, 875 Sadberry Road, Quincy, FL 32351 Item 9

Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL 32351

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

8. **Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance 2019-06, an Ordinance of the BOCC 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 proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes, for Fiscal Year 2018-19 (from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019);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 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, for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor or opposition to this item and there was no-one.

Commissioner Taylor had a question and said at a previous meeting there was discussion and knew they had discussed using discretionary funds for certifying EMS workers as firefighters. She asked if they were looking specifically at the discretionary surtax.

Mrs. Jackson said that was correct, however, during the budget season it was discussed to address the shortfall in EMS this year and they would divide the discretionary surtax three ways and was approved by the Board. It was then brought back as an Agenda Item for some reason and was voted down. She said the Clerk appeared before the Board, spoke about that and said they originally approved it and they needed to revisit this because that was the way he was balancing the budget. She said this was two part because at the last meeting there was a Resolution passed to make the EMS Department "Fire Safety" so they are dual certified to do both and now there was no two departments anymore, only one department where the staff could either get on a fire truck or get on an ambulance and provide service. Commissioner Taylor said she knew the discretionary fund was also being used to balance the budget and now they would be moving those funds into the Fire fund, so which department would no longer have access or was there a surplus.

Mrs. Jackson said instead of it being divided three ways, it will be split two ways, as it has always been with half going to Public Works and the other half going to Fire Safety as there was no longer a fire department or EMS Department.

Mr. Weiss pointed out the way the Ordinance was drafted, only authorized the use of funds for EMS services operations and capital expenditures for FY 18/19 and has an automatic sunset provision. If funds were intended to be used beyond 18/19, he did not think they should be limited to fiscal year 18/19 and should include EMS services indefinitely. Mr. Weiss said they could vote tonight to get rid of the sunset. Chair Viegbesie said if it was the will of the Board, they could revise that and make it a part of the operating procedure.

Commissioner Holt said the discretionary tax would be used for safety for fire and EMS and asked how that would affect the Quincy operation. Mrs. Jackson stated that would not affect them at all. She then asked the Attorney if he drafted the ordinance and he said yes. She asked why he drafted it for fiscal year 18/19 and he stated that was what he was told to do and found out afterward the intent was to be used beyond that and was why he made the suggestion that if that was the intent, it should be indefinite and there be no limitation on it.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a 4-0 vote last time and he had reservations afterward and wanted to rescind his vote from last time based on that so they could have a workshop. Chair Viegbesie said he did not understand what he was talking about with this item.

Mr. Weiss said at that meeting there was a Resolution proposed to merge Fire and EMS and authorize EMS to be recognized as a Fire Safety Department.

Commissioner Taylor said earlier it was said discretionary tax could only be used for Safety. Mr. Weiss said it could be used for any public purpose but has to be determined by the Board and has to be an extraordinary vote. He said the only had only four commissioners and meant all four would have to vote for it to amend the ordinance. She asked if the tax could be used for (inaudible) services as well as fire protection and Mr. Weiss said yes if they include that in the

Ordinance. He said with respect to EMS, it was only for fiscal year 2018/19. Commissioner Taylor said she would have to concur with Commissioner Hinson. She said she wanted to see where the dollars were moved from in the budget because originally they were not utilized in this particular department. She said she knew the hospital was using a portion of the discretionary tax and Mrs. Jackson said they still are. Commissioner Taylor said she understood Public Works was also using those funds. Mrs. Jackson said she was talking about two different taxes. This was the gas tax and that had always been divided two ways: between Public Works and the Fire Department.

Mr. Weiss stated this was not a gas tax but was a sales tax; this was a ½ cent discretionary sales surtax.

Commissioner Holt said this tax was originally used as the old jail tax to build the jail.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. MR. WEISS HAD A QUESTION.**

Mr. Weiss asked for clarification purposes if this would be with limitation for fiscal year 2018/19 or without. Chair Viegbesie said his understand was it was without.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION DID NOT PASS.**

**9. Public Hearing-Legislative-Ordinance 2019-002, Allen’s Excavation Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (LSPA 2019-01)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a request to adopt Ordinance 2019-002, a Large Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendment to change the land use category from Agriculture 3 (AG-3) to Mining on property that was owned by Allen’s Excavation.

**Suzanne Lex, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the board to discuss this item. She said DEO reviewed and no comments or objections were raised. She said they request that the Board adopt this comprehensive plan land use amendment.

Chair Viegbesie asked to hear from the public.

**Stephany Wood, 875 Sadberry Road, Quincy, FL 32351**, appeared before the Board. She said the week she signed on her new home they received a letter that they wanted to change from Ag-3 to Mining.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:28 p.m.*

She added that they have well water and was already having to double-filter the water and if they expand and mess up the water, what were they supposed to do.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:29 p.m.*

She further explained she had a son that was born with hypoplastic left heart and was stable for now but was easily distracted and this would increase the noise in their area and the loud noise could send him into cardiac arrest. She said 90%-95% of the people on the road was opposed to

the expansion.

**Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental & Land Services, Inc.**, representing the applicant appeared before the Board. She wanted to make it clear this was not an expansion. She added they would be going deeper but was not an expansion. She said this would be used as a private pit and they do not sell to public. She said there was not that much activity at this particular location.

Stephany Wood reappeared before the Board. She said it did say the land was previously owned by Allen already but from what she was reading, there would be an expansion and they were not currently mining because it was not zoned for mining, it was zoned for Ag 3.

Suzanne Lex reappeared before the Board. She said historically, when it was approved Ag 3 allowed mining and since then they have changed the land use so Mining has become its own category. She added this was a grandfathered in use, they have permits that go back into the 90's; the permits were just approved by DEP and was extended until 2044 and the intent of the amendment was to bring it into conformity with the land use plan. Mrs. Wood said she was ok with this.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said there had been no mining in the area for some time but was now trying to reactivate.

Elva Peppers reappeared. She said they do actively mine occasionally and if there was no activity after a certain time, they have to start reclamation.

Ms. Lex said this would bring them into compliance.

Commissioner Taylor said she was uncomfortable moving forward with additional mining.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

Mrs. Weiss reminded them this was a comp plan amendment and needed to be unanimous of the board members present.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Lex if this was approved years ago and was told yes. She then asked what legal standing they had if this was not approved and she said no, the use for mining would continue and was governed by DEP. Commissioner Holt said they had the right to mine anyway and they were trying to make the map compliant with the use of the property.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**THE VOTE WAS 3-1, MOTION FAILED.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**10. CDBG Housing Rehabilitation-Bid Awards and Recommendations**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid 19-05 for the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Project to the selected contractors and for authorization for the Chair to execute all necessary documents.

**Auburn Ford, 249 Peters Road, Midway, FL 32343** appeared before the Board. He said he had concerns with the process because it hinted at racism and favoritism. He said the County bid out some CDBG jobs and on February 21, 2019 there was a pre-bid conference. He said he arrived at the site right behind Mr. Jay Mosely, who is a sub-contractor that works with Andy Easton, the Grant Consultant. He said he had a history with Mr. Mosely, in 2007 he did a job with Mr. Mosely, who was also the consultant of that project. He explained the circumstances of the conversation with Mr. Mosely and the process of the bid. Mr. Ford said he was low bidder on all 5 bids but Mr. Mosely made a recommendation that because Mr. Ford did not completely fill out the bid sheets, it was a “job killer”. Mr. Ford admitted he did not completely fill out the sheet, but others did not as well.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:47 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a deadline on this and Mrs. Jackson responded yes and no. She explained the grant was received four years ago and there was a deadline as to when the grant will terminate and she was unsure what that date was. She said she had a chance to speak with Mr. Ford today. She said at the last meeting she recognized the Consultant was on the original scoring committee and she took it back and had staff score it and this was the results of that.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were someone present that could let her know the deadline.

Ms. Lex appeared before the Board and said under the State fiscal year, they needed to get the contracts executed and approved by June 30<sup>th</sup> so they could still have that money available.

Commissioner Holt said she thought it would be best to bring this item back. Mrs. Jackson explained this was a little bit different because CDBG approves this all the way through.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:49 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney if he has seen Mr. Ford’s written complaint and he said no.

Mr. Weiss said he would like to defer to the consultant, he was being paid to look at these things and all he knew was allegations have been raised. He said the bid documents did state they have to be itemized on submitted bid forms or they would be rejected. He said he was unsure if the Board could ignore that.

**Jay Mosely, Government Services Group**, was present and appeared before the Board. He said bids were reviewed and recommendations were made inconsistent with CDBG rules and their adopted Housing Assistance plan and he said he stood by his recommendations; they reviewed

them closely and had some things he wanted to clarify.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:53 p.m.*

He said Mr. Ford accused him of being a racist and he assured them he was not; the gentleman that fired him from the two projects in Wakulla County was Ezron McDaniels, who is a black man, and his claim of racism had no basis and the accusations made him very angry. He added that his office is not in Orlando, he works out of Gainesville, however he primarily worked in the central part of the State and was SHIP administrator for Taylor, Wakulla and Jefferson County.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:54 p.m.*

Mr. Mosely stated strongly again he was not a racist.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Ford his other concerns. Mr. Ford said it was stated at the start that he was wasting his time.

Commissioner Holt said they could either discuss this now or at another meeting because she had other questions.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Mosely if he made the comment that Mr. Ford would not get the job. Mr. Mosely said he did make a comment, they were standing alone at the side of the house and he asked if he was sure he wanted to spend his whole day there because he was more than likely wasting his time and knew for certain his quality of work and knew his basic attitude and that he was fired with cause from two jobs in Wakulla County.

Commissioner Hinson asked if that was legal and Mr. Weiss said one option they had was to reject all bids and rebid this item. He said if they had questions as to whether this was fair that might be the thing to do. He said this was something he had not been involved in and would defer to the consultant.

Commissioner Hinson said he highlighted some areas and said by looking at the item, it was impossible for him to get the contract because he had to do the right thing by making sure all the steps were followed. He said he would say he was disqualified because the itemized statement was not there.

Chair Viegbesie said in order to avoid the issue of bias, his understanding was this bid was actually bid as ran by staff and not the consultant. Mrs. Jackson said when she became aware of it, she pulled the item. She said if it was the direction of the Board to reject, she asked that they table this so as not to lose the grant.

Commissioner Holt said to Mr. Mosely, as a contractor he was an extension of the Board and no comments should be made like what was made.

Mr. Weiss asked Mr. Mosely if delaying this would cause an issue with grant and if he could explain the CDBG process because he knew there were a lot of regulations.

Mr. Mosely said any delay in awarding bids would impact the CDBG, especially right now. He said

to answer the attorney on their requirements for bidding, they do a stringent approval process based on the Housing Assistance Plan which was developed to meet all the Community Development Block Grant requirements and the plan was submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity and there were nineteen specific areas that it had to meet to qualify. He said the houses were bid in accordance to the housing assistance plan and in his 25 year history; the Department has never rejected any of his bidding.

Chair Viegbesie said timing was an issue and whether this item was pulled, returned and brought back, asked about the bid prices being itemized and Mr. Mosely stated that was a very specific requirement because their Housing Assistance Plan required them to only pay 40% when at 60% completion and when at 80% when at 100% completion and could pay the final 20% after all punch list items and paperwork were received. He added if he did not have an itemized list, there was no way for him to calculate the percentage and he would be in violation of any rules in the Housing Assistance Plan because he could not calculate 60% when he did not have a number to calculate from.

Commissioner Holt asked Mrs. Jackson the timeline and she said she would make a call tomorrow. She added that the only two options were to vote for it the way it was presented or to reject the bids.

Commissioner Hinson said the issue was this happened prior to Mr. Mosely saying anything and he wanted to be fair. He said he wanted to look at policy and in his humble opinion, Mr. Mosely's heart was right, they should cancel all bids like the attorney suggested earlier and put other people there that that was not around the people making those decisions.

Mr. Mosely said if he was going to be accused of being biased, it was with his previous work history with Mr. Ford and the way he treated two homeowners in Wakulla County, they both fired him. If he's going to be accused of being biased, he thought Mr. Ford should be also because he accused him and he made statements tonight against him that were unconscionable.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Hinson and disclosed that Mr. Ford called her on this issue. She said everything said tonight was said in a public meeting and could be open for litigation on either side. She asked that this matter be streamlined and get this back before them as soon as possible and have another set of people tabulate the bids. She said the other issue she had was Mr. Ford stated there was another application that also had blanks and all she was trying to do was at the end of the day make sure things were done right.

Chair Viegbesie asked if it was his understanding from the Board that all bids submitted be thrown out and this should be rebid to allow for corrections or if bids submitted should be re-tabulated by a different body.

Commissioner Holt asked to speak with Ms. Lex because she wanted to make sure they met the deadline.

Ms. Lex reappeared before the Board and said she would try to streamline and make this happen as quickly as possible but they would have to go back to the beginning and follow the State and Federal rules. She said she made her decision solely on the bid criteria. She said they will reach out to their partners and ask for every consideration and wanted to be transparent and fair and

will move with great speed to get these projects rebid.

Commissioner Holt said if Mrs. Jackson and Ms. Lex see they will not make the deadline, they were to call an emergency meeting. Mr. Weiss said they may have constraints in terms of State and Federal regulations.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the Federal and State application process was the same as their own procurement policy and Ms. Lex said their procurement policy consistent with those requirements.

Commissioner Taylor said time was there if the deadline was June 30<sup>th</sup> and they needed to have this done between the third meeting and the last of June. Mrs. Jackson said she has had experience with CDBG grants and they do things slightly different from the County.

Commissioner Taylor said she was ready to call the question.

Commissioner Hinson said they could advertise in the Tallahassee Democrat.

Commissioner Taylor said to move the question.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.  
COMMISSIONER HOLT POINTED OUT THERE WAS NO SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt said her motion was to table. Chair Viegbesie said the motion they carried was to move the question. Commissioner Taylor said tabling the item was not the correct language; the question should be to re-bid.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO REBID AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Mr. Weiss said it depended on what the Board wanted to do, if it was the will of the Board to reject all bids and rebid then that should be the motion. If the will was to table, that would be a motion, but recognize if they tabled it, it would have to come back at a later date to take action on it.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID HER MOTION WAS TO REBID AND BRING THIS BACK WITHIN THE TIMELINE AND SHE SUPPORTED COMMISSIONER HOLT'S MOTION.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

**11. Lease between Gadsden County and CRMC**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was seeking guidance regarding the ongoing discussions between the County and Capital Regional Medical Center (CRMC) regarding the lease for the hospital space.

**Mike Glazer, Assistant County Attorney**, appeared before the Board. He said there was a joint meeting with the hospital Board and CRMC and began discussions with them. He added they were working on a lease to bring back before the Board and there was no vote tonight, but to get thoughts. He said the current payment of the ½ cent sales tax from Gadsden County to CRMC



would terminate and would return approximately \$600,000 a year to Gadsden County. CRMC would, under current discussions, take over all of the requirements for equipping the hospital and said most of the equipment was nearing end of life and under the current lease, it would be up to Gadsden County to pay for the replacement, but with the discussions they have had, CRMC would take over all those responsibilities.

Commissioner Holt asked to see the changes that they were discussing. Mr. Glazer asked if the Commissioners had the red-line or the current lease. He said he looked before coming over and noticed the red-line copy was not in the Board package.

Commissioner Hinson said as a matter of fairness, constituents look at the items on the website as well and thought they should table this item because he believed in transparency and this should be tabled and brought back before the Board in two weeks.

Commissioner Holt said the last date to give a response back for the non-renewal was June 30<sup>th</sup> and she wanted to hear what they were proposing.

Mr. Glazer said they realized the June 30 deadline was there and he has discussed that with CRMC's counsel. He said this was a complicated lease and they have agreed to extend the deadline if needed. He added while they need to move as quickly as possible, the deadline was not an obstacle.

Chair Viegbesie said in being fair to the citizens, if they were willing to extend the deadline, he would rather allow citizens and interested parties to come before them at the next meeting.

Commissioner Holt said she was not asking for vote, she wanted to see what they were offering.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL ALL INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A STATEMENT.**

Commissioner Taylor said she concurred the meeting should be a special meeting and did not think they needed to put the lease agreement on a regular meeting Agenda and asked Commissioner Hinson to amend his motion and Commissioner Hinson said he was fine with that.

Commissioner Holt stated they needed to hear from the citizens.

**Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he received a red-line copy of the lease proposal and he had concerns. He said in reading it, it suggested that the hospital board not be involved at all and he felt since they were the advisor to the Board they should be involved. He also did not think they needed to be in a long-term contract with them. He recommended the hospital board get back involved and if the contract was so good they wanted a 20 year contract, why not a 5 year contract.

Chair Viegbesie said this item would be tabled but was unaware that one of the items was for GHI to not be involved any longer.

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

**12. Approval of Extension of Contract No. 21831 for the William M. Inman Agriculture Center Funding for New Gadsden County Extension Office**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an amendment of the original contract No. 21831 signed in June 2017.

Commissioner Taylor asked for the history and Mrs. Jackson explained.

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

**13. Approval of Agreement with Cintas**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Agreement with Cintas.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were going to bid this item and Mrs. Jackson explained when there is a State or Federal contract the rates were cheaper and they did not have to bid.

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

**14. Cheryl W. Blanchard (Parcel ID No. 3-05-2N-5W-0000-00444-0200) Code Enforcement**

Pulled

**15. Approval of the County Social Media Policy Number 19-01**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the proposed County Social Media Policy Number 19-01 and said there had previously been no policy regarding this.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

Mrs. Jackson explained this did not apply to staff personal; there were several departments that have a social media page such as the library.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW THEIR NO VOTES. THE BOARD APPROVED THIS ITEM 4-0.**

**16. Approval of Crown Castle-Tower Site**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Crown Castle's tower site for Gadsden County's radio equipment.

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

Mr. Weiss said he sent some proposed revisions and identified some changes he wanted to make

and the Tower owners said no and he said it was now up to the Board if they wanted to take it or leave it.

Commissioner Holt said it was almost hurricane season and they needed the towers and generators for communication.

Mrs. Jackson said for clarity, this was for the new communication system and if they did not use these tower sites, they would have to have an engineer to reroute everything and would be responsible for purchasing towers because there were only so many in the County.

Commissioner Hinson said they may need to look at this before making a decision.

Mrs. Weiss said one thing was there was no termination clause for non-appropriation.

Commissioner Holt said she hesitated to not vote for this because of hurricane weather approaching and they did not have the money to build a tower. She said there was a termination date and could give them enough time to come up with money to build one tower and look at the costs to reroute the technology lines.

Commissioner Hinson said he may be wrong, but he thought they (communications company) were funding all the towers and now they were saying the County was funding the towers and they need to look at the initial contract. He said he would like to see the contracts and the Minutes.

Commissioner Taylor said they have to have the towers and she said she had to support this because of the emergency and nature.

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

Commissioner Taylor said she recommended they direct the Administrator to start looking for funding.

**17. Approval of SBA Tower IX LLC Tower Site**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of SBA Towers IX, LLC's tower site for Gadsden County's radio equipment.

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

**18. Approval of American Tower Corporation Tower Site**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of American Tower Corporation's tower site for Gadsden County's radio equipment.

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

**19. The Carabetta Companies-Tax Abatement Request**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was regarding the Carabetta Companies' tax abatement request. She stated they were seeking a ten (10) year tax abatement of approximately \$39,000 per year for a total of \$390,000.

**Bill Stetson, Senior Vice President**, appeared before the Board. He thanked them for enlightening him on cell towers. He said he had buildings with cell towers in them and had companies such as Crown Castle come along and want to pay them a fortune to buy the leases they have on the towers and he now understands why.

He said they were owners, developers and managers of over 10,000 units of affordable housing units. He said they plan on acquiring Parkview Manor and Parkview Garden apartments so they could assure both the community and residents of the buildings that they will remain affordable and safe, decent housing for the long-term future. He said they were before the Board seeking \$39,000 year tax abatement so they could go back to HUD and show the local community was behind them and was hoping to receive a higher portion of the rent from HUD.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 8:23 p.m.*

Mr. Stetson said there were repairs that were needed at the apartments and they envision using residents and will do some training and will also try to contract with local contractors as much as possible. He said they also plan to develop a homeownership program. He said their goal was to restore both developments to a long-lasting, safe, decent and affordable housing.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:26 p.m.*

Gary Lacey appeared before the Board. He said they wanted to partner with local non-profits and create a platform for any tenants that were able to get to the point of buying a new house and give them all the tools needed to do that.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the apartment complex had been acquired and he said no, it was under contract.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought she heard that a portion of the \$800,000 would be through increasing the rents and Mr. Stetson said no, increasing the rent paid by the federal government and that meant a resident paid 30% of their adjusted monthly income up to the contract rent and HUD paid the balance of the contract rent. Mr. Stetson explained they entered into a contract to acquire the two developments some time ago and the rent on a federal project such as this is set by the government based on the mortgage payments and the operating costs and comparable rents. He explained that the Section 8 rental program required residents to pay 30% of their adjusted monthly income, not of the rent. Commissioner Taylor asked about the \$39,000 and what the County was doing with that money now.

Mrs. Jackson said the County was not currently getting it and that amount was based on the new adjusted value. Mr. Stetson said he had to go to HUD with a commitment that showed the City and County was behind the renovation to the project.

Mr. Weiss wanted to understand what was being requested tonight. He said there was a Statute, §196.1995, that allowed Counties to adopt an Ordinance the provided for ad valorem tax

exemption and the County did so in 2015. He explained both the Statute and Ordinance was very specific as to what types of businesses may qualify and what the qualifications were. He said the County Ordinance was limited as to what types of new businesses qualify and did not think that under their Ordinance this particular business would qualify. He said they were limited to basically manufacturing for a new business or expansion of an existing business. He further stated the process for this for tax abatement is an application form issued by the Department of Revenue. He said that had to be completed and had to come before the Board and then they consider the items that were on the form and make a determination and it had to go to the Property Appraiser to see if it qualified as well. He said he did not think they had before them tonight the information and form they would need to take action and was not sure if they could grant this based on their Ordinance and felt this needed further vetting.

**Lila Jaber, Gunster**, appeared before the board to explain. She thanked the Board for their commitment in allowing her the opportunity to find companies and located Carabetta and get them focused on affordable housing opportunity in the County. She said they felt the least impact to the County was a Tax Abatement over a ten year period of time. She explained Carabetta had to be able to show HUD they came to the County and City to receive the endorsement that the locals supported the affordable housing project. She said they were looking for a letter from the County that stated they were willing to do the tax abatement because they wanted the project in this County. She said she would work with the Board on how to get there but hoped the Board would get behind this and make a commitment for a 10 year tax abatement and if they ever had to modify that, work on details or if she had to see the Department of Revenue along with the County in the form of a partnership, she was willing to do that.

Mr. Weiss said he was not trying to promote or not promote this project, he was only saying there was a standardized statutory process that had to be followed. He said he thought the Board could vote for a Letter of Support for the project but did not think they could vote and say they were going to provide 10 year tax abatement right now.

Mr. Lacey reappeared before the Board asked Mr. Weiss to look into the Ordinance. He said he had looked at it and was positive there was two ways it could be done; an Economic Development project or a low-income or affordable housing project, or he thought that was in there.

Mr. Weiss said he was happy to look into this if it was the will of the Board, but he was saying tonight, based on what they had before them, that they could make a vote to absolutely do this tax abatement.

Commissioner Holt said she just left Pascagoula, MS where they have a ship building yard and that community gave tax abatement and did all of this. She said they need to look at the ordinance and if they need to change it, they need to change it. She said tax abatements were standard. She asked the attorney what the best remedy was. She asked if an option could be to include this under the emergency meeting on the towers. He said they could take look and determine whether or not it would qualify under their existing ordinance. He said they also had an Economic Development Grant Ordinance that could be another potential possibility. He said he was unsure if their Ordinance would allow an abatement as it currently existed. He said the first step was an application on the Department of Revenue form that has to be reviewed for specific information that was set forth in the Statute and in the Ordinance. Commissioner Holt said everything he said could be done in a day except for the Ordinance.

Commissioner Hinson said he was in support of this but in all fairness, whoever was representing the Board, whether the Chamber or GCDC, they need to make sure they do what they were supposed to do before they bring anyone to the Board.

Ms. Jaber asked them to give her a few days for a chance to make this better.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO PLACE THIS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING IN JUNE AND THEM DO THE LEGWORK THEY NEED TO DO AND COME BACK AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could give a Letter of Support and Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with that. Mr. Weiss said letter of support for the project and to consider the tax abatement or exemption.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND ASKED IF IT WOULD INCLUDE A LETTER OF INTENT TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT AND SHE SAID YES. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**20. Contract Extension for Security Guard Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the item and said it was for an extension of the Security Guard Services. She said the Board approved the agreement on February 26, 2018 with a termination date of September 30, 2018. Clyde Collins, previous Gadsden County Building Official, exercised the provision of Section 1.b. approving IFW Security LLC to provide security services for special events, BCC Meetings, Tourist Development Council and Planning Commission Meetings. At that time, IFW verbally agreed with Mr. Collins that the evening rate would be minimum of \$80.00 for all time worked up to first 4 hours and additional times billed at \$20 an hour or quarter fraction thereof.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out 9:07 p.m.*

She added there was no fiscal impact for this as it had been budgeted.

Mrs. Jackson read aloud the options and said the County Administrator's recommendation was Option 4.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 9:09 p.m.*

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked Mrs. Jackson why her recommendation was for option 4. Mrs. Jackson stated, it was an arrangement previously arranged with the former building official and IFW Security. She added that IFW previously conceded to the price that was ok'd by the Building Official, however she said she would like for them to be paid for the time before now when they were billing at the agreed upon amount retroactively but moving forward at \$16.00 an hour but still getting them a four hour minimum as previously agreed to. She added they were amenable to it. Commissioner Holt asked what Commissioner Hinson's motion was and he stated it was for Option 2. Commissioner Holt asked Mrs. Jackson on the difference; why she did not choose option

2. She responded because it was an additional \$4.00 an hour whereas they agreed to do \$16.00 an hour and a 4 hour minimum. Commissioner Holt asked if they had other security companies and Mrs. Jackson said yes. Commissioner Holt asked if they have a contract and Mrs. Jackson said they were doing month to month but this is the one and did not know why, but the Clerk's office wanted them to approve a month to month.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT SECONDED COMMISSIONER HINSON'S MOTION. CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION TWO AND CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**21. Approval of Tourism Recovery Grant Program for Hurricane Michael Agreement with VISIT FLORIDA**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Tourism Recovery Grant Program for Hurricane Michael Agreement with VISIT FLORIDA®.

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

**22. Approval of Federal Funding Action Plan for Gadsden County and Congressional Partners**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was seeking assistance in pursuing Federal Grant Funding. She added that the funds would come from what was budgeted for the grant writer position.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Taylor said being very realistic, they jumped out with regards to legislature in Tallahassee and felt they should have done their own research. She said there was another pot of money to go after but that was for competitive projects and she wanted to talk to some of the other people that were out there in the legislative arena to make sure these people were who they needed to move forward.

Chair Viegbesie said he has talked with this group and thought they needed to consider this; it was only a six month trial period.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not in opposition of this she just did not have enough information at this time.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**23. Crown Castle Tower Professional Services Task Order**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Task Order with Dewberry to provide professional services for the Crown Castle Co-Locate site for Gadsden County acting by and through its Commission.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**24. Recess BOCC Meeting for a Private Attorney Client Session**

The Board recessed at 9:22 p.m. and a private Attorney-Client meeting.

**25. Reconvene BOCC Board Meeting**

The Board reconvened the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting.*

**26. Discussion and Action on Increasing the Summer Youth Program from \$50,000.00 to \$132,250 in the FY 18-19 Budget**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action increasing the Summer Youth Program from \$50,000 to \$132,250 in the FY 18/19 Budget using the General Fund Balance.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE TABLING THIS ITEM.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**27. Updates**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**28 Updates**

Mrs. Jackson said the bell will ring at the Courthouse on May 30<sup>th</sup> and will be completely fixed.

There is a new privacy fence that has been placed around the AC unit in the back of the County Administrator's building.

Pressure washing has started on the building today.

They are tentatively planning a Safety Day in Gadsden County for June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**29. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said regarding the Facebook Live issue, he has done research and understood there is an option on Facebook that will allow the closed caption to be turned on but the concern had been the accuracy. He thought they would be ADA compliant if they turned on the Closed Captioning even if it did not capture everything with 100% accuracy and it was up to the Commissioners as to how important they thought it was on how accurate it was.

Commissioner Holt said to run it on a trial basis.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**



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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson reminded them the Biz Crawl would be Saturday at the Courthouse Square from 10:00-3:00 p.m.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said regarding her appoints to the Planning Council, a couple of people asked her if there was any movement in County and what the County's goal was and they turned her down.

She said when an item requires a super majority vote; she asked that it be placed in narrative and it was seen by everyone.

She asked that they look back at local preference because they were not giving a preference to local contractors and could be a problem.

She said they needed to look at improvements on their side of the street, the City was doing improvements across the street and she said there was a concern with people hanging out and about the safety.

Mrs. Jackson said within the next 30 days they will be putting energy lighting there so it will not be so comfortable for people to hang out there.

She added that they needed our side of sidewalk up to standards.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

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

Chair Viegbesie said they did not need to lose focus as why they were elected.

**Receipt and File**

**29. Documents**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

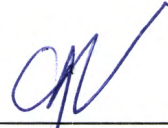
**19. May 21, 2019-Regular Meeting**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
May 7, 2019 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:58 P.M.

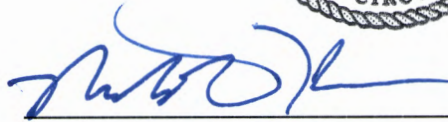
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:




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

**DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS NO AUDIO FOR THIS MEETING**

**Board of County Commissioners  
Gadsden County, Florida  
Special Meeting  
May 21, 2019  
5:30 p.m.**


**Present:** Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2  
Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, District 2 (appeared by phone until arrived in person)  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Dee Jackson, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION**

 Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of the Employment Agreement for the Interim County Administrator**

 Wesley Hall, Assistant County Administrator said this meeting was to approve the employment agreement of Arthur Lawson, Sr. for Interim County Administrator.

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 5:31 p.m.*

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.**

Chair Viegbesie said the contract called for no longer than six months and they needed to advertise the position immediately.

Commissioner Holt said she totally agreed and felt he was a good candidate. She asked if the duties needed to be specified and include searching for a permanent replacement.

Commissioner Morgan said there was a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Taylor said he has filled this position in the past, but what concerned her was the amount of money they were spending because they still had to pay the former County Administrator for her severance package. She did not think that amount of money was a wise amount, not that the amount was comparable with what others were making but was concerned with the amount. She also wanted to make sure it capped at six months because that did not happen in the past.

Commissioner Morgan pointed out the Agreed stated it would not exceed six months and the previous Interim was making more money. He added the amount of money came about because that was what he was making before he retired from the County.

Chair Viegbesie asked who negotiated the contract.

Mr. Weiss said it was sent to him for review by the HR Director. He added he was told this was the amount he wanted and he would be happy to negotiate the contract.

Commissioner Morgan called the question.

*Commissioner Hinson appeared at 5:43 p.m. (appeared earlier by phone)*


Commissioner Holt said even though they called the question, she still had comments. She did not think they had not given Mr. Hall enough time in this position. She said there were a lot of things going on in the County and things he would need to have help with.

Chair Viegbesie said he realized this was pricey, but Mr. Lawson had the knowledge.

Commissioner Taylor said with respect to Mr. Hall, HR was responsible for finding a replacement. She added that what was amazing to her was she passes by the building and have seen a lot of things continuing without someone sitting in the chair and the County was functioning. She said she has a problem paying that kind of money and felt it was too much. She was told it was what he was making prior to leaving the County and was based on his experience. She said they needed to be fiscal stewards.

Commissioner Holt moved for approval and was reminded there was a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Hinson said to have the power of negotiation was great, felt he was worth more than \$3924 but they were still paying the former Administrator and would like to see if they could renegotiate.

 **Lonyell Butler, HR Director**, appeared before the Board. Chair Viegbesie asked if she thought the contract could be renegotiated or if she felt that was the final figure.

She said in speaking with him that was the number he gave. She did not get any indication he would move from that.

Commissioner Morgan asked regarding the previous Interim if her salary higher or lower and Ms. Black said it was higher. He asked if she had benefits and was told yes; he asked if he would and was told no.

Commissioner Hinson said it would save money to keep staff and not pay the extra and they should make sure to do what was right for the County.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR WITH A SECOND AND CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
May 21, 2019 – Special Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:55 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA HELD ON MAY 21, 2019 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, County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 and asked everyone to mute their phones and stand for the Invocation.

**Pastor Marilyn Barnes, New Direction Christian Center, Quincy** gave the Invocation. Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Assistant County Administrator Wesley Hall added Item 9-Approval of the Public Assistance Fund Agreement for Hurricane Michael Reimbursement.

Mr. Weiss said he would like to move Item 3 from the Consent Agenda to the General business 9A to talk about the dates.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Presentation of Gadsden County Audit**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item.

**Ryan Tucker, Purvis Gray & Associates**, appeared before the Board. They were before them to present the Board the Audit for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2018. He said this was an unmodified opinion and was the highest level of assurance they could receive from a CPA firm. He added the General Fund had just over \$4 Million of unassigned fund balance that remained as of September 30, 2018. He added that was down from last year by 3% and the GFOA recommended that Counties, Cities and government keep in reserve at least two months of operating expenses and the County was about 2.4 months from his calculations. He said over the past few years the reserves have gone from \$5.3 Million down to \$4 Million and the County was trending in the wrong direction. He said the County was able to reduce the long-term debt by \$2.2 Million for the year and at the end of the year \$39 Million and progress was made. He said they invested in infrastructure and equipment and building improvements. He said as far as the Federal and State

Single audits, Federal expenditures total \$653,000 and the State expenditures total just over \$2 Million and they did not have to do a Federal Single Audit but did do a State Single Audit. Had a couple of findings: one item with the Clerk regarding unclaimed funds and three with the Sheriff, two of which was carry-overs from the prior year and one related to inventory of their fixed assets and getting that reconciled into their account records.

Commissioner Holt said there were several items that came up during the Hurricane that they looked at. Mr. Tucker said the hurricane was after their audit but they have seen other Counties dealing with FEMA and they have been very particular on the documentation that is required to be reimbursed and the timing it has taken to get reimbursed through FEMA. He said anything they could do to make sure they have all the documentation laid out perfectly for them, it would take several months to get those reimbursements. He said any funds will have to show up in next year's audit and would be subject to federal audit requirements and needed to make sure all the "i's" were dotted and "t's" crossed in the process.

Chair Viegbesie said he would entertain a motion.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE DOCUMENTS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

#### **CONSENT**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item.

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

2. Ratification Memo
3. ~~Rescheduling of Previously Approved Training Tactical Carine Operator Course Talon Training Group, LLC.~~
4. Sheriff's Office-Training Funding Request for Florida Office of the Attorney General National Conference on Preventing Crime
5. Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Acquisition of Communication Headsets
6. Gadsden County Sheriff Office Training Funding Request NTOA SWAT Command Decision-Making and Leadership
7. Approval to Accept the FY 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

There were no citizens that requested to speak.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8. Discussion and Action on Increasing the Summer Youth Program from \$50,000 to \$132,250 in the FY18/19 Budget**

Wesley Hall introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action increasing the Summer Youth Program from \$50,000 to \$132,250 in the FY 18/19 Budget using the General Fund balance.

Commissioner Hinson said he asked for this to be placed on the Agenda. He said he was told there was not enough time in October for this to be brought before the Board. He said this was about investing in the kids and was a future investment of youth. He said there was an increase in salaries for 102 people, some were huge. He stated that he hated they were misleading the people and hoped they would right things for the kids. He added that this was the last time this could be on the Agenda.

Chair Viegbesie said he had made his point.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt said two things: the Auditors just got through with their report and where would the money come from. Chair Viegbesie said the General Fund balance, which was at \$2.8 Million. She said that was one item she was uncomfortable about because they were about to go into the budget season and they had to budget for it and \$2.8 Million was below where they needed to be and they needed to look at that; the other was, she asked how many would be funded by the School Board, Cities and Constitutional Officers and had not received that information. She also said she could not support this if Commissioners selected students, they should have no say-so in the selection. She said she also called the Ethics Commission to ask about it and was told when dealing with public funds; it was a dangerous area but did say if a case was brought to them they would investigate it.

Commissioner Morgan had question for HR.

**Lonyell Butler, HR Manager**, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Morgan said for the past couple of years he has asked and received, with the help of the HR Director, a report for the number of positions and total salary and was not the information he had received and had not seen a dramatic increase in positions or dollars.

Mrs. Butler stated the information sent to him was current information and the only major increase that took place that was truly significant was in the EMS department. Commissioner Morgan asked about BCC Administrative positions. She responded other than hiring of new directors. He said that was open positions but did not increase positions or increase salaries, other than that, were there any increase and she said no.

Commissioner Hinson asked they look at their email of January 18<sup>th</sup> and that would show salary increases and who received those increases. He added that regarding the students for the program, he tries to pick them and out of the 25, each Board member could pick 5 and felt that



was fair but it seemed that every year his district was left out. He said there was not one child from Havana Middle School, they all were from Tallahassee or somewhere.

Commissioner Taylor asked of the Clerk, that it was mentioned increases in salaries as well as an email sent by him to the Commissioners reflective on the increases. The Clerk said his staff keeps a list when BCC staff sends a salary change. He said this was changes their staff made and Commissioner Hinson requested the information on salary changes during the course of the year and he provided that to all of them. She said with regard to the young people and the Summer Youth Program, “if you don’t pay through summer employment, you very well pay through having them go through the penal system”. She added that she agreed with the Summer Youth Program and the money made was put back into the economy. She further stated the General Fund was at \$2.8 Million, they just gave a guy \$48,000 for 6 months without a blink of an eye; they have \$2.8 Million and were talking about \$80,000 for the youth.

Commissioner Morgan clarified, what he asked previously from the HR Director, was the total number of positions and the total number of salary dollars and benefits. He said there would be changes in salary that someone was making if their position responsibilities changed, which the former Administrator made several changes. He said Commissioner Taylor mentioned spending salary dollars on an experienced County Administrator and compared that to spending on the Summer Youth Program. He said he chose to prioritize the position of an experienced Interim County Administrator over dollars for the Summer Youth Program. He said he also prioritized infrastructure needs among other things over the Summer Youth Program. He added it was not that he wanted to take away from children, but to spend dollars they did not have and could not fund other things of higher priority, no and was not because he wanted to take away services from children, elderly or the veterans, but they have to use good common sense on spending the tax payers’ dollars.

Commissioner Holt said they were doing summer youth programs there before any of the others were commissioners and it was handled through Workforce Plus (CareerSource now). She added they could not select one child over another and if there was no money, it could not be funded, it did not make any difference what it was. She said the point was they had to look at what they were doing today. She said the School Board, Constitutionals, and the Cities need to step up and help. She further stated if they could not guarantee her that the Commissioners would have no say-so in selecting the students, she had to vote no. She said they could not choose one child over another; it was discrimination for whatever reason. She said they also need to have at least \$3 Million in bank and they only have \$2.8 Million. She said it would be fine with her if they had 200 children to work...

Commissioner Hinson made a motion for 200 children and Chair Viegbesie pointed out there was already a motion and second on the floor and they were now in discussion.

Commissioner Holt said these were things they could not use taxpayer dollars to do if they were going to be involved. She said she heard what Commissioner Hinson said about students not coming from District 1 and that could have been criteria but was too late to add now because other students have already applied.

Commissioner Hinson said he would go with Commissioner Taylor that she wanted 200 jobs for the kids. He wanted to move the motion for 200 jobs if she would amend her second. Chair Viegbesie

said the motion was on the floor. Commissioner Taylor said he made the motion and he had the right to amend it. Chair Viegbesie said he was making a new motion and was not amending it and he was going with the motion on the floor.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON AMENDED HIS MOTION TO ADD 200 JOB AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AMENDED HER SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt said as she told the Commissioner, the money had to come from somewhere other than \$2.8 Million and if they could find another place to get the money and for the commissioners not to choose. She said they have to have a remedy and they gave no remedy.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>NO</b>

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-2. MOTION FAILED.**

Commissioner Hinson said he had another motion. Chair Viegbesie said this item has been voted on and if they have another item they wanted to include in on another agenda for a future agenda, it will be agendaed again, just as this one has been agendaed a number of times.

Commissioner Hinson said it was the amended motion that was voted on and thought Commissioner Taylor had another motion and then he said by Robert's Rules of Order, if someone had another motion, they could vote as well. Chair Viegbesie said if the motion has already been made on a particular item, whether it was an amended motion or the actual motion, once that motion was carried, the motion was carried. If that item was something that discussion needed to be made again, he thought that item had to be re-agendaed for a future meeting and not making one motion after another for a particular item.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND THE MONEY TO COME FROM GENERAL FUND BALANCE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.**

Chair Viegbesie commented before they carried the vote, during the Budget Workshop for the preparation for the FY 2018/19 Budget where they now have \$50,000 for this program, because of the fiscal constraint they have, the program was to have 0 in the program and he was the one that insisted to have \$50,000 for the youth and why there is 50 positions there now. He added that everyone there was equally and highly interested in funding the program for their youth but there was more creative ways of getting them employed. He then called for the vote.

<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>NO</b>

**THE BOARD VOTED 3-2. MOTION FAILED.**

**9a. Approval of the Public Assistance Fund Agreement for Hurricane Michael Reimbursement**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was before the Board for approval of the Public Assistance Fund Agreement for reimbursement from FEMA after Hurricane Michael.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any impact on future requests for reimbursement from FEMA by acting on this agreement. Mr. Hall said he would research that but what he understood there was not, but would double-check.

Chair Viegbesie said in listening to Mr. Tucker's presentation of the audit, he would deduce from his suggestion this was not a one-time thing but the appropriate papers needed to be put in place as they make their request for reimbursement.

Commissioner Holt said FDOT was transporting to the incinerator in Telogia and the trucks are so heavy, it's tearing up roads and they need to be turned in for repair. She said there were other areas and need to make sure they pull from other areas and turn them in. She said they have to keep resubmitting. She said Emergency Management has turned in quite a bit.

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

**9b Rescheduling of Previously Approved Training Tactical Carbine Operator Course Talon Training Group, LLC.**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and stated this was previously approved for funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay the registration costs for four classes of the Tactical Carbine Operator Course provided by Talon Training Group. He added that this was previously approved and due to scheduling conflicts with the hurricane, GCSO was seeking approval for rescheduling of the same training.

Mr. Weiss wanted to point out the dates extend beyond this fiscal year and understood from received information, it would be better to approve this item from now until the end of the fiscal year and in the event the funds were not used by the end of the fiscal year, they could approve the next fiscal year.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE UNTIL THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**10. Updates**

The Clerk said there were a couple of items at the last meeting that was not acted on. One was

the Discretionary Sales Surtax. He said this originated with the building of the jail. Over most of the last 20 years, half went to Public Works and the other half went to Fire. With this fiscal year, they budgeted 1/3 to Public Works, 1/3 to Fire and 1/3 to EMS. He recommended they take a second look at this with the Budget process coming up. He said he had told them earlier that the Ambulance receipts and collections were up, but not up to the point where they could not subsidize to fund a little. They needed to make sure the funds were secure and need to do the 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 this fiscal year but going forward, he recommended they do 40% Public Works, which would amount to about \$1 Million a year; 40% Fire and would amount to about \$1 Million a year and 20% EMS until they get a better fix on the EMS budget situation. He said the purpose was to preserve the General Fund and thought that was their over-riding desire to not have to subsidize any of the major operations from the General Funds. He thought if that was the goal this was the best option to reduce the possibility of having to subsidize these three very important operations.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding on the item was Mr. Maddox was merging EMS & Fire and with that merger, if they still have the Fire/EMS merger, from his recommendation should be 60% of the revenue and then 40% to go to Public Works. Mr. Thomas said the issue with that was with a governmental County, they had EMS operating out of one fund because they bill and collect money and it operates somewhat like an enterprise fund and then there was Fire in another fund. He said unless they were combining the two funds together, and he did not think they were, and the money come together on a monthly basis, they needed to be able to distribute it to the correct fund as it came in on a monthly basis. He said they would need to continue to subsidize EMS and felt that was essentially what was being said. He added each operates out of a separate fund and there were separate accounting rules that went along with it and the money needed to be separated into the three different funds as the money came in. The Clerk further stated it was an acknowledgement that the revenue collections were up but was still not enough and they had to make a decision if they wanted to subsidize the difference from the General Fund or if this was a better way to ensure that all three of the major operations have sufficient funds from this tax. He felt this was the best way to get the best utilization out of this tax for all the major services they needed to provide and they could always change the percentage.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Assistant Administrator to get the model from the Clerk and he and Mr. Price look it over before the budget workshop.

The Clerk said wanted to mention the Hospital. He said they have to remember CRMC was a for-profit operation and what they want to operate as but it was a County-owned hospital and they were using County tax dollars. They were recommending they give back the money they were receiving on the Indigent Tax and he felt that was a bad idea to continue that. He said it insured that they have to be accountable to provide indigent services at the hospital. When they receive tax dollars they have to be accountable to it and was what the people voted for when they thought they were voting for money to go to the hospital. He felt they should insist they provide additional indigent services with that money instead of returning. He said they were doing well there was committed to staying but they needed them committed to providing indigent services.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Clerk, there was no reason they could not return the same amount of indigent care dollars from the County in another pot or source and could still be in receipt of those funds so they would have to provide the services; but could turn around in a different manner and help support EMS services in whatever pot of money that needed to come from. The Clerk said that was a separate negotiation.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought one of the negotiations with the Hospital would be to get back some of the Medicaid dollars that they received through EMS.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:24 p.m.*

She said she thought they were refunding some of those dollars to a degree.

Mr. Weiss said he thought that was related, and Mr. Glazer was much more familiar with it than him, but thought what she was talking about was related to the ambulance services. He said he thought the County was going to start realizing some additional support for the ambulance runs and understood that was in the process.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought there was something in the Agreement between CRMC and may have been through the Ambulance services, but that was dollars they were receiving that would now be a portion would be redirected back to the County.

Commissioner Holt said regarding the Medicaid dollars, the ambulance part was if a patient went to the Emergency Room they could be refunded for that part but could not get it if they went on to the hospital in Tallahassee because Medicare would only pay for one trip. She said the other thing was with CRMC, there was some long term language in there, for instance 20 year lease and she was not comfortable with that, they would only have an emergency room for 20 years and if they needed to spend the night in the hospital without going to Tallahassee.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:27 p.m.*

She told Mr. Hall Manager she would like him to call them up and as a Board, they needed to sit down and discuss this before this contract came up and needed in-depth workshops.

Mr. Hall said he would put that together.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **11. Updates**

Mr. Hall reminded them that Thursday , May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. was the first Budget Workshop;

Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30, there will be a Courthouse bell ringing ceremony at the Courthouse;

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. there will be a Gadsden County Safety Fair at the Bobby Nealy Complex;

Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference will be held June 11-14 in Orlando;

June 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. is the second Budget workshop.

Chair Viegbesie asked him to send emails to the Commissioners so it could be calendared.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**12. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he appreciated the conversation regarding the Hospital. He said he has been told by CRMC counsel they were willing to extend the deadline to August 31st. He said the extension would come before them to approve.

He said with the Surtax Ordinance, he understood it needed to come back at the second meeting in June.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they have used the pulpit to send innuendos and tried to belittle constituents or belittle the Board from the dais as well. He said he had never seen on Facebook Commissioners downgrading other Commissioners and was not something they should do. He said they needed to be respectful.

**Summer Youth Employment**

He said they could not confuse people. He said if he recalled, look back at a meeting, because the situation, wait until after May...

Chair Viegbesie interjected and said his comments to throw accusations and interrogate his position, was he asking questions for him to respond to his comments and he had no intention to do so, he should make his comments and not to put them in form of a question and expect him to indulge in answering those questions because he will not as he was not being interrogated. He added "I have no control about what you say but I will let you know, I do have every control as to how I respond and how I react and I ain't going to let you steal my joy. Thank you, you still have the floor."

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said one thing he wanted to bring up was something mentioned earlier by Commissioner Holt about some of the roads in the County and addressing some of the specific needs as a result of the traffic that has been seen following the storm. There are serious needs they need to meet all across the County. He added they had stressed roads prior to the storm, particularly some of the more narrow roads in the County and could be dangerous while these debris trucks are coming and going. He said it may be worth to have Public Works talk with their engineering firm to come up with a short-term plan to address the needs and apply for reimbursement through FEMA because they had to do these things because of Hurricane Michael. He added that a lot have been identified through SCRAP and SCOP funding through the State and they were underway to receive funds to make those repairs but that could be two and three years down the road. He thought it would behoove them to come together with the Administrator and Public Works Director and engineers to identify the roads throughout the County and come up with a short-term plan to address the problem and make sure when they come into their budget season they understand the fiscal impact up front and the desire to be reimbursed through FEMA.

He thanked Mr. Hall for filling in and stepping up with the additional duties.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said on SCRAP and SCOP, the Chair is the Chair of CRTPA. She said she spoke with a couple of groups and they said they may be able to look at funding through other areas but would need the support of that organization when looking at SCRAP and SCOP. She said they may have to apply for more funding because those roads may need to be resurfaced. She said some had received so much damage, it may move them up on the list and they may be able to get more roads on the list.

She said the Legislative session will start in January and they need to start their priorities in July and have them finished by September.

**Apalachee Regional Planning Council**

She said they were doing good and funding businesses for the County and they were doing good on the reimbursements. She said in the meeting, they were doing mapping and helping Planning and were looking for information. She said she mentioned to them about the zoning overlays at the I-10 exits and was told all they had to do was talk to the property owners at the I-10 exits to see if they could get a 10-year temporary overlay.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out 7:46 p.m.*

She said the County would get the zoning approved for the overlay, the citizens would not have to do anything and when businesses look at the map, they see it was already zoned for them. She said the Board could choose what businesses came in and which ones did not.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:47 p.m.*

She said the other thing was water, sewer and electricity at the intersections. She reminded them that a previous Board loaned Gretna money to put the substation there so they could provide the water and they paid it back.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she had no comment.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like to request a Resolution or a Proclamation for Bettye Bryant from her personally because she lived in her District.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney and Mr. Weiss said any Commissioner could do what they felt was appropriate for any reason as an individual. If they were taking an action on behalf of the Board, it needed to be on behalf of the board. He added that would not be a Resolution from the Board of County Commissioners. Chair Viegbesie asked if that could carry the County seal and be placed on the County letterhead. Mr. Weiss said it should not come from the County if it comes from an individual Commissioner. Commissioner Taylor said she has heard Resolutions being read at funerals and it carried the name of the individual that was sending it such as "Sherrie Taylor, County Commissioner, District 5" and was all she was asking for. Mr. Weiss said that was fine if it came from her, but t any time the County acts it should be a Board of County Commissioners action.

Commissioner Morgan said they have a Resolution authority presented from the County, why couldn't she present that one at the service, it could be the same one, just presented by her instead of the Chair if that was appropriate.

Commissioner Holt said she felt that was a good solution.

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

Chair Viegbesie requested a Resolution for Bonnie Ann Francis and Commissioner Taylor seconded before leaving the meeting. The Board voted 4-0 to approve.

He asked for a Resolution to honor local authors that have been recognized by the Gadsden County Democratic Women's' Club at the Ebony and Ivory Banquet and Commissioner Hinson made the second. The Board voted 4-0 to approve.

Commissioner Hinson asked for Resolution for Sandy D'Alemberte who passed away and Chair Viegbesie made the second. The Board voted 4-0 to approve.

Commissioner Hinson said he forgot, a lot of folks go out of town this time of year for the FAC conference and they need to make sure there is no conflict with the budget workshop.

Chair Viegbesie asked for a workshop with Keith Maddox on the Fire and safety equipment needs.

Chair Viegbesie then asked the attorney if any policy and procedure in place to address the time to allow for a County employee whose employment time has lapsed to return property in their possession. Mr. Weiss said not that he knew of but would defer to the HR Director as she may know the Personnel Policy a little better than him. He did not think timeframe but did think once an employee was separated from the County; any County property was returned immediately. Chair Viegbesie said the reason he was asked, he did not want an employee who has worked for the County and their time of employment has ended, to be hounded like they were common criminals that everything needed to be returned within 24 hours. He said they need to have policy in place. He said the case in point, after the former Administrator was terminated; he received call by 9:00 the next morning as to how to retrieve the car, keys, equipment, phone, etc. and if they did not have one in place, they need to develop one to be respectful.

Commissioner Hinson said he understood where he was coming from but thought they needed to stop the emails.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 8:04 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said to cut off the emails the second they were released because someone could send out an email and the receiving party might think it was from the County.

Commissioner Holt said the procedure they have followed is anytime they fire a manager, they left right then. She had never been here when they had one that stayed and worked. Chair Viegbesie said the difference here was technically she was still an employee but on administrative leave.

**Receipt and File**



**14. Documents**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:07 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---


**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THERE IS NO AUDIO FOR THIS MEETING**

**Board of County Commissioners  
Gadsden County, Florida  
Special Meeting  
May 21, 2019  
5:30 p.m.**


**Present:** Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2  
Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, District 2 (appeared by phone until arrived in person)  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Dee Jackson, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION**

 Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of the Employment Agreement for the Interim County Administrator**

 Wesley Hall, Assistant County Administrator said this meeting was to approve the employment agreement of Arthur Lawson, Sr. for Interim County Administrator.

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 5:31 p.m.*

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.**

Chair Viegbesie said the contract called for no longer than six months and they needed to advertise the position immediately.

Commissioner Holt said she totally agreed and felt he was a good candidate. She asked if the duties needed to be specified and include searching for a permanent replacement.

Commissioner Morgan said there was a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Taylor said he has filled this position in the past, but what concerned her was the amount of money they were spending because they still had to pay the former County Administrator for her severance package. She did not think that amount of money was a wise amount, not that the amount was comparable with what others were making but was concerned with the amount. She also wanted to make sure it capped at six months because that did not happen in the past.

Commissioner Morgan pointed out the Agreed stated it would not exceed six months and the previous Interim was making more money. He added the amount of money came about because that was what he was making before he retired from the County.

Chair Viegbesie asked who negotiated the contract.

Mr. Weiss said it was sent to him for review by the HR Director. He added he was told this was the amount he wanted and he would be happy to negotiate the contract.

Commissioner Morgan called the question.

*Commissioner Hinson appeared at 5:43 p.m. (appeared earlier by phone)*


Commissioner Holt said even though they called the question, she still had comments. She did not think they had not given Mr. Hall enough time in this position. She said there were a lot of things going on in the County and things he would need to have help with.

Chair Viegbesie said he realized this was pricey, but Mr. Lawson had the knowledge.

Commissioner Taylor said with respect to Mr. Hall, HR was responsible for finding a replacement. She added that what was amazing to her was she passes by the building and have seen a lot of things continuing without someone sitting in the chair and the County was functioning. She said she has a problem paying that kind of money and felt it was too much. She was told it was what he was making prior to leaving the County and was based on his experience. She said they needed to be fiscal stewards.

Commissioner Holt moved for approval and was reminded there was a motion on the floor.

Commissioner Hinson said to have the power of negotiation was great, felt he was worth more than \$3924 but they were still paying the former Administrator and would like to see if they could renegotiate.

 **Lonyell Butler, HR Director**, appeared before the Board. Chair Viegbesie asked if she thought the contract could be renegotiated or if she felt that was the final figure.

She said in speaking with him that was the number he gave. She did not get any indication he would move from that.

Commissioner Morgan asked regarding the previous Interim if her salary higher or lower and Ms. Black said it was higher. He asked if she had benefits and was told yes; he asked if he would and was told no.

Commissioner Hinson said it would save money to keep staff and not pay the extra and they should make sure to do what was right for the County.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR WITH A SECOND AND CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
May 21, 2019 – Special Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:55 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA HELD ON JUNE 4, 2019 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-appeared by phone**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to mute their phone. He asked everyone to stand for the Invocation.

**Pastor Barry Young, Second Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church, Quincy, FL**, gave the invocation and Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lawson asked that the Board reverse /items 11 & 12 with Item 12 coming first and said they were both dealing with the Grant for the Courthouse and they wanted to approve the Grant first before approving monies for the contract for the renovations. He said they would also like to pull Item 5 from the Agenda.

Commissioner Taylor said Congressman Lawson would be calling in and wanted to speak with the Board with regards to appropriations from last evening and asked that to go on the Agenda. Chair Viegbesie said they would add to wherever necessary when he calls in.

Commissioner Morgan asked if that was for information only and was told yes.

Mr. Lawson asked if all the Commissioners received the additional item for Item 12 and they said yes.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**

a. **April 16, 2019-Regular Meeting Minutes**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**3. Public Hearing- Adoption of Ordinance 2019-007, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, FL amending the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Ordinance of Gadsden County, FL, Ordinance No. 2012-003, as amended by Ordinance No. 2015-005, currently codified at Chapter 74, Article I, Section 5 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to include additional Statutory definitions of “new business” and “expansion of an existing business” to allow additional businesses to potentially qualify for the exemption; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener’s errors; and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it sought adoption of an Ordinance amending the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Ordinance to include additional statutory definitions of “new business” and “expansion of an existing business” to allow additional businesses to potentially qualify for the exemption.

Mr. Weiss said the amendment was to include additional definitions of the terms “new business” and “expansion of an existing business” and would allow additional businesses to potentially qualify for this exemption. He added that this Ordinance was originally adopted in 2012 and was amended in 2015.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments from public and there were none.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the exemptions and Mr. Weiss explained.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the tax exemption was only on capital projects and not on hiring and Mr. Weiss said yes, they were only exempting the ad valorem tax. Mr. Weiss said before they would grant anything, it would go the Property Appraiser.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out 6:14 p.m.*

Commissioner Morgan said the Property Appraiser did not have the authority to grant the ad valorem tax exemption. He asked what documentation they had to see what potential fiscal impact this might bring to the County. He said he certainly wanted to embrace the opportunity to positively impact any type of activity that would be positive economic development but he wanted to look at this decision to see how it could fiscally impact the County. He also asked if the granting was at Board discretion and Mr. Weiss said yes.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:15 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt pointed out there was a list of Application Procedures on Page 8 of what the

new businesses would have to do and she saw this as a positive because the incentive was there. She also mentioned that as soon as this was put in place, they needed to start looking at enticing businesses to come and offering them the tax exemption

Chair Viegbesie had questions regarding the process and Mr. Weiss responded.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the percentage and if there would be guidelines to guide them as to what to approve. Mr. Weiss said there was currently not and was at their discretion. She added that there was too much unknown and this was not clear.

Commissioner Morgan said what they were discussing was loosening the terms and definitions they have within the model for granting ad valorem tax exemptions. He said that means as a Board, they will need to be much more cognizant of those coming before them requesting this, understanding how this might be a great opportunity and may possibly impact economic development efforts and understanding there might be times it did not make sense. He said they also have to understand it comes in a period of a ten year span and has to go before the public in the form of a referendum every 10 years. He said he would like to see more documentation showing the potential impact. He said if the majority of the Board wanted to move forward, he had no issue with it but with the understanding they were going to have to understand as the opportunities were brought before them.

Commissioner Holt said perimeters were set in in place a few years ago.

**Beth Chiccetti, Executive Director, Gadsden County Development Council**, appeared before the Board to expound on this Ordinance. She said GCDC invested in the modeling tool should they have a prospect that was looking to take advantage of any one of the tools.

Commissioner Holt said this was a good plan but they need to review it and make sure they have everything in it that the County wants.

Commissioner Taylor said she disagreed with Commissioner Morgan with the option to approve or deny some and that could bring up litigation issues. She asked if there was a point system in place that would give the system more merit. She said she knew there was a point system there when they had \$1 Million out there but was so outlandish that no-one really qualified for it and was hard to make it available for businesses.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**4. Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-008, Adopting Procedures and Criteria to Consider Acquisition of Property Interests in and Acceptance of Maintenance Responsibility for Certain Private Roadways in the Unincorporated Area of the County under Certain Conditions**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was the adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-008 adopting Procedures and Criteria to Consider Acquisition of Property Interests in and Acceptance of Maintenance Responsibility for Certain Private Roadways in Unincorporated Areas.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone had any comments and

there was no-one.

Mr. Weiss elaborated on the item and stated in 2014 the Board adopted an Ordinance with certain criteria to consider acquisition of certain private roadways for maintenance responsibility under certain conditions. He said the Ordinance did sunset and this Ordinance was identical to the one that did sunset and gave the Board a vehicle to consider if all the property owners on a roadway signed a petition to come before the Board to give their road to make it a public road and for the Board to consider it.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said if he understood, there was no change to what was before them from the previous ordinance that was in place and Mr. Weiss said that was correct with the exception there was no sunset in place. Commissioner said it would take 100% of the property owners to approve this and it would have to meet the same requirements as earlier before it could be considered by the Board and Mr. Weiss said that was correct.

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

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was same that was in place as before and was told yes. She said with this in place with the same criteria, it did not help ones that lived on private roads at all. Commissioner Hinson said he agreed with Commissioner Taylor but made the motion to move it forward and when it was time for him to speak maybe he could bring it back up.

Mr. Weiss said they looked historically at making amendments to this and there are some that could be made and they have to make sure the County has the right and the authority to approve the road. He also said he was asked to bring this back as it was and if it was the will of the Board to try to make some changes within the confines of the law to make it a little easier to take advantage of, he was happy to work on that.

Commissioner Holt said in the past they have had roads with oak tree in middle of a road and roads that went behind someone's house. She said this had to be looked at from different vantage points.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:43 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said they have to look at everything before they could tell people they could do it.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**5. ~~Approval of Settlement and Release in the Price v. Gadsden County~~**

Item pulled

**6. Bell Road SCRAP Supplemental Agreement**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Supplemental Agreement



with FDOT for the Bell Road SCRAP Agreement and said the road came in over the amount that was allocated and FDOT agreed to fund the difference. He said this was for approval for them to fund the difference and to amend the contract.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 6:44 p.m.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**7. 2018 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement between the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management and Gadsden County, FL**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the 2018 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**8. Approval of Amendment to 2016 Lease Agreement for William M. Inman Agriculture Center**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was for approval of an amendment to the 2016 Lease Agreement for the William M. Inman Agriculture Center. He said the only change was to remove language that said daily vegetable sales from Section 2.

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

**9. Direction Regarding the County Administrator Position**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was presented for direction regarding the County Administrator's position.

Chair Viegbesie said this was something Board needed to work on because they were currently working with an Interim Administrator and his contract was only for six months.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID THERE WERE GUIDELINES IN PLACE AND MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE TO ADVERTISE FOR A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan felt they should readdress looking at the current position, duties and requirements they were considering as they move forward and was not in favor of adopting what they currently have in place.

Chair Viegbesie said on July 7, 2016, the Board had a retreat at Creek Entertainment and came up with a list of criteria and the US Bureau of Labor Statistics state their list of criteria was in line with that list.

Commissioner Morgan said obviously several things have changed in the County that would warrant them to go back and readdress what they looked at three years ago in his opinion and any suggestion from any association or other organization did not require them to follow those suggestions. He said there may be some enhancements they may need to make from that as well.

Commissioner Taylor said to move the question.

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

Congressman Lawson phoned in and was recognized by the Chair. Congressman Lawson said Legislation passed last night to help with hurricane relief in North Florida and listed ways it would help. He said recovery for Hurricane Michael was far from over. He said he wanted to give Gadsden County the information that funds were on the way.

Commissioner Taylor said the Congressman did send a supplement and she hit on some of the highlights. Tomato farmers will receive assistance as well as forestry farmers. She also listed other areas of assistance that will be coming.

Commissioner Taylor then asked for a workshop regarding this and asked they invite sister cities in. Chair Viegbesie asked that she make it available to the Clerk and other commissioners and if that money was for the State or the nation.

Commissioner Taylor said the items she read were dollars that were specific for this area.

Commissioner Holt said she received the information also and Commissioner Taylor did a great job. She said if they could get everything in by July 15<sup>th</sup>, and they will still need to sit down with the School Board and hopefully, if they get some of the money, the process was very important. She said this did not mean that Gadsden County would receive all of the money but they need to submit a list. Commissioner Holt said also whenever the Congressman will be here; it would be important to have a meeting and was sure everyone would show and with the damage, it would be an emergency meeting.

Commissioner Taylor suggested whoever the target department was over at the State, if the Congressman could let them know, because they would be the ones to be setting up the necessary requirements because allocations would be coming through the State.

**10. Approval of Fourth Amendment to Gadsden Hospital Lease**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was for approval for the Fourth Amendment to the Gadsden County Hospital Lease and extend the lease until August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Weiss explained this would amend the lease to extend the Notice of Non-Renewal deadline and the extension would allow additional time for negotiations.

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

**11. Approval and Execution of Amendment to DOS/DHR Grant No. SC731 Old Courthouse**

**12. Renovation**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said they had agreed to switch Items 11 and 12 and this was for approval and execution of the amendment to DOS/DHR Grant No. SC731 Old Courthouse Renovation. He said this would amend the language and scope of work to include the

refurbishing, refinishing, sealing the exterior steps, water intrusion repair and the majority of the scope was modified because there was quite a bit of water intrusion repair that was required to be done and the contract had to be amended to show the changes in the scope of work.

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

**12. Approval of Contract Amount for Restoration of Old Courthouse**

**11** Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said now that they had approved the contract this was to approve the dollar amount with Allstate Construction for the restoration work.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked of the Clerk that this item had to do with construction of the Courthouse and asked if he was familiar with the company. He said he met a few as they were doing some of the surveys around. He said there were sensitive areas because there was an old gas line from an old boiler that was there and there was still a meter and gas line there and they were now aware of it. She said this was long over-due to get started and they were about to lose the funding and asked if there was a “turn dirt” date. Mr. Lawson said the contract had to be approved first and was not certain of the actual date. Commissioner Taylor said this was a time sensitive grant. He also stated the County will have people there to assist as well.

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

**CLERK OF COURT**

**13. Updates**

Mr. Thomas said he had nothing specific but was available for questions and there were none.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**14. Updates**

Mr. Lawson reminded them of the Safety Fair on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10-1 at the Bobby Nealy complex;

He said the annual FAC Conference is June 11<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> in Orlando;

The next budget workshop is June 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.;

There will be a notice in the paper concerning the closing of Barack Obama/Atlanta Street closing to work on the roundabout and should take place on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Taylor thought she saw on the Agenda his contract because she did not recall approving it. The Chair told her it was done. She asked if he could hire and fire. Chair Viegbesie asked the Attorney what he recalled regarding the contract. He said he did not prepare it. Commissioner Taylor asked who did and he responded HR did based on a prior Administrator’s

contract and he did review it and it was very basic in terms of duration and his duties. Chair Viegbesie asked the Deputy Clerk to send her a copy tomorrow.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **15. Updates**

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said he has received a lot of phone calls regarding affordable housing and a lot of residents have issues with communication. He said the Clerk brought up last year they had funds and hopefully they could start using that funding.

He said he also concurred with Commissioner Taylor about the contract for the Administrator and they need to make sure they get the right person in place and have the absolute power to fire people and make changes and look out for the employees.

Summer Youth Employment-receiving lots of phone calls about that and prays the Commissioners will have a change of heart.

Library-noticed it was closed last Saturday and asked if there was a reason why. Mr. Lawson said he was not aware it was closed and will find out.

*Commissioner Holt left at 7:31 p.m.*

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

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Lawson for stepping in and assuming the duties of the County Administrator position while they were look for a permanent Administrator.

He also thanked Congressman Lawson also for his report

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

#### **Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

*Commissioner Morgan left at 7:33 P.M.*

Commissioner Taylor said last week she asked the Board to allow her to do a Resolution and a young lady in the audience saw the way the Commissioners pushed back on allowing her to move forward with the Resolution ...

There was no quorum present at this time.

Chair Viegbesie interrupted and said from the comment the Attorney just made to him, he

understood, for a person's vote to count, the person has to be here physically so...

Mr. Weiss interjected and said "To clarify, it's actually not for a person's vote to count, that's fine, but the issue is in order to have a quorum, for quorum purposes, it's a physical presence".

Commissioner Hinson (appearing by phone) asked how many Commissioners were present and Chair Viegbesie responded there was two and could not do anything without a quorum. Commissioner Hinson stated he could be there in 15 minutes. Commissioner Taylor said she could filibuster that long and "dared" him to make it in 15 and said she currently had the floor. Chair Viegbesie tried to talk and Commissioner Taylor (looking at the attorney) said he needed to stay out. She said for Commissioner Hinson to make it in 10 and she could filibuster that long, she had a lot to talk about. Mr. Weiss said they could not, they needed to end. Chair Viegbesie said the attorney informed him they could no longer hold the meeting because there was no quorum.

**The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:33 p.m.**

Commissioner Taylor said she was not finished with her comments. Chair Viegbesie said she could go ahead with her comments.

Commissioner Taylor thanked the attorney for what he just did and said she would like to have his contract placed on the next meeting.

(Mr. Weiss stood, trying to stop the comments.)

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to talk about building inspections and contractors, there were issues going on.

She said last meeting she asked for a Resolution from the Board and a few of the Commissioners that denied that. She said she wanted to do a Resolution for Mrs. Bettye Bryant in her name because it was her district and a young lady that heard the Commissioners say it could not be in her name or on letterhead but she wrote one for her and did an excellent job in putting it together for her.

She said she wanted to bring up the private roads but they adjourned the meeting and did not think it was fair because she did have the floor at least to give her comments. She added that a Commissioner did have the right to add an item, according to Chair Viegbesie, for the Agenda and did not have to have the approval. She wanted the attorney's contract added to the next meeting.

Chair Viegbesie said that was respect not a rule but the final was depending on the County Administrator because they were the one that developed the Agenda if there was room for it. He said if there was, he did not see why a request of a Commissioner should not be added.

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

**Receipt and File**

**17. Documents**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

18.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

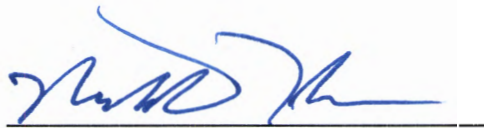
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY 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, FL ON JUNE 18, 2019 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  
Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to mute their cell phones.

**Vivian G. Grant, Director of Evangelism for the Florida Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church** appeared and gave the Invocation. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda.

Mr. Lawson said there was one amendment and asked to add a Resolution for Bell Road authorizing the Chair to sign a supplemental Agreement that was approved at the June 4th Meeting and it could be added as Item 14a.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION AND WANTED TO PULL ITEM 3 FOR CLARIFICATION.**

Chair Viegbesie asked if an item could be pulled and Mr. Weiss clarified it could be pulled for discussion but not pulled from the Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN AMENDED HIS SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**

**a. May 14, 2019-Special Meeting**

- 3. Ratification of Fleet Invoices**
- 4. Approval to Renew the Standard Contract between the State of Florida, Department of Revenue and the GCBOCC**
- 5. Re-Appointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla)**
- 6. Re-Appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**3. Ratification of Fleet Invoices**

Commissioner Morgan asked for clarification on the invoices and knew the fiscal impact would come from that department but was not sure of the exact amount. Mr. Lawson explained the procurement policy required when equipment repairs exceed the \$5,000 threshold, and all did, the policy required them to bring them before the Board for ratification.

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

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

Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble Rish

**Priester L. Harrison, 410 Cedar Road, Chattahoochee, FL-Violation of Florida Statutes immediately following Hurricane Michael.**

Chair Viegbesie reminded Mr. Harrison to be mindful to not exceed much more than the time limit of three minutes.

Mr. Harrison appeared before the Board and provided a packet to the Commissioners and explained his concerns. He said since the hurricane he had been to the GC Inspection Office four different times on the same issues; thought he was filling out an official complaint form but found out there was no such official complaint form. He explained he was a master electrician from Chattahoochee and was an electrical contractor in Gadsden County for a number of years and had always had the highest regard for the Electrical Department until Hurricane Michael. He explained residents were being connected without inspections being done. He shared with them several pictures of electrical violations. He explained several visits he had made and the conversations he had with the Building/Planning Department. He told Ms. Lex if the new Inspector did not want to do his job he would not have a problem with reporting him to the Department of Business and Professional Regulations and they did not play. In conclusion, he told the Commissioners that he had shown them the unprofessionalism of their employee and his unwillingness to fix a dangerous situation that was not only a violation of the NEC but a life safety violation. He asked why would he act this way, was he incompetent, being paid off or did he have his employers' permission. He then told them the ball was in their court.



*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:26 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie thanked him and recommended that he meet with the Interim County Administrator and said he would be working with that Department that he had issues with. He added that honestly he did not think anyone on the Commission or anyone in the County wanted them to have another hurricane like what we had.

Mr. Harrison thanked him and said he did not know any of the people that the pictures were taken of and had no play in it besides electrical safety. He said every weekend since the hurricane, he has seen roofers come in on Friday and be completed by Sunday afternoons knowing that there was no inspection but he was not here to complain about that because a leaking roof would not kill someone whereas a lack of electrical inspections would.

Commissioner Morgan said he has known Mr. Harrison and he has been around Chattahoochee and been a licensed electrician for many years and knew he was not pointing fingers, he just wanted to have things taken care of and done properly and appreciated him coming tonight.

Chair Viegbesie explained he recognized Commissioner Morgan because that was his district.

Commissioner Holt said she has asked for a workshop for a follow-up of the Hurricane.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. CR 269 (Little Sycamore Road) SCRAP-Change Order No. 1**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of change order No. 1. for Little Sycamore Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction Company in the amount of \$13,366.00.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**8. Barack Obama Boulevard Roundabout-Change Order No. 1**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of change order No. 1 for the Barack Obama Boulevard Roundabout for the inclusion of additional bronze lettering in the amount of \$7,225.08.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this money would come out of that District's allotment for paving and Mr. Lawson said yes.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**9. Approval of Federal Funding Action Plan for Gadsden County and Congressional Partners**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was seeking assistance in pursuing Federal

Grant Funding. He said they have had a conference call with staff outlining a work plan as to what they would offer the County. He said they indicated a six month probationary period at a cost of \$4,000 per month to do some initial developmental work for the County in terms of putting together a comprehensive plan identifying grant opportunities to address a number of needs from a grant perspective. He added as the County was considering this, there were currently no funds budgeted for this item and was why he indicated his recommendation was for Board discussion and they would have to make sure it adhered with the County's procurement policy.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they needed to consider this in the 2019/20 Budget discussion since there was no grant writer and he met this group when he was in Washington, DC for the Congressional Legislative Conference. He said he also met a number of municipalities they represented and was impressed. He said this was an approval of an action to see how they could go into a partnership with this agency and Mr. Lawson said it depended on the action the Board took tonight.

Commissioner Morgan said it sounded like this was for a federal lobbying firm to help obtain federal grant dollars and he would recommend option 3 at the appropriate time for them to consider it in the upcoming budget to find out where they could find the dollars to do it, they already have two lobbying firms on board and did not mind having that discussion during the budget season and to find where the dollars would come from. He also said they heard from the Auditors they needed to be very prudent in what they were choosing to invest and spend money on and knew there were other items that had been talked about previously and was not for spending \$48,000 of unbudgeted dollars for an additional lobbying firm at this point.

Commissioner Holt said she was always trying to go after money for the County and had no problem with researching this.

Commissioner Taylor said here they were going again spending funds that they have told citizens they did not have when it was time to fund summer programs and Senior Citizens but things continue to come up and were not budgeted dollars. She said she was not for moving forward with this but they did need to lobby and was in favor of bringing in dollars but wanted to be able to be straight forward but would not support this.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Holt said this was not to spend money they do not have but to go after money they need in order to fund programs they want to fund.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH FOR THE BUDGET WORKSHOP AND DID NOT MEAN APPROVING FOR FUNDING AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked with regard to what Commissioner Holt said, when investing into the community, it brings resources back to the community, when investing in the children or the housing program, it was an automatic return on the investment, when going after grants and invest in the community, it was almost 100% certain return in your investment.

Commissioner Hinson said everyone made valid points and believed in going after grants, but

believed in taking care of the kids.

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

**10. CDBG Housing Rehabilitation-Re-Bid Recommendation and Award**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was for Board approval for a bid that was re-bid for a Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Project and to award the contract to selected contractors for rehab and new construction. He said staff was recommending approval of contractors as designated in the Agenda report.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.**

Mr. Weiss said it was not clear from the Agenda item exactly what the Staff report was and he wanted to make clear for record purposes who was to be awarded what.

Mr. Lawson said there were two recommendations, one was for Ford Consultants for one rehab and second, to Florida Housing for a rehab and two demolitions and a replacement home. He asked if he needed to know the specific names of the applicants and he said only if needed. He said he said he knew there were five different projects and understood one was getting two and one was getting three and did not know if it needed to be specifically in the motion or if this was all that was needed, it was fine.

Commissioner Morgan said his question was regarding staff recommendations because there was a vendor there that had zero satisfactory references and he did not understand how they could recommend that person to do any work.

Commissioner Holt said they were not to state the homeowner's name or address.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Administrator if the Staff sent the attorney the agenda item before the meeting and Mr. Lawson said all the Agendas were sent out prior to the meeting.

Suzanne Lex appeared before the Board. She said this item was brought before them previously and there was a problem with professional conduct of one of their consultants and they brought it forward and felt they could defend it. She said however the Board made the decision to put it out for re-bid. She said they were able to keep the money and while they had an unsatisfactory recommendation, she decided to allow the contractor an opportunity to perform with very strict guidelines to insure that they meet the deadlines because she did not want to be challenged.

Chair Viegbesie said if he was hearing correctly, the concern of Commissioner Morgan was the lack of satisfactory references from Ford Construction and asked how they would meet that with regard to the regard to the reward they were giving to them.

Ms. Lex said DEO had very tight requirements and had provided an extension and revised some of the terms of the contract regarding reporting and accountability and they will also hold the same accountability to the contractors and with Ford Construction, the references were unsatisfactory, however there was no formal complaint with the Division of Business and Professional Regulation regarding the performance of the contractor and that also had some weight as far as her

evaluation of this. She also added that primarily she did not want to lose the money.

Commissioner Hinson said he disclosed last time his conversation and was not sure if he talked to anyone again but may have. Commissioner Taylor said likewise.

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

**11. Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between GCBOCC and the United Way of Big Bend**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was for Board approval for the Chair to sign/execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Way of Big Bend and allowed the United Way of Big Bend to provide financial assistance to residents that were impacted by Hurricane Michael.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out 6:57 p.m.*

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

**Katrina Roland, President of United Way of the Big Bend**, appeared before the Board and said they would like to partner with Gadsden County for A Day of Doing and was told that it had to be approved.

**Beth Phillips, Gadsden County's Representative for United Way**, appeared before the Board.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 6:58 p.m.*

Ms. Phillips said she was proud to be here. She spoke to Sonya Burns and Wesley Hall and wanted to have a Day of Doing and have volunteers go to residents' yards and clean them that do not have a way to do it.

Commissioner Hinson asked for the information.

Commissioner Holt said she referred someone to Ms. Burns to contact them.

**12. SHIP Housing Rehabilitation Bid 19-01 Approval and Award**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was in conjunction with the previous item. He said this was recommended to award three contractors the bids to several homes. He added that the homes sustained damage from the hurricane that came in over the SHIP budget and will partner with United Way to leverage the funds to assist in getting the homes completed.

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

**13. Approval of Settlement and Release in the Price v. Gadsden County**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Settlement Agreement and Release in resolution of Price v. Gadsden County alleging violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Mr. Weiss said the lawsuit had been settled and this was a dismissal with prejudice upon execution of the Settlement Agreement and Release.

Commissioner Morgan asked how this would impact the County moving forward with litigation. Mr. Weiss said one, it would not prevent the County from being sued by a different plaintiff but made sure to put in the Settlement Agreement that these particular attorneys could not solicit any additional clients or could not sue the County on behalf of additional clients and this particular plaintiff could not solicit additional persons for any lawsuit. He said the only thing they could do to prevent any future lawsuits was make sure they were 100% compliant.

Chair Viegbesie said during the FAC conference in Orlando, he met a group that was a website and ADA compliant group for Florida Counties and they work websites and knowing they had this issue with this lawsuit and there was an investigative reporting shown and these groups going around the country and measuring handicapped parking spaces, handrails, etc., he talked with their representative and received information and then provided it to the Interim County Administrator and suggested he bring that group before the body for a presentation.

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if this was his recommendation (option 1) and he felt if they ended up defending this, they would spend more in attorney fees.

Commissioner Holt said this same group has sued almost every County that was in the room and they need to start putting aside money in the budget to protect themselves.

Commissioner Taylor said they send money to FAC every year and her question was if they were aware of this group, why would they not do something to eliminate their municipalities from being sued and could have saved thousands of dollars they could have used otherwise.

Chair Viegbesie said point well taken but in defense of FAC, the workshop was where the delegates gathered and heard their conversation.

Commissioner Hinson said when looking at Facebook Live, if that was not in compliance that was where a lot of this started.

Mr. Weiss said his understanding was they now had Closed Caption available on FB Live. Commissioner Hinson said before putting it out there, they need to make sure they have everything in place.

Commissioner Holt said as far as FAC, they brought experts in. She said if you watch CNN or Fox, the caption skips words and was not perfect. She suggested to bring in the IT department and let them demonstrate it at a workshop or a regular meeting

**UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**14. Voting Credentials 2019 National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to designate a

County Delegate and a County Alternate in the NACO annual election of officers and policy adoptions at the NACO Annual Conference.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED APPROVAL OF WHAT. SHE SAID FOR PEOPLE TO ATTEND.**

Chair Viegbesie explained people were going but they needed to know who would be the delegates.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT TO BE THE DELEGATES AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with who was going, but what they would be representing the Board on and how much latitude they would be given, were they going as elected officers or adding on conversations the Board had not approved them to do.

Commissioner Holt said there will be everything from healthcare to infrastructure and they have to have so many delegates to vote and will be things that will affect the entire country.

Chair Viegbesie said in addition to that, they as commissioners were appointed to various committees and sub-committees of FAC and he was a member of the Rural Action Caucus that look at issues in rural Counties and was a member appointed to the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee as well as President Immigration Task Force and these are issues that affect our different Counties and we get involved in conference calls and things that develop policies that NACo supports for its Counties.

Commissioner Taylor asked if Resolutions were already set before they get there and was told yes.

Commissioner Holt said everyone agrees on healthcare but not always on rural caucus issues because a lot of States do not have agriculture, etc.

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

**14a. Bell Road Resolution**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item that was added to the Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

**Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish** appeared before Board. HE said at a previous meeting they approved a Supplemental Agreement with DOT where they provided additional funds for Bell Road to complete that project. They should have included a Resolution with the Agreement and failed to do so. The Resolution authorizes the chair to sign that Agreement and DOT has asked for that Resolution.

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

**CLERK OF COURT**

**15. Updates**

Mr. Thomas was present and wanted to remind them of the three pots of money that need to be spent. He said he forwarded them a spreadsheet a few weeks ago. One was proceeds from the Paving Fund of 2015. He said there was \$1.23 Million, Commissioner Hinson has the most left; Commissioner Viegbesie has spent his.

The second thing, the boating improvement fund, the money is received from fees, licenses, etc. and every year they ask if they are going to spend the money and he wanted to remind them there is \$112,000 in the fund that could only be used for boating improvement.

The third thing is the Dori Slosberg fund from traffic tickets and they now have \$54,571 in that account and it was restricted for driver improvement education at schools, both public and private schools.

Commissioner Holt asked if it could be used for students for a CDL training class. He answered it was for driver improvement and he thought the intent was for driver improvement at the schools for young people to get education on driving. She asked the attorney to look into that.

Commissioner Taylor said the School Board came before them and requested it. If it was restricted specifically for driver education, she was all for it.

Chair Viegbesie asked what if they schedule a joint meeting with the School Board and the County and they see how the School Board could develop a program collaboratively with the County in regards to youth driving experiences.

Commissioner Holt said there was a collaborative program with them, a CDL program with Four Star Freight that will start in the fall. It will hold 15 students and if they pass that program, they will start at \$52,000.

Chair Viegbesie said the Attorney will look into the use of that money and if that money could be used or if restricted.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed they had 4-5 young folks killed in the last week or two under the age of 18 throughout the area.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**16. Updates**

Mr. Lawson said he had a few reminders:

The second budget workshop will be Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Holt made a comment at the previous meeting when Commissioner Taylor got the Congressman on the phone to schedule him come explain how they could utilize the funds. He asked him to explain until the funds were released to the State level, there were more criteria in

terms of how they would be disbursed. He said when he received that information he would be back with the Commission.

Commissioner Taylor asked if anyone knew if the packet had been signed off on it and Chair Viegbesie said it has been signed off on but the issue was who was getting what and where it was going. She suggested they, the School Board, the five sister cities, and the Constitutionals Officers come together with a list of needed items in a unified manner and a unified vision.

Chair Viegbesie said the \$19.1 Billion was for everyone including Puerto Rico. Counties that had damage just received money from Hurricane Irma.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:49 p.m.*

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:50 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said she agreed with Commissioner Taylor. She said she has spoken with Mrs. Lex and they need to have a post-Michael workshop. She said they also need to know what to apply for from FEMA within the timeline to meet the deadline dates.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought when they know it (hurricane) is coming; why not designate a safe holding place elsewhere to hold resources.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to put the County Administrator's contract on the next agenda and when the Chair allowed her to speak, he opened up the meeting again officially. She asked when the contract was up renewal.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **17. Updates**

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said he had several phone calls; a former aid of Senator Montford posted James 1:26; one that got him was one that explained who he was. He said hopefully one day they could have dialogue on how they could help people out that need help.

He said the Clerk brought up the point that they had \$700,000 that was ear-marked to be used to repair homes, rehab them, etc. He said he knew they were hiring the right people but people needed help and they needed to make sure they had competent people on board.

He said he's been hearing things about permits and it was a monster and they need to talk about those issues. He said he knew they were without a Building Inspector for a few months and need to have a workshop regarding this.



He felt they need to have someone with Emergency Management come give them an overview of what was going on.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no comments.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said there was a need for more building inspectors, help for a Housing Coordinator and a Grant Writer to help bring in money, and she would be asking for that during the Budget workshop.

She said they built two houses for the homeless a few years ago and did it because of what Commissioner Hinson said; in an emergency situation they had nowhere to put people. Later the Board decided to sell them. She said they were receiving money for the development of communities and took that extra money and set it aside and built those houses.

She said she talked with Shawn Wood yesterday and during the hurricane, both hospitals in Tallahassee was full and had nowhere to go and need to look at what they need to do and have some serious negotiations with CRMC regarding this hospital.

She said the property owners are complaining about the back parking lot. She said she came by one night and the parking lot was full and a gentleman was standing on the rail on the back porch and she was concerned that someone might get hurt. She said they need to look at the situation before something happens and they get sued.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she had nothing to report.

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

Chair Viegbesie asked for a motion for a Resolution on the retirement of Vincent Moore for his retirement from the FBI after many years of service.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.  
THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 18, 2018-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VEIGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:16 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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 JULY 2, 2019 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**  
                  **Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **Deborah Minnis, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to mute their phones and stand for the Invocation.

**Rev. Barry Cottle, First Baptist Church, Chattahoochee, FL** gave the Invocation.

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:01 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda and Mr. Lawson asked to pull Item 6.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a need to amend the Agenda because of the replacement of Item 7 and Chair Viegbesie stated that item was on the agenda, it just replacing what was there. Ms. Minnis said the Agenda has to be advertised; they could change information at the meeting that was not actually publicized as long as the Agenda item was there and no harm if Board wanted to do a second amendment. Commissioner Morgan stated he had no problem in amending the Motion. Commissioner Holt said she had no problem but did not want to start precedence.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

Chair Viegbesie asked that the presenters keep their presentation to 5 minutes because they had several presenters to speak this evening.

**1. Census Briefing**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:08 p.m.*

**Evelin Ramirez, Partnership Specialist, United States Census**, appeared before the Board and explained the benefits and goals of the Census. She also said the census would be hiring temporary help.

Commissioner Hinson said this was important and if she wished, she could speak little longer. She said she actually lived in Leon County and was available to come back at a later date.

Commissioner Holt said other counties have already set up a Complete Count Committee.

## **2. Mobile Communications Update**

**Debbie Giles, Mobile Communication**, appeared before the Board to give an update on the communication equipment. She said they were looking at have everything up and running by the end of the year.

Commissioner Holt asked if there would be a generator at that tower and Mrs. Giles said yes, the County will be providing generators at each site and will be diesel and will have automatic transfer switches. She said they will need to be tested every so often.

Commissioners Morgan thanked her for the update. He reminded the Commissioners this was a major project that was ongoing for the past several months and appreciated the leadership of her team and how it had rolled out in the last few months.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the diesel generators and Mrs. Giles addressed her questions.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:39 p.m.*

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 6:41 p.m.*

## **3. Economic Development Strategies**

**Beth Cicchetti, CEED, Executive Director of GCDC**, appeared before the Board and gave an update. She said she would like to build on the marketing they were investing in and were working with CareerSource on the Florida Georgia Workforce alliance because employers wanted to know that the entire region was serving them not just one specific governmental jurisdiction. She mentioned two publications the County was in and will continue to be on NPR and WFSU.

Commissioner Holt said if they did nothing else, they need to take advantage of trips. She said she went to Pascagoula and toured businesses and asked what they might be needed that they could not get. She told them we had access to ship to them via I-10, Highway 98, Highway 90 and CSX Railroad ran directly through there and the gentleman told her that when the roads were shut down the railroads kept running. He also said if there were an opportunity to work together, manufacturing the needed lists could be done anywhere around the gulf and could get to them in a couple of hours compared to everywhere else where they would have to ship or fly it in. She said this was an economic opportunity. He also told her they had a need for welders and started at little over \$100,000/year. She said there was a direct pipeline and the ability if they were able to work with the School System, because they start training at 10<sup>th</sup> grade. She said if they could pull this together and work together with the School System, the employment level would go up. She

said there was a new industry here and asked if they have done any work with the marijuana industry and looked at any of the economic engines there and Mrs. Cicchetti said yes.

Mrs. Cicchetti said they were part of the upcoming hiring fair and if allowed, Ms. Carter Palmer Smith would speak on that.

Commissioner Taylor said she was concerned with the strategy in place with how they were going to help with the recovery through or with economics being a fore front item. She said they were hearing a lot about housing and replacing some of the municipalities' losses and she was concerned with what strategies that would go in place to help recover and build on economic development using some of those dollars that were coming from through the State. She said she was going to mention to the Interim asked if could get both economic development engines involved, the Chamber and GCDC, in finding out if there were opportunities that could be capitalized off the disaster recovery process coming that could help in the economy. She asked if they were maximizing their efforts in using their existing assets they had in the County, the lake, antique shops and mining in the County. She also asked what the engines were doing to transform the County globally.

Chair Viegbesie said one concern she expressed was one he was going to make regarding visibility.

**Carter Palmer Smith, CareerSource Region**, appeared before the Board to give a report. Gadsden County Hiring Fair will be held August 7<sup>th</sup> at Florida Public Safety Institute.

*Commissioner Hinson stepped out 7: 18 p.m.*

She said there were fourteen companies registered to date to be there. CareerSource has been working with Trulieve over the past year and helped them with recruitments and hiring of a couple hundred career seekers in the region.

Commissioner Holt asked about industrial certification programs at the high schools for juniors and seniors.

*Commissioner Hinson returned at 7:20 p.m.*

She also said she went to a location near Tennessee and that was what they did and everyone had the same software on their phone and when a position became available with a particular certification, it automatically notified them. She said she also expected the Chamber to be here to give a presentation and if they were going to be funded, they should be present to report.

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for the report.

#### **CONSENT**

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

- 4. Ratification Memo**
- 5. Approval of Minutes**

**a. May 7, 2019-Regular Meeting**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Michael Shellman, 901 Circle Drive, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he was here regarding loud music and profanity that is going on just North of Havana. He called Havana Police Department, they referred him to the County, he called the Sheriff's Department, they referred him to Commissioner Hinson, and Commissioner Hinson invited him to a meeting where he was introduced to the Sheriff who handed him off to a Major. Since that time, there was another event at the Old Jerusalem Baptist Church, was told there was a permit and the event was to end at 7:30; at 8:00 p.m. he called the Sheriff's Department and was put in contact with Major Barkley and was told the event was ending at 8:00, at 9:00 he called again standing in his front yard and reported hearing profanity, racial slurs and have small children in his home. He filed a police report Monday Morning as instructed by Major Barkley. He called Wednesday to check on it and was told it was lost. He said he kept a copy of it and sent it to Commissioner Hinson and Major Barkley. He was told there would be a meeting the past Thursday at the Library in Havana with the property owner and have not heard a resolution of how he could stop the profanity and it was suggested he come appear before the Board.

Chair Viegbesie said he was speaking of events that were taking place at the Old Northside High School and Old Jerusalem Baptist Church next door. He asked that he continue to work with Commissioner Hinson and the Interim Administrator and they get in touch with the organizers of the events so they understand the concerns of the citizens of the surrounding area. Chair Viegbesie asked that Mr. Lawson work with Commissioner Hinson to rectify this matter.

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with Mr. Shellman and with whom he thought was the producer of the events.

Commissioner Morgan thanked him for appearing and said he had received several calls regarding this and have reached out to the Administrator. He knew he had been proactive in communicating with some local folks over there in the area and the issue was two-prong and hoped this would have an end date on how it was addressed. He said they have someone before them that has gone through the proper channels and still getting pushed to the next person and It needs to be addressed and if events are happening without proper permitting going on due to the size of crowds attending, that also needs to be looked into.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Shellman how close he was to the events.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:33 p.m.*

Mr. Shellman said he was less than a mile from the events and the performer did not get there until 9:00 p.m.; at 10:00 p.m. they turned their televisions on to drown out the noise so they could go to bed.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:34 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie assured him they would look into the matter.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6. Approval of use of the Language Line Solutions service through the State of Florida Contract Number 90121702-17-ACS**

Item Pulled

**7. Approval of Millage Rate for TRIM Notification and Set the Date, Time and Place for the Public Hearings to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Gadsden County Budget**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the millage rate for the TRIM notification and to establish the September budget adoption public hearing dates.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney If they set a rate and decided to change the rate, would that pose problem? Mrs. Minnis said they were approving the tentative.

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

**8. Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for selection of the Value Adjustment Board members.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER MORGAN AS THE COMMISSIONERS AND GAY STEFFEN AS THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY REPRESENTATIVE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED BUT SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO SERVE.**

**9. Approval to Utilize County Law Enforcement Funds to Assist with the Cost of the Seventh Annual Rural County Summit**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to utilize County Law Enforcement Training Funds to assist with the cost of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural County Summit that was held June 26-June 28.

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

Commissioner Holt said this was a County sponsored event, whether it was Emergency Management or County Commission, she mentioned to the Sheriff, it should be part of their agenda, It was what they do and what they pay for and they need to make sure their logo and everything is upfront on this item, should be known that the County Commission sponsors the Emergency Management and asked the Interim Administrator make a note of that. She said the reason she asked for that was their funding from FEMA and everywhere else in Emergency Management goes by County, it did not go by any other organization. In order for the Sheriff to

get their funding, it had to come through a County and their logo should have been on the Agenda. She asked that the Interim Administrator mention that to the Sheriff since they own the Emergency Management.

Commissioner Taylor said this item gave her heartburn because most come before the event and this came afterward. She wanted it echoed to the Department of a job well done but not the way it should have been done on requesting funding from the Board. She asked Mr. Lawson if he was aware prior to the event of the request for funding and he said yes, it was brought to him at the last minute. Chair Viegbesie said he told the Sheriff it was not fair to the fellow Commissioners to not have time to review the item before the meeting. He also said he was going on record saying he told the Sheriff that the item needs to be submitted in a timely manner for the next event prior to the event.

Commissioner Morgan said not only was this something locally, it was a program recognized throughout the State and the Country. He said the dollars for this was coming from the proper funds and the only issue he had was the fact they were approving something after the fact.

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

**10. Commission Appointment/Reappointment to Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was to appoint/reappoint one Commissioner to serve on the Committee to oversee the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds for the Gadsden County Jail for the provision of inmate programs and services.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER HNSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**11. Approval of Public Works Mosquito Control Budget FY 2019/20**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the annual Mosquito Control Budget FY 2019-20.

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

**12. Approval of Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Melvin Lowe**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Melvin Lowe for Hardaway Highway from Bonnie Hill Road to Lincoln Drive in District 3.

Commissioner Morgan said he knew them and the Lowes' were already involved in Chattahoochee.

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

**13. Appointment to the Tourist Development Council**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to appoint two citizens to



serve on the Tourist Development Council.

Commissioner Holt asked if this came before TDC and was told no because the Board has to appoint the members. Commissioner Holt said the reason she asked if a person was serving on the Board, an activity could not come before them, for instance, if a person was on Main Street and Main Street had an activity they wanted funds from the TDC, she was not sure if they could be on the Board and get funds. Olivia Smith said the County Attorney was asked about that, Commissioner Holt said if it was not a written response, it did not count, and Ms. Smith said he felt that it would not be a conflict. Commissioner Holt asked if that would not abstain them from voting and Ms. Mennis replied documentation had to be submitted as to why it was felt there was a conflict and was limited times when could actually abstain. As far as TDC members, she was unsure. Commissioner Holt asked if it was needed now and Ms. Smith said there was no quorum without this. Commissioner Holt asked when the next meeting was and Ms. Smith responded July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Lawson asked if the Board wanted to appoint the Tax Collector and wait on the other appointment.

Commissioner Morgan said they have gotten verbal approval from the attorney it would be proper to do that, they have qualified people that have expressed an interest in serving, two openings that need to be appointed; they are not meeting later in the month...

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney again what she said.

Ms. Mennis said she did not know the answer to this question because she was not asked this question. She was dealing with if the Board could abstain or not and if so, what they would have to do to do so, as far as TDC, she was unsure about that Board.

Commissioner Taylor said she was unsure if people that submitted their names knew they would be unable to apply for funding and they need to be made aware of that and given a chance to withdraw their names if they wish to.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Smith if she spoke with the attorney about conflicts and she said no, she spoke with them and they still wish to serve.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT JOHN GARCIA AS TAX COLLECTOR AND ANTHONY LOMBARDO AS PERSON OF INTEREST AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Taylor felt they needed to wait and wanted more information.

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

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

#### **14. Updates**

Mr. Thomas gave an update on the Hospital Endowment Trust. He said in 2010 they took out \$3.2

to buy equipment for the hospital and the Trust is now valued at \$9.4 Million and in addition to that have paid out dividends and interests totaled about \$10.5 Million in total assets. He said the Trust was totally restored and in addition the dividends and interests could be used for the benefit of the hospital for major upkeep. Commissioner Holt made a compelling argument at the last meeting about beds and that was potentially one of the things could be used for in the negotiations. Commissioner Morgan said he could not hear him and the Clerk said the dividends and interests was money that went into their account and was monies they did not have to go into the Trust to get; they receive in distributions and was available for their use **ONLY** for hospital use for major upkeep and as they go into negotiations with CRMC, wanted them informed of assets they had to make improvements to the hospital and the funds were available for the hospital for improvements to the hospital.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she brought the argument up was during the hurricane both hospitals filled up in Leon County and there was no more space available. She said they need to look at how they could at least use triage if needed. She said it was a warning with Hurricane Michael.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

#### **15. Updates**

Mr. Lawson gave some reminders:

Tomorrow was the Veteran's Appreciation picnic at the Courthouse from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.;

The second BOCC meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will be cancelled;

There is a Budget Workshop scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.;

Chair Viegbesie also reminded everyone about the Career Hiring Fair scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> that was mentioned.

Commissioner Taylor said she contacted his office yesterday about the clean-up around the parks and he said it should be completed by now. She said they might want to look at that being routine especially during the months when families frequent the parks. Mr. Lawson said it was scheduled but they would them give more attention during special events.

She said she had asked earlier and wanted the Attorney's contract put on the Agenda along with CBOR.

#### **Cutting Grass**

She said they were not keeping up with the schedule and understood it was that season but if there was any extra funding to help catch up now.

#### **Hospital**

She had to take a client this past weekend and said they need to look at what happens in the evening in the area where people are waiting and where they enter into the Emergency Room and corridor. It has nothing to do with staff and they need to see what needs to be done.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to look at lighting at the hospital as well.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Lawson for his efforts as Interim. His question was about the replacement for the permanent Administrator and asked about the timeline. Mr. Lawson said they were advertising and the position closes July 12<sup>th</sup>. He said they have received applications and he could give a better update at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could investigate the salary from other Counties.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out 8:18 p.m.*

Mr. Lawson said he recently found out the County initiated a salary survey.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:19 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said Mr. Lawson had a good workshop on hurricane recovery and they need to have a check-off list. She said District 3 had a road affected after the hurricane as a side effect because of the trucks travelling carrying chips. She said there was still a need for two more building inspectors and two more Housing people. They need people to process the paperwork and the currently have only one person working in that Department.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Clerk about the disaster funding coming, would he not be CFO over funding? They would approve how the money would be spent but he would handle the distribution and documentation. Mr. Thomas said any money the Board of County Commissioners receives the Clerk would handle in terms of Treasurer and cutting checks and making sure of documentation but they decide how it is spent just like always. He said the Board would submit all the requests for reimbursements of monies spent, in terms of cutting checks, the Clerk's Office would make sure that all documentation that is needed to disburse checks was there.

Commissioner Holt asked to clarify because this was a serious subject. She said there were people shaking their head that it did not work this way. He would not get that money and if he got that money and they did not have the documentation to justify it, even though they may fill it out incorrectly and spent it incorrectly, then they were held accountable, not him, he just checked out what was turned in to him. It was what they did that was the concern and was why the people were there said what they must do. She said they were held liable for that money.

Mr. Thomas said he agreed with that also, there is a Statute that basically said County Commissioners were liable and Commissioner Holt said the experts also said the people needed to help them.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **16. Updates**

Ms. Mennis said she had nothing to update.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson asked to have the Dean of Agriculture of FAMU to come speak.

He said they had spoken briefly about the Permits and hoped it was under wraps now.

He also noticed they were cutting areas but were leaving a lot of debris on the ground and asked if there was a blower that could be used and could they go further back to the poles.

He said he saw large items in the Hampton Heights area in the ditches.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan thanked Ms. Minnis for being here.

He said Mr. Spellman came before them with a noise issue and asked if it was a policy issue, they needed to address it.

Secondly, the need to hire a permanent Administrator and the need to come together and have the next step ready to go.

He commended staff for helping him out with issues in Chattahoochee and along with Code Enforcement and wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. He invited everyone to the western part of the County to enjoy the fireworks and other festivities there.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt asked about the timing on the fireworks in Chattahoochee and Greensboro and he said as with every year, around dark.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 8:38 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said in the past there was a campaign to take trash to the dump and they need to revisit that because trash is being placed on the ground and everywhere else.

She said she was seeing bills from Mr. Glazer and have not received an update from him regarding the hospital negotiations. Mr. Lawson said he has been working with CRMC on bringing an update to the board.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR REV. EDDIE ALLEN, JR. AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor had no updates.

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

Chair Viegbesie wished everyone a happy Fourth.

**Receipt and File**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
July 2, 2019 – Regular Meeting

18. **City of Quincy Annexation Letter**  
**Ausley McMullen May 8, 2019 Invoice**  
**Ausley McMullen June 12, 2019 Invoice**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**July 18, 2019-Budget Meeting**  
**August 6, 2019-Regular Meeting**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:43 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 18, 2019 AT 4:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the Budget workshop to order at 4:04 p.m.

**Shirley Knight, Supervisor of Elections**, gave the Invocation and the Chair Viegbesie led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**Citizens Requesting to be Heard**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Introduction and Summary Highlights**

Mr. Lawson said this was the third workshop and would update the Board where they were at in the budget process. He said the next meeting would not be a workshop but a special meeting and would like to gather as much information as possible.

**Recap of General Fund balance.**

Mr. Price showed the draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year and said the revenue was a little flat. He said he thought the Gas Tax and Sales Tax would be up a little more but really did not move much. He said Personnel this year were the big thing and there were new positions in the budget that were up for consideration and they enhanced a few.

He said the projects this year were: Cell towers; the Dispatch center; Greenshade Fire Department; moving EMS; and Stevens School.

He said Public Works has asked for equipment and that they needed the most was two motor graders w/ slopers; one backhoe loader; and double drum compactor

He gave a list of required expenditures that was listed in the hand-out as was the list of not required expenditures.

**2. Constitutional Officers FY20 Budget Request**

**Clerk of Court**

Commissioner Holt asked about the increase in the Clerk's budget. Mr. Thomas explained the amount in 2019 was the same for the past 3 years for IT. There was a need for new equipment, to cover health insurance, FRS increase, updating equipment, maintenance increase, been ongoing problem with budget in IT, had two people and Board covered approximately 73% for second person and they have continued to ask the Board to cover the whole amount. He quoted F.S. 29.008. He said the Finance Department 2019 budget was the same as the 2018 budget and he has had to absorb costs. He said included in the request was for basic things and also was an estimated pay-out for the Finance Director's retirement which was anticipated next summer.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled when he met with the auditor, he mentioned a debt deficiency from the Office of Clerk, they mentioned he did not have someone in the Accounts Receivable and did this account for that person. The Clerk said he had to absorb costs and he left a position vacant for number of months to make the budget balance. He said he recently filled that position, but he was going to maintain that and needed to cover the costs mentioned. Commissioner Holt asked if it was a new position and the Clerk stated no, it was one someone left and was left vacant and was filled few months ago. Commissioner Holt asked how much that position was and the Clerk responded.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at 4:20 p.m.*

**Property Appraiser**

Reginald Cunningham, Property Appraiser, appeared before the Board. He said the only increase they would see is an overlapping position as Mr. Mayo would be leaving in approximately 1 ½ years and this would give them time to hire and train his replacement.

**Sheriff's Department**

Katherine Pondexter appeared before the Board. She presented documentation to the Board. She explained that statutorily they have to establish a Court Services Department. She said they have reduced the Law Enforcement budget to establish Court Services. She explained when the Bailiff unit was out of Court they usually serve as a Resource Officer or go on road or on the SWAT Team. She said because of that they were requesting additional vehicles for them and mobile data computers so they could perform jobs when they were on the road.

Chair Viegbesie asked what they were doing to increase retention and she said the Sheriff was in the process of doing a salary study.

Commissioner Holt felt they should sit down at the table and talk this over.

Capt. Bobby Collins appeared before the Board. Commissioner Holt said she was concerned about the program. He said part of the screening process included psychological screening, along with other necessary trainings.

**Supervisor of Elections**

**Shirley Knight, Supervisor of Elections**, appeared before the Board. She said she had received a grant for upgrade last year and now has to maintain contracts, licenses, and renewal fees and was where most of the increases came in.

She explained travel was an increase as they were required to be trained for cyber security and have to attend workshops and attend training; postage has increased; she said there was an increase in machinery because it was an ongoing process of upgrading equipment, services and for election day they have to upgrade communication. She said 32 counties were involved in a lawsuit regarding having to produce Spanish speaking ballots, envelopes, precinct signs, sample ballots, websites, pamphlets, Notice of Elections and while this County was not one of the involved counties, but would be pulled into the lawsuit. She said they also have to maintain the website and make sure it was ADA compliant. She said there were two elections coming up in this budget cycle.

Commissioner Holt said she knew her office was ADA compliant, but knew Gretna was being sued.

There was discussion regarding paper vs. touchscreen ballots.

### **Tax Collector**

**Dale Summerford, Tax Collector**, appeared before the Board. His budget is funded from fees and services they provide on a regular basis. After the end of the fiscal year 2018, he has to project the number of driver's licenses and tags they would be renewing, people that will be delinquent on their taxes, people that will fail their driving test, how many drivers' licenses will be suspended etc. He said for 2018 they returned approximately \$42,000. In the past the Board but in roughly \$40,000 as a contingency and this past year it was \$45,000. He said at the end of 2018 he returned all of the \$45,000 back to the Board and this year for the end of 2019 he would not be drawing it and he would be Mr. Lawson and Mr. Price they could cut the \$45,000 down to \$25,000 and hopefully that would help. He said overall his budget was around \$850,000 and the bulk of that was \$445,000 was from collecting the tax role and the other was from fees from State services that he provided.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Summerford how automated was his operation was and how was that reflected in his budget. He responded 75% of his work was collecting for the State of Florida and the other was collecting property taxes. He said being an agent for the State; he was at the mercy of the State and with the way they continue to cut things there affects a couple of the agencies he represents, primarily the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. He said all the equipment that was used in his office belongs to the State of Florida and the server also belonged to the State of Florida. He said he had concerns that in the future he would have to update some of the PC's and the software. He said he did have concerns about the ADA issue.

Commissioner Holt asked how the hurricane affected property owners. Mr. Summerford said one thing they did shortly after the storm was to include a flyer in the tax bill if anyone received damage to let the Property Appraiser know and there had been a decent response. Mr. Cunningham said once they called the office or his guys went out and saw the damage and the tarps still on top of the houses, they readjusted the value but it was just a short-term for that particular year. He said they did receive new growth that would offset the discounts that were given to the citizens but they would have to call and they would have to see it. He said if they made the repairs prior to January they would not get a discount but afterwards they would.

Commissioner Holt said that meant Planning and Zoning needed to be working with them and Mr. Cunningham said they were, when permits were issued they automatically received the information.



Mr. Summerford said he felt good about, he has been in meetings with the new Director of DOR and they approve tax role, and they were continuing with what has happened and they were blessed in this County compared to some west of here where they lost 40 to 50% of their tax role.

**3. Board of County Commissioners Priorities and Directions**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:08 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 6, 2019 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-arrived late**  
                  **Eric Hinson, District 2-arrived late**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked that phones be muted.

**Rev. Sandra Mayer, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Quincy, FL** gave the Invocation.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:01 p.m.*

She then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. After the Pledge, she invited everyone to a special Blue Mass Service to be held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church to honor and remember First Responders that would be held on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. with a lunch following in the Parish Hall.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lawson said there were a couple of amendments; he would like to pull Item 5 and Item 7 and bring both back at a later date. He said he would also like to request to change Item 24 to Item 13a and change Item 13 to Item 13b.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said there were two items that were requested to be placed on the Agenda, the attorney’s contract and the Citizen’s Bill of Rights. Chair Viegbesie said because of the lengthy Agenda it had been requested they be placed on the next Agenda.

Mr. Weiss said Item 14 needed to precede Item 13 and Mr. Lawson said it was indicated to him it did not matter as long as Item 24 was handled first.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

- 1. Presentation from 850 Magazine**  
    **Jill Blackman, Program Manager for GCDC**, was here on behalf of Beth Cicchetti, and

introduced McKenzie Burleigh, Vice President of Corporate Development of Rowland Publishing and they distribute the 850 Magazine.

Ms. Burleigh said 850 is quarterly publication and partners with counties to focus on economic development.

*Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:08 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said she had looked at their magazine before and was looking at what they do not have and how they could be more successful, especially at the interchanges, US 90 and Highway 27 to be more attractive. Ms. Burleigh said the new business journal would be new business content and could make sure to come up with an editorial line-up that was cohesive on everything they wanted represented in Gadsden County. She also said the Editor could come and they could have a round-table brainstorming.

Chair Viegbesie asked if, in their services during the workshop Commissioner Holt just mentioned, would they worked with Counties and municipalities with regard to having them develop an economic development identity. She said that would be the goal for the County to identify a strategic plan of where they saw the County 10-20 years from now and what businesses they were trying to attract and assets they wanted to communicate and that would be what they would have as editorial content.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they have had time to sit with the Interim County Administrator so he would know what they were talking about and how this would fit into what he would do as the Chief Executive Officer of the County and if not suggested a meeting be scheduled and get him educated regarding this.

## 2. Chamber Update

**David Gardner, Gadsden Chamber of Commerce**, appeared before the Board. He informed the Board they had sold the old office and would be relocating to the Women's Club located on King Street.

He said rumors of West End Grill becoming a restaurant again was not happening, it would be a laundromat and also that Tractor Supply would not be coming to town. He said two major agricultural projects were looking at Gadsden County along with three major renewable energy projects and two already have contracts on property; Weavex Business Park is at full expansion and they are looking at expansion of another 100,000 square feet. He said they have been very involved in the rebuilding of Gadsden County after the hurricane and working with churches and non-profits and would continue and was looking at a permanent location to be able to help with supplies for so many of people that are still impacted and were working with United Way on the Hurricane recovery efforts and also on a program they have that focuses on people that are employed but still impoverished. He said they were exploring an employment boot camp with the schools.

He introduced the Chief Operating Officer with Trulieve, Kevin Darmody.

Mr. Darmody appeared before the Board. He said they have almost 60% of the market share here in the State. He said they have a 75 person call center in Clearwater and take over 3,000

calls a day; have over 2,000 employees; 70% of which are minorities. He said they have a difficult time with hiring because they have to pass a level 2 background check and even once hired, they have a problem with people showing up for work.

Chair Viegbesie asked how much Trulieve used the churches to reach out to the community because there was a stigma that goes with this product. Mr. Darmody said the head of the Shipping Department is a minister and he would talk with him tomorrow about this.

Commissioner Morgan said there were so many opportunities here in the County and thought they as a Board need to look at how they could lean in and impacts not so much the future but the present. He said the growth was expediential, the opportunities are limitless and he appreciated Mr. Darmody coming here and recommended the Board members to sit down and speak with him regarding the successes and the challenges from a day to day standpoint they have.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:51 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor asked if the rules and regulations were set by the government and said that sometimes some should be given a second chance once they have paid their debt to society. He said he has asked the same question. He said they were regulated by the Department of Health and thought maybe the level 2 background check may be from the legislative side or might be from the Department of Health side. He said they were for second chances and had done that in many cases. Mr. Gardner said they have also approached Senator Montford on that same question and he is looking into it as well.

Commissioner Holt asked if they had worked with CareerSource and Mr. Darmody said they were not very successful. She said she would hate to see them go to Tallahassee for training. She asked if they would be opening a dispensary center here. He said right now there were no plans, also they were limited by the State as to how many total in the region they could have.

### **CONSENT**

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

**3. Ratification Memo**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- a. February 26, 2019-Workshop
- b. March 12, 2019-Workshop
- c. March 14, 2019-Special Meeting
- d. April 2, 2019-Special Meeting
- e. May 21, 2019-Regular Meeting
- f. June 4, 2019-Regular Meeting

**5. ~~Approval of County Auditing Services~~**

Item pulled

**6. Approval to Request to Receive Reimbursement from Florida Division of Emergency**

**Management (FDEM) for Hurricane IRMA**

- 7. Public Officials Bond Reviews**  
Item Pulled
- 8. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between the Gadsden County Sheriff Department Facility and the Social Security Administration**
- 9. SBA Tower Site Amendment**
- 10. Approval of Agreement with Demandstar Corporation**
- 11. Approval of Participation in the Approval for the 2018 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Monica Smart-Gainous, 4620 Hosford Hwy, Quincy, FL** Survive & Thrive Advocacy Center (STAC) intro, services, trainings in Gadsden County appeared before the Board to speak about Human Trafficking and passed out information.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 12. Public Hearing: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-010, An Ordinance of the BOCC of GC, FL amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to include EMS services and improvements as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it would amend Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to include EMS services and improvements as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes.

Chair Viegbesie asked if anyone from the audience wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no heartburn about supporting the expansion of the surtax dollars to supplement the EMS budget but hoped the Board did not intend to not write a check to expand EMS services; this should be used to bridge the gap. He said he has heard comments on how collections improved but did not want to budget on that continuation and then it not be there.

Chair Viegbesie said his comment was this was worthy of strong consideration of approval and if not approved the entire funding of EMS would come from the General Fund and by splitting this would be \$800,000 less to find from the budget to provide for EMS.

Commissioner Holt said it would be about \$700,000 and asked the length of time for the three-

way split. Mr. Lawson said they would designate a length of time. Mr. Weiss said if they wanted to put a time limitation on it they could and it could be amended at any point and time.

Commissioner Morgan said they could amend the Ordinance and there would be no reason to sunset it. He also said he understood the need for it but they were taking money away from Public Works and Fire by doing this and needed to be managed very closely.

Commissioner Taylor said Commissioner Morgan spoke on some of her concerns. She asked where they were taking the \$800,000 from, what particular item in their budget would be impacted and her other concerns was what EMS would do with the \$800,000 because EMS has come to the podium and suggested getting themselves involved on things she was not on board with; one being on the front line; two, taking fire services from other municipalities and she was concerned.

Mr. Lawson and Mr. Weiss addressed her questions.

Mr. Lawson said the funds would be used to help supplement the day to day operations of the EMS department, not to provide for the ones that wanted to create a new program. Secondly, when they do the three-way split it would take about \$400,000 from Public Works and about \$400,000 from Fire. He said Fire has a substantial balance and did not think it would impact them at all and felt Public Works would not suffer either. Mr. Weiss said the funds would be for EMS operations and capital expenditures and if they wanted, they could add language to the Ordinance restricting it, they could come up with appropriate language. Commissioner Taylor said if they had to take money from the other departments, she wanted to hear from the other departments and it concerned her. She asked how they produced in years past. Mr. Lawson those were questions they could answer during the budget process and they could put additional restrictions if the Board wished but the intent of this was to have the funds available because over the years they have had to supplement the EMS budget every year. They were doing better with the billing but were not in the black yet.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if there would be language included and wanted to go on record and ask if language would be included and Commissioner Morgan said he was seconding what was presented as Option 1 and did not think it would be an issue. He said they were talking about allowing one-third of the proceeds to be used for EMS. She said she wanted to make sure that the one-third was specifically for personnel and he said he did not think they needed to run their day-to-day operations. She said she wanted to go on record and heard where he was going, but wanted to go on record saying she supported this only if those dollars are designated for personnel and not for some of the things that were mentioned earlier.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he was going against this was it was too ambiguous and not clear and unequivocal and was the reason he could not support it tonight, especially when they moved EMS from Midway and put it somewhere else.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.**

Mr. Weiss said this did require a super majority vote.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to do more with EMS, they need more money but they have made a lot of decisions on happenstance in the last couple of years and it has cost them. The County Administrator needs to put stuff together and make sure it's clear and not ambiguous or equivocal and he would not mind doing it, but it was not clear right now. He said when disaster happens, it's Public Works, it's not the Sheriff and when you take funding from Public Works and when the bridges collapse, who is out there, you do not have the resources. He said there was no reason to have EMS if they could not get there; there were bridges now that were dilapidated.

Commissioner Morgan said did not know why this was ambiguous or not clear about this, they were simply adding this as an option to use for revenue if they needed to do that. He said to keep in mind they approved to expand this to support a bike trail and now they were saying no, they were not potentially going to support EMS.

Commissioner Holt	yes
Commissioner Hinson	no
Commissioner Taylor	no
Commissioner Morgan	yes
Chair Viegbesie	yes

Motion Failed 3-2

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to get rid of super majority.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like that and this did need to come back they did not want to not adequately fund EMS but wanted to make sure that those dollars went specifically for hiring and presenting a quality salary so they could recruit and keep staff and if it could come back with language, she was willing to support it.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **13a. UF/IFAS Gadsden County Multipurpose Facility**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for a change order in the amount of \$47,092.94 for the Multi-purpose Agricultural facility and simply because of the delay in getting started, prices of materials have gone up and they were presenting a deductive change order with additional increases being paid out of funds they would receive for the facility and the increase would increase the contract by \$15,492.94.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if the change order was for \$47,092.94 or \$15,492.94. Mr. Lawson said it was for \$47,092.94 and \$31,600 was a deducted change.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed a lot of change orders were coming in and asked the reason why.

Mr. Lawson said this contract was bid several years ago and the cost of materials have increased.

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

**13b Resolution No. 2019-021 authorizing and approving the \$707,000 Gadsden County, FL Capital  
~~13.~~ Improvement Bond Anticipation Note, Series 2019**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Resolution which would authorize and approve the \$707,000 Gadsden County Capital Improvement Bond Anticipation Note, Series 2019. He explained this item was required by USDA to have interim financing from a bank to substantially complete the project.

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

**14. Approval to Accept Construction Loan with BB&T Bank for Completing the Requirements for  
USDA**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was for approval to enter into the construction loan agreement to borrow the \$707,000 from BB&T to complete the requirements with the United States Department of Agriculture to build the AG center.

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

**15. City of Quincy Dump Truck Request**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was concerning conveyance of a 2005 Mack CV713 Granite Dump Truck from Public Works Department to City of Quincy for relocation of power lines and poles for a roundabout project that amounted to \$47,637.62 and the City agreed to waive costs if the County conveyed the dump truck in exchange for the services rendered.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was some form of bartering.

Commissioner Morgan asked for help on this one. He asked if the City of Quincy met and their Board approved this to come before the County and asked what was being done. He said he knew the costs of the roundabout came out of Commissioner Holt's paving dollars and there was no mention of additional costs for lighting or anything else for them to pay for.

Mr. Lawson said he understood when the project was cost out there was no cost in the project for lights to be relocated and for additional lights from the roundabout to Jefferson Street. He stated this was prior to his coming back on board and this was negotiated between the previous County Administrator with the City Manager and the previous Public Works Director. Commissioner Morgan said this was never brought before this Board for approval until now. Mr. Lawson said that was his understanding in checking the Minutes it has not come before the



Board.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. MR. WEISS HAD A COMMENT.**

Mr. Weiss said there was a statutory requirement that a Resolution be adopted if they intend to convey the dump truck to the City and if they wanted to move forward, there should be instructions for a Resolution consideration.

Commissioner Holt said they would amend the Motion.

Commissioner Morgan said what he was hearing was, a County Commissioner, a former County Administrator and former Public Works Director made deal for this without approaching the Board that will cost \$47,000 or in this case, a dump truck. He asked if he had any of that wrong. Chair Viegbesie said if that was directed to him, he did not think so. Commissioner Morgan asked if this particular dump truck was currently being used by Public Works. Mr. Lawson stated according to the current Public Works Director, it was. Commissioner Morgan said they were giving away a dump truck that they use to pay for a project they knew nothing about that was an additional cost of \$47,000 and why would that not be paid out of the paving dollars that was in her fund? Chair Viegbesie said yes if that question was to her.

Commissioner Holt said "May I speak now Mr. Chair? Commissioner Morgan, this is not an agreement between a commissioner. I had spoken with the previous manager when I found out about this. They were going to surplus the truck and when I spoke with her about it, she said they were going to surplus the truck and the City of Quincy wanted a truck; they agreed to move the power lines which are in their area for the surplus truck that they needed. On another issue I was speaking to Mr. McLean and he verified that so it's not like we made a deal, ok? The other thing is that when I checked to see if the truck was going to be surplus, they said yes. I checked with the Road and Bridge Director, I said 'ok, tell me about the truck' and he did. He said that the truck was gonna be surplus. I said ok and I didn't have any heartburn over it because I was thinking it was gonna be surplus. He said they had other back-up trucks, it's an '05 and I'm thinking yeah that's pretty old. So that's where that came about. It did not come that we just put our heads together. Now, the City of Quincy did say if they moved those lines there would be a charge and I'm thinking a used truck, you know, surplus anyway, that made sense. That's one part of the puzzle. The other part of the puzzle is there's companies' looking at purchasing that apartment complex down there. They are looking at beautification all down that side and I spoke with, I don't know if the project manager came before us or not, he did, ok, he's looking at beautification of that. Also putting programs in place to help those people to be able to get out of there and give classes and all that. So then he wanted to connect that with them, so they may have to move some other lines and stuff that he's looking at. So that's how that came about. It was not that someone decided to do something that would be out of the sight of this Board. Now that was my first hearing, you know, talking about this. Which it is still a really good deal if we're going to get a developer here to connect together. In fact doing an Interlocal Agreement, I think also with other municipalities make sense, we do them all the time, but I think this was a good move because a business person designed into the project also. But that was the way that came about. If there are any questions, I'll answer any."

Chair Viegbesie said Mr. McLean was present and Chair Holt spoke up and said she did not want to put him in a controversial situation, it was fine to do what they want to do but it should not be that they have him on the spot too.

Commissioner Morgan said again this was a dump truck they were currently using and Mr. Lawson said that was the information he had gotten. Commissioner Morgan said that and in addition to the fact that this had never been mentioned to them before, there was a right way to do things and not a right way and this was not the right way to do this. He said there was a budget session coming up and different items to consider and now they were giving trucks away or paying money out when they could not afford to meet the budget that they have before them. He said it did not smell right to him at all and was not the right way to do it. He added with that being said, if there was an opportunity to do this the correct way, they needed to do it the correct way and not move forward in a manner that was not right. He said there would be folks looking at this and asking a lot of questions as to how they got to this point.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Manager would bring up Mr. McNealy to ask him about the truck. Mr. Lawson said he was already told by Mr. McNealy they needed and were using the truck and did not see a reason to bring him up and put him in front of the Commission. Commissioner Holt said they (City) had completed the work and they now have two choices; they could either pay them or they could give them the truck. She said last fall or spring, they gave the City of Chattahoochee a building and Commissioner Morgan said it was done the right way. Commissioner Holt said she was not trying to debate with him, she was simply saying the previous manager may not have known the right procedure.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the City had provided their services that they were going to be trading the truck for, if so, maybe they should pull this item and handle this the proper way.

Commissioner Morgan suggested since they now knew the truck was needed in Public Works, that Commissioner Holt pay the balance from her paving funds.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they were getting new trucks and Mr. Lawson said it was work trucks and not dump trucks. Commissioner Hinson then said he had strong reservations, there were promises made six or seven months ago and they had to go back and pay everyone because of a certain promise that was made and "a promise was a promise".

Commissioner Taylor said Mr. Weiss mentioned a Resolution needed to be done. She wanted to make sure it was included in the motion that they do the Resolution and wanted to move the motion including the motion to amend Commissioner Holt's motion.

Chair Viegbesie asked if one came before the other or if both could be dealt with concurrently.

Mr. Weiss said he thought the Motion should be worded to direct Staff and County Attorney to move forward with the potential conveyance to bring a Resolution to the Board for consideration; he said he did not think they could approve a Resolution (beforehand).

**COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE CONVEYANCE OF THE VEHICLE TO THE CITY OF QUINCY ACCOMPANIED BY A RESOLUTION AND SECOND MADE BY**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**16. Approval of Health Insurance Rates**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item. Chair Viegbesie asked who made up the committee. Mr. Lawson said the Committee was made up of representatives from the Constitutionals, County Administrator, and the HR Director.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 8:11 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson asked about full time workers that could not afford insurance.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:12 p.m.*

Mr. Lawson said the rates he saw were what the Board paid for employees.

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

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

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

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT.**

Commissioner Holt said she had to decline because she would be campaigning for someone and she wanted to appoint Mr. Lawson. He said to keep in mind the campaign would be in 2020.

Chair Viegbesie said they have an Assistant County Administrator who could be the alternate and should be the one to be the alternate. Commissioner Taylor said they were looking to hire a new Administrator with all due respect to the Assistant County Administrator, they did not know if he would make the cut when the new one comes in because they do tend to want to formulate their own staff and the other thing is, she prayed that Commissioner Holt campaigned against her because she won last time.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THE MOTION IS FOR THE CURRENT CHAIR AND THE ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO BE THE ALTERNATE, COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**18. Fifth Amendment to the Hospital Lease**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for the approval of the fifth amendment to the Gadsden Hospital Lease.

Chair Viegbesie said this was to accommodate for the workshop scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Lawson said yes.

Commissioner Holt said she was at the workshop last week and did not think October 31<sup>st</sup> was enough time. She said it has been eleven years since the tax was started and had not seen where steps have been taken where a night could be spent in the building and the tax is still being paid; and at one point it was brought forth that they would start paying for some of the hospital runs because Medicaid/Medicare would pay to go from your home to the Emergency Room and would pay from Emergency Room to CRMC but Medicaid/Medicare would not pay for that because that was in-house. She said they are willing to give back \$600,000 but they want control of the building, and she felt they need more time than October. She said also during the hurricane, there were no vacancies in Tallahassee at both hospitals and what would happen next time there was a disaster.

Mr. Weiss said the extension had been approved by GHI and CRMC but it could be extended again.

Commissioner Holt said when they were in the meeting, some of GHI members were asking about the financials and what they looked like.

Commissioner Taylor said she was confused and asked who put this on the Agenda. Mr. Lawson said GHI approved the October extension.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 8:28 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said this has been a controversial thing since he had been here.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 8:29 p.m.*

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**19. CR269 (Little Sycamore Road) SCRAP Change Order #1**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Change Order number 1 for the Little Sycamore Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Son Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$13,366.00.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**20. CR 269 (Little Sycamore Road) Change Order #2**

Mr. Lawson introduced above item and said was for Board approval of a deductive Change Order number 2 for the Little Sycamore Road SCRAP paving project to Peavy and Sons Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$86,266.00.

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

**21. Bell Road (SCRAP) Amended Contract with Peavy and Son**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the FDOT SCRAP amended agreement from GCBOCC to Peavy and Sons for the widening and resurfacing of Bell Road.

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

**22. Approval of Resolution 2019-020 to Adopt Specified Fees for Building Permits Utilizing Private Provider Services**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2019-020 to adopt specialized fees for Building permits utilizing private provider services. He said his understanding was the Legislature passed laws where contractors could now use private providers to do their inspection work and the County has to set specific fees for that since Staff would not be actually doing the inspections.

Commissioner Holt said she could not support this until she saw what was going on with the fees. She also asked if this would be extra fees compared to what the citizens were paying before. She added that they needed to hear from the citizens on this matter.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was mandatory that municipalities must adopt this ordinance.

**Suzanne Lex, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board. She said currently Gadsden County has a minimum \$100 application fee with residential and \$200 commercial to cover a processing and administrative cost that would be credited against the final cost of the permit. These fees reflect about a 90% reduction of what would be paid if paid for a full building permit because you were paying for someone else to pay for the review or paying someone else to do the inspections. This law has been in place since 2002 and was nothing new and was another option and particularly in the wake of the hurricane when there is a high demand and volume for inspections where you could go out and contract, and it has to be the fee owner of the property for these services. She said the County was reducing the fees significantly and basically for administrative purposes, their role was to insure that they get a complete application, the plans meet the requirements of the Florida Building Code, the applicant provides all required documentation, and it could be from one to eight or ten inspections and information and they have to make sure they meet the requirements of Florida Statutes 553. At the end when they have a Certificate of Occupancy, they go in as the Statutes states they are to inspect and if they find deficiencies, they are to tell them. It is a safeguard to insure the County is enforcing the Florida Building Code and if something was missed, life safety are the two parts of the Florida Building Code that are very important in making sure they are not missed.

Commissioner Holt said they need to sit down and the contractors and citizens need to be there so they have their input into this.

Commissioner Morgan asked how this could benefit the citizens and business owners in the day to day standpoint beyond the cost of lower fees. She said there was only one contractor utilizing private provider and that was their choice. She said they have not been charging re-inspection fees and don't want to penalize people; have been working hard to educate people and would like to do an outreach on an informal basis with contractors and have monthly meetings so they would know what to expect in terms of the changes. She said there was a lot of work going on previously with not a lot of staff and this was a significant change to a lot of the contractors and was just an option.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the private providers would be qualified or certified and Ms. Lex said according to the Division of Business of Business and Professional Regulation, they have the licenses for private providers listed and they check to make sure the licenses are in effect and meet the requirements.

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

Commissioner Holt said before doing this, citizens will be billed from an independent contractor and County and won't know this information and was only asking for an opportunity to have them come in along with contractors, open to the public, so they could hear what they were saying.

Chair Viegbesie asked that the Interim Administrator made a record of that.

Commissioner Hinson said he had calls as well and think there was a need for a workshop on this because everyone had a lot of questions.

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

**23. Approval of the Local Hurricane Housing Recovery Program Funding (LHHRPF)**

Mr. Lawson introduced above item and said this was for approval for the Board to accept \$3,005,000 for Gadsden County from the Local Hurricane Housing Recovery Program and for authorization for the Chairman to sign all related documents.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Chair Viegbesie said when they talk about the State Housing Initiative Partnership, there are limitations stipulated as to how and what can be done to rehabilitate the house because he receives calls and second his question was, could they, with the home repair, deviate if they have a shingle roof and want to put on metal roof on, could they pay the difference, could that be done.

Mr. Lawson said he believed if they are approved under the County's LHAP program, which this program required, they have to rehabilitate initially what was there. In order for audit purposes, they have to show the auditors they used the money as designated under the

County's LHAP program. He confirmed that with Ms. Lex and she agreed. Chair Viegbesie asked about paying the difference if they chose to go with the metal roof. Ms. Lex reappeared before the Board. She said they do provide the option if an individual wanted to include an upgrade and they would price a replacement for the roof and would indicate in the contract what the County would pay and the homeowner would have to indicate they were willing to pay the difference if they wanted the upgrade. She said there were mechanisms to allow for the upgrade.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was part of the money that was coming from the Federal Government and Mr. Lawson responded no.

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

**24. UF/IFAS Gadsden County Multipurpose Facility**

Moved to 13a

**CLERK OF COURT**

**25. Updates**

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**26. Updates**

Mr. Lawson said he forwarded copies of the applications that were received for the County Administrator position to the Commissioners and six met the minimum qualifications that the Board set and asked whether the Board wanted to move forward with those six or if they wanted to give Staff additional directions on how to proceed with them.

Chair Viegbesie said he had read the applications and felt they had six potential applicants and suggested they allow Administrator and staff to eliminate one and bring five before the Board for interviews and then could drop to three. It was suggested to the Commissioners when they do get a County Administrator to let them do their work.

Commissioner Taylor said they were independent commissioners and all have their own opinion and she would not be dictated to by another Commissioner.

Chair Viegbesie said whether he was Chair or not, the comments he made he would make, the gavel does not make him make the comments he would make them no matter what and he wanted that on the record.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the information Mr. Lawson sent out and felt the issues he heard being discussed regarding the applicants, one thing he had reservations about unless he overlooked it was the lack of day to day operational experience as a County Administrator and it concerned him. He said his recommendation was they needed someone that has that, particularly where they were and recommended they rebid this and look at the qualifications again to see if they were appropriate for what and who they were trying to have

as a County Administrator.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to interview the ones that made the cut and put them in different offices and visit with them.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Morgan and felt they needed someone that was seasoned.

Commissioner Holt said some that had applied had experience, she googled them. She said she was ready to vote.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO INTERVIEW THE SIX CANDIDATES AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson said when he first got it and looked at the qualifications and was curious, why not narrow it down to three and go with the top three and move forth from that point and that would be the only way he would vote for it.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO THE TOP THREE CANDIDATES AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS SECOND.**

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

**MOTION PASSED 3-2**

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**27. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had no updates but was available for questions and there were none.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked Mr. Lawson and staff for beautifying the area and asked that they cut (grass) back to the poles.

He said he noticed when they leave District One, it took a long time before they come back and the Board voted for a work program and at one point had around 200 inmates that would help with the cleaning instead of going to jail and wondered why it took so long and how they could make it more effective.

Chair Viegbesie asked to make sure on the next Agenda to add the Attorney contract and the



Citizens Bill of Rights that was asked by Commissioner Taylor.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he received information regarding traffic and signage issues on the Attapulcus Highway and said Chair Viegbesie may be aware of them since they were in his District. Chair Viegbesie said he had received a call regarding the speed limit.

He wanted to mention the status of Juniper Creek Road and was very aware of issues there and appreciated the proactivity of Public Works and how they have responded to that. Also Justin Ford had stayed for this and he had been in front of it and hoped he could come forward and give an overview of where they were with this matter and how they were moving forward on this.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry** appeared before the Board. He said they met with Public Works and the State was in the process of awarding \$300,000 for Roadway improvements associated with Storm Damage as a part of an appropriation package and they were proposing it be the opportunity to utilize the funding because it was the most impacted roadway in the County from the storm associated from the debris trucks. He said the Funding won't cover the repairs necessary on that road but Commissioner Morgan was willing to add additional funds from his remaining paving funds and that will get them to the point to put a band aid on the road. He said they have applied for funding from the State earlier this year and won't know the status until around October or November if the permanent funding but be available but this would put a band aid on the road to get it by and it was in terrible shape. He said it was basically an unpaved road currently.

Commissioner Morgan said the reason he mentioned this, it was a safety issue there and there is a lot of traffic there.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she was receiving calls regarding that road also.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 9:31 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said she was receiving calls regarding assault weapons and she asked him to provide them with open carry laws so they could respond when asked.

She said each Board member needed to select one person for the Census committee.

She said they also need a workshop on Disaster Recovery, what they have applied for and what they could still apply for.

She said it was legal to grow hemp in Florida and she and another Commissioner from Leon County along with the Apalachee Regional Planning Council would be having a workshop in Jackson County. She said it was not for consumption but more for construction use and supposedly it would be the new crop in Florida that would be producing quite a bit of money and some of the Commissioners in the group believe it could help them with their recovery. She said FAMU was doing research and she was asking if they would have it in Tallahassee and if so, it would be large enough to house everyone.

She said there was a call for a sign for Sawdust.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked if they could use their paving funds for sidewalks and Justin Ford reappeared before the Board.

He said they have done a couple of projects and said they received proposals last week for Strong Road from engineers to design the first half of that sidewalk.

She asked if they heard what Mr. Darmody said when asked about CareerSource, he said he received absolutely nothing from them, nothing. She said she wanted to look at the funding they have been doing with CareerSource because every time they give their report it is a blanket report, it represents every County, and do not know individually what Gadsden County is getting.

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

Chair Viegbesie asked for a motion to present a Resolution for Jimmy Salter for the Sheriff's Office

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.  
THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Chair Viegbesie had two items he presented to the Administrator that he asked they come do a presentation on at a meeting.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED  
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:44 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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, FL ON AUGUST 20, 2019 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  
Wesley Hall , Assistant County Administrator  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to silence their phones.

Pastor Curtiss Cain, United Methodist Church, Havana, FL gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Wesley Hall, Assistant County Administrator, asked to pull Item 7 from the Agenda.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. June 4, 2019-EMS/Fire Workshop
  - b. June 18, 2019-Regular Meeting
2. Approval to Accept the FY 2019 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report
3. Approval of Engagement Letter

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

4. Public Hearing: Adoption of Resolution No.: 2019-022, a Resolution of the Board of County

**Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida approving the interlocal agreement with the Florida Development Finance Corporation; authorizing the Florida Development Finance Corporation to exercise its powers as set forth in Chapter 288, Part x, Florida Statutes; and providing an effective date.**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and stated it was to adopt a resolution to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDFC) authorizing them to exercise its powers as set forth in Chapter 288, Part X, Florida Statutes, including the authority to issue bonds for the purpose of financing or refinancing capital projects within the County that promote development.

Chair Viegbesie announced it was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the audience.

**Todd Mitchell, Division Manager for Waste Pro**, appeared before the Board and was in favor of this and asked the Board take this into consideration. He said this was an avenue for them to be able to get lower interest rate on their bonds and it would then allow them to build their infrastructure and purchase trucks at a lower interest rate. He asked that the Board take this into consideration and it would help them and any other industry that was in the Gadsden County area.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:03 p.m.*

Commissioner Morgan asked that the County Attorney or the Assistant County Administrator explain this.

Mr. Weiss explained Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDFC) was developed by a legislative act and has certain powers under the act including allowing the FDFC to issue revenue bonds to finance capital projects that promote economic development in the State of Florida but they can only do so if they have entered into a Interlocal Agreement with the Local Interlocal Governmental Agency in which the project is located. He further FDFC would like to be able to issue bonds for projects within the County specifically the WastePro capital improvement project that was just referenced and in order to do so the County would have to authorize that. He said the County would not be issuing any bonds, just allowing the corporation to issue bonds within the County and there is an attorney present that was representing FDFC in case they had more specific questions.

The Attorney representing FDFC appeared before the Board and further explained everything to the Board members.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Attorney if there would be a negative impact to the County and Mr. Weiss stated no.

Commissioner Holt asked Waste Pro what they would use the funds for and Mr. Mitchell said for infrastructure and trucks.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 5. Adoption of Resolution No. 2019-023, authorizing the Chairperson to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying County property located at 306 Washington Street, Chattahoochee, FL, Parcel ID No. 1-33-4N-6W-0000-00212-1400 to the City of Chattahoochee for the public or community interest and welfare**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Resolution No, 2019-023 authorizing the Chairperson to execute a Quitclaim Deed conveying property located at 306 Washington Street, Chattahoochee, FL, Parcel ID No. 1-33-4N-6W-0000-00213-1400 to the City of Chattahoochee for the public or community interest and welfare.

**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.**

- 6. Approval to Extend the Lease Agreement with the Gadsden County School Board for Dental Equipment**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to lease dental equipment that was currently located at Havana Magnet School to the Gadsden County School Board.

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

- ~~7. Ratification of Agreement with iWorQ Systems, Inc.~~**

Item Pulled

- 8. Adoption of Resolution No. 2019-024, approving the agreement with the City of Quincy for the transfer of title to a 2005 Mack CV713 Granit Dump Truck to the City of Quincy as payment in full for utility service charges associated with the relocation of utilities at the Barack Obama Roundabout at Martin Luther King Boulevard and the installation of lighting on the entire length of Jefferson Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard; and authorizing the Chairperson to execute the Agreement and all documents necessary to transfer title to the Dump Truck**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Resolution No. 2019-024 approving the agreement with the City of Quincy for the transfer of title to a 2005 Mack CV713 Granite Dump Truck to the City of Quincy as payment in full for utility service charges associated with the relocation of utilities at the Barack Obama Roundabout at Martin Luther King Boulevard and the installation of lighting on the entire length of Jefferson Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard and for authorization for the Chair to execute the Agreement and all documents necessary to transfer title to the Dump Truck.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

- 9. Discussion and Action Regarding the County Attorney Contract**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for discussion and action regarding the County Attorney contract.

Commissioner Taylor said this was brought before the Board some time back some time back and

at that time she was not in favor of addressing the contract because she felt the timing was not in the best interest. But after a few meetings passed, and after one in particular, she observed some actions from the Attorney and she stated those concerns and felt the Board was not being represented equally. She felt on certain items there was favoritism shown by the attorney, in particular that night, she felt the Attorney was very aggressive that night. She said she even cautioned that this was a Board discussion but he was adamant at that time on gaveling the meeting and have witnessed on several occasions where she felt his opinion may or may not be valid. He and I had several phone calls after some of those meetings because she wanted to let him know her feelings in hopes going forward the behavior would resolve itself and he assured her his best intentions were to do the will of the Board and administer his ruling or his opinion in a justified manner. She stated she has seen a difference on some occasions. She said she had a chance to research the contract agreement to see how long the contract was in place and opted to wait until budgeting time to look at it. She said it would not come up for renewal until January 2020 and felt it was too long to wait. She said there were also issues with him getting back with them in a timely manner on things. She asked for discussion.

Commissioner Morgan said he was going to look at it from a different point of view and could not disagree more. He thought they had had excellent representation from the firm and the advice that had been provided had been consistent, the value brought to the County has been excellent, and thought they were very fortunate for this firm who employs a good number of Gadsden County folks and Mr. Weiss specifically has done a really great job, prior to him Ms. Minnis did a great job and they are invested in the County and at this time based on the projects moving forward, and the fact that the County is post-storm Category 5 situation with so many issues hanging over the County's head and the fact that there is a search for a County Administrator going on he felt it was a terrible time for them to be considering a different law firm. He said he could build on what he said before when they made a mistake switching out the County Administrator at the wrong time, they were making a mistake now considering switching out when we disagree with the Attorney and he gives advice we do not like. He strongly recommended not making any changes to the County Attorney because it would impact how they moved forward with the Hospital because of the fact the representation they receive through the firm in that capacity as well and said he could not disagree more with what he heard in the prior remarks.

Commissioner Holt said any concerns she had with the attorney she mentioned to him and mentioned any concerns to the Board on any subjects. At the time of the contract renewal, she did bring up to the Board to bid the contract and it made sense to her because then they would not have to pay out any remaining part of the contract. She added they were already doing that for one position now and it did not make any sense to pay out the contract.

Mr. Weiss said he serves at the pleasure of the Board, there is a 30 day notice period and certainly would be a notice period to wind-down and transition period but there would be no amounts due beyond the work he actually did. He said he was sorry if anyone ever had the impression that he showed any type of favoritism to anyone on the Board, he did not think that he did, he felt his opinions were given without respect to who was asking the question, he believed he was consistent and equal and fair and was his job and role and served at the pleasure of the Board and have appreciated the opportunity to do any and hoped he could continue to represent the Board in the future.

Commissioner Holt said once he was done working throughout the contract or what they needed

done and that would be the end of their pay, she was concerned about one thing, the post-hurricane preparedness meeting with EMS and Fire. She said they have so many things on the table. She said they have to stand still long enough to go after the funding and make sure they were doing things correctly. She said she was not saying he was the best one, she was saying they needed to be stable long enough to go after the funding.

Commissioner Taylor said the money that the County is rightfully owed through FEMA is already designated for this County. Yes, the Attorney was a part of the process, but not a major part. She said she could see where they were going and understood from being around the dais the meaning to the madness. When they started the budget process for 2018/19, programs were cut but the attorney's contract was increased and they approved it. She added that the billing had an upsurge and they were charging more now. She said a comment was made about making an error in dismissing the previous Administrator; it was not an error that they did that; everything has a season and a reason for it and what they did needed to be done at the time. She said she had no dislike, no disrespect and did not mean any if it was being conveyed and was not where she was at. She just felt strongly at this time they needed a change for more reasons than she cared to state and they needed to look at this closely or it would cost them down the line. She wanted to go on record tonight saying that.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not think it was the message, it was the messenger. He said he believed in doing what was right. He said they had to go through the process.

Commissioner Holt asked what process, when this came up before she said to bid the contract and she was serious about it. She said she was worried about this process.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a point in time where he expressed his concerns with this and from his point of view, the attorney made his adjustments. He said they were still going through a learning process and they were in a contract with the law firm. He said if there was any reason they felt they needed to switch attorneys, the law firm had other attorneys they could put in place. He said the services with this firm ends in February and there were some litigations going on and there were other things going on and they need to consider as a Board, to wait until the contract expires and see what firms or attorneys they could get.

Commissioner Hinson said the attorney did not handle litigation, the insurance company did.

Chair Viegbesie asked about the ADA lawsuit that was just settled.

Mr. Weiss said with respect to litigation, it depended on if there was coverage under the County's insurance policy. For most of the things the County is sued for, there is coverage and when there is, the insurance company has the right to appoint counsel to represent the County and the right to settle claims. Typically, his firm did not handle anything that was covered under the insurance policy. They did handle things that were not covered under the policy and then represent the Board. He did want to respond to some issues that were mentioned. He stood behind statements that he did not show favoritism toward any one Commissioner and was sorry if anyone did have that impression. With respect to timeliness and the amount of attorney's fees, that is largely a function, if he did not receive something until the last minute or at all, he was unable to address it and was numerous times with contracts, Ordinances, Resolutions and things that were put on the Agenda and published and he saw them at the same time the Commissioners saw them. With

terms to the attorney fees, they get a certain number of hours under their retainer agreement where they bill at a significantly reduced rate and when they go over, they bill at a significantly reduced rate once the retainer hours were exhausted and they do everything they can to reduce their hours.

Commissioner Taylor said in summation: the County would not have to pay out a contract; there is no responsibility from him in regard to Hurricane Michael in them being able to get the dollars that the County was deemed; he does not litigate. She said the Chair had concerns about lawsuits and she said in February when the contract has matured, there will be lawsuits; the County could not stop that. The legal fees, one of the Commissioners said in comparison to other legal representation in the past, this firm's fees were less. She said if they continued with this firm the way their fees were increasing, they would be near the concerns they had previously with the old firm. She wanted to bring these concerns up but she heard the majority of the Board. She said she would be very supportive of it going out for bid and looking for another agency and would not put it on the floor. She asked they make sure to put the contract up for bid.

Commissioner Morgan said this came down to they were not getting answers they wanted to hear from certain positions around the dais or key positions with the County; they look at the person not the situation, they did not look at who was qualified to do what, they just want the next person in line to give an answer that they wanted to hear. He said they were a policy making Board. They should have people challenge them on things and who are expertise in certain areas; whether it be a County Administrator with experience, whether it be an Attorney with experience, whether it be a key person in a supervisory position with day-to-day operations. This is a policy making Board, just because they did not get the answers they wanted to hear did not mean they drop the hammer and go to the next guy and that was what this was about.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he supported this, he thought it was right. If they bid this out today, they have less than five months and the time is now to start bidding; because they need time to vet and time to search.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the search should begin now so in February if they decide to not continue with the law firm they currently had, they would have one to go, and Commissioner Hinson said yes.

Commissioner Holt said if the Board was sued, FAC always chose the attorney to represent the County and she was not voting to get rid of anyone at this time that stood between them and them recovering any money.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Taylor asked to have this agendaed to go through the process correctly and have this bided. Chair Viegbesie asked they finish this item and bring that up under her comments.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO PLACE THAT ON THE AGENDA AND  
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked them to consider how they, as a Board treat the contractual relationship they have not only with the County Attorney but with the Administrator and some of



the other positions because that determines who responds in the future and they have seen limited response based on how the County government managed existing relationships, whether it be with vendors, attorneys or Administrators or any other positions they contract with. He encouraged her. He said he had no problem with bidding this out at the end of the term and going through the process and if Ausley chose to respond at that time, that would be great, and if they chose not to, he understood, but to let this come to the full-term and at that point, address that as needed. The decisions made today determine who would respond to these situations in the future as far as establishing relationships with the County. He said there was no reason to further limit who would respond to doing business with them. He said this would affect them in the future.

Chair Viegbesie said that was his understanding of what Commissioner Hinson was saying.

Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Taylor to restate the motion.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID TO START THE BIDDING PROCESS, IN THE EVENT IT TAKES UP TO FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, SHE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THAT BUT WANTED TO START THE PROCESS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT WOULD RUN THE FULL TERM OF THE CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AGREED. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO START THE BIDDING PROCESS.**

**10. Approval to allow the Gadsden County Health Department to utilize existing County building**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval to commit the existing County building and site utilized by the Gadsden County Health Department for renovations and/or construction funding through the Florida Legislature.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:02 p.m.*

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

**11. Approval of a Task Order for Green Shade Fire Department**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a task order for architectural services for the Green Shade Fire Station. He stated the facility would accommodate the Green Shade Volunteer Fire Station and a Gadsden County Emergency Management Services two-man crew.

Chair Viegbesie asked if funding was in the current fiscal year budget and Mr. Hall said yes.

Commissioner Taylor said she saw some Green Shade citizens here. She asked if the fire Station was coded for fire trucks now. Mr. Hall stated it was. Commissioner Taylor said she heard the way it was built it was not currently coded to have fire trucks in it by State regulations.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:03 p.m.*

She asked if there was a concern previously. Mr. Hall said the concern was the depth of the concrete in the slab and they had to cut a hole in the slab to measure and it needed to be 4 inches or above and it was actually 7 1/2 inches and it was strong enough and deep enough to support the

weight of a fire truck.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**12. Approval of a Task Order for Green Shade Fire Department**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for a task order for pre-construction services from Riley Palmer for the Green Shade Fire Station and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

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

**CLERK OF COURT**

**13. Updates**

Mr. Thomas wanted to mention some emails he sent them last week. The first one was related to the EMS Ordinance that did not pass at the last meeting. He said since that Ordinance did not pass, Finance was forced to back money out of the fund and that will cause a shortfall and will need to be made up from the General Fund. As he reviewed the last version of their budget for fiscal year 2020, they once again was budgeting that surtax money and he encouraged them to not do that because they had not passed the Ordinance, they would therefore be passing an unbalanced budget because they could not put that money in the fund.

The second thing, for the record, he emailed them a Cash Balance report showing about \$19 Million with everything combined and an Investment Report showing where the monies were invested and the interest rates.

Commissioner Taylor said he mentioned the 1 cent Discretionary sales tax they did not approve. She apologized for missing the meeting and she had concerns with EMS with guns on their sides. She asked based on the meeting this afternoon, were they still planning on doing that and Chair Viegbesie said no. She asked this be scheduled. Mr. Weiss said it would be on the next agenda for September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to be very careful, there was a 4" rain in Quincy and Public Works guys were very important, if you could not get to the spot, there was no reason for EMS.

Commissioner Holt said on the EMS funding, it was mentioned today they were strapped for money. She asked about the 24 or 48 hour shifts and suggested to lure more people to come because a lot of them do not want to work those shifts, she asked about 12 hour shifts to see if that was an enticement. She said they were strapped for money and Road and Bridge was strapped for money.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**14. Updates**

Mr. Hall said he had no updates.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the grass cutting and asked that the Administrator look into it. Mr. Hall said they had a meeting earlier this week and they were working on it and also the flooding issues.

Commissioner Taylor asked why the CBOR was not on the Agenda. Mr. Weiss said there was not enough advertising time and explained an Ordinance had to be advertised 10 days prior to adoption.

Chair Viegbesie said with regard to mowing, maybe they could set aside money next year to hire subcontractors during the growing months so help with the grass cutting.

Commissioner Morgan said to remember also the wet weather prohibits cutting in some areas.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **15. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was happy to answer questions.

Commissioner Taylor asked about litigation with regard to the former administrator. Mr. Weiss said no lawsuit has been filed to his knowledge; there was a Notice of Claim filed and it was referred to the insurance company and was currently under investigation.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said they had a County Jail work program in 2016 and had 200+ people working in the program and that could possibly help with the grass cutting.

#### **Customer Service**

He said they need to be respectful. The morale was low and they need to train leaders. Mr. Hall said they were looking into having consultants come in.

He said he was receiving phone calls from people and churches for dirt.

He said they needed to be proactive on flooding and cleaning out the culverts.

He said they needed to pray about the Summer Youth Employment Program going into the next budget meeting; they took 125 jobs away last year and hoped they could bring them back.

He said he had received a lot of phone calls concerning roofing and they took away \$100,000 last budget for emergency housing and it was helping seniors and disabled people in the community and people were having issues with their roofs.

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

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Salvation Army Non-Profits- she said she had discussed this before.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 7:33 p.m.*

If you put non-profits under them, they said they would take them and they could generate money. They said they would handle the Summer Youth; CareerSource came before them and said they would handle them as they do in Leon County. She added if they put the money they had into CareerSource, they levy that against State and Federal money, they get funded. She further stated if this did not work, they could always go back to doing it the old way.

She said the phones were out at Road and Bridge and she spoke with the Assistant Administrator and they had received a lot of phone calls because people were unable to reach them. She said they needed to look at TDS, the phone provider, in case it happened again, they could bring in some phones.

She also mentioned that she has asked for a post-hurricane meeting and they need to have emergency packs at fire stations. She said they were trapped at the Emergency Management Center and Road and Bridge tried to get equipment that was located at the Road and Bridge department and they could not get there because of downed trees.

**Permitting Process**

She said she received a lot of phone calls regarding this. She did not think they should vote on this until they know how this would affect the citizens. She said the legal side of that is you could not get funding if the property was not in the person's name.

She mentioned again that the County had \$350,000 for Housing that they get for Emergency Housing and United Way also had money for housing. She said if people had not called, they needed to call the County Housing Department and they could send them to the United Way.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to look at Big Bend Consortium, they could not play politics. He said they gave Boys and Girls Club \$225,000 and they represent the Big Bend and a majority of the funding went to Tallahassee. Chair Viegbesie interjected and said last year the Board gave \$101,000 and that was a big difference and they should be accurate in giving figures. Commissioner Hinson said he said this was last year.

He thanked Commissioner Holt for bringing this up and reiterated they needed to have a strong workshop regarding permits. He said too many people were called about that. He said there were also a lot of phone calls about homeowners losing their insurance because of their roofs.

He said he was at Midway today and he was told EMS was no longer located there and said that never came to the Board. He asked what the issue was and why it was removed from Midway and without Board approval and where the money went to when the Board allocated \$300,000 a year for that.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor echoed the same sentiments on the summer youth jobs going through CareerSource. She said the last time they did that, CareerSource took most of the money from the

kids and did not think it was beneficial.

She said she has had so many phone calls from employees with issues and have directed them to the Interim Administrator and said they have “been kicked down the road and nothing is happening”.

She said she got a call from a woman that said she was taken to court and was trying to open up a business because of an over-flow area and it being made contaminated and when you’re putting monkey wrench put in when trying to open businesses trying to open doors and hire people and pay tax dollars so (the County) can provide services, she did not understand. She said there were departments that were slowing down businesses for whatever reasons; they need to look within their coffers at some of these processes that take people forever to turn dirt and when they do turn dirt, they get stop work orders; putting locks on ice machines; employees’ morale is low; our employees provide service and if they were not feeling positive about what they were doing , what kind of service were we providing to the community if they did not feel the support of their superiors.

She said they needed a change and needed to make things happen as soon as possible. She said what they were looking for in their next Administrator was someone to help boost morale, boost growth and development, someone that knows FEMA, that knows Gadsden County, that has resources, someone that has been around, been here and get this County back to where we were. She stated in her humble opinion, this County was in a state of emergency.

She said she wanted to put on the floor tonight to hire Robert Presnell back in order to bring stability and morale and get this County back on its feet to where it needed to go and in doing so, still go after those three or four names and bring them in and allow them to train alongside him. She said in regard to the County Administrator, “the can is being kicked down the road”. She asked when the three names from the applications for County Administrator would come before the Board. She said she would bring back Robert’s name at every meeting until she got three votes.

Chair Viegbesie said it was in the hands of HR and the Interim County Administrator.

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

Chair Viegbesie said his comments would be very unpopular and thought provoking.

“1. Mr. Attorney, do we have a policy and procedure in place regarding the Interim qualifications for any positions while a permanent search is being looked for and the Interim decides not to accept the permanent position. What happens interim, do they automatically go back to their original position, do we have a policy in place to address that?”

Mr. Weiss said he would need to look at the Personnel policy.

Chair Viegbesie said every Commissioner receives phone calls and have ears.

“2. After hearing as many complaints as I have heard from contractors I am strongly suggesting for an Independent Party to audit all County Contracts for the past five years; to ensure transparency and integrity in our county government.”

“3. There is no doubt that Integrity in government requires checks and balances. On that ground, there is a sincere need for ethics compliance in our County government. I truly hope that anyone in this government or community who observes an appearance of any form of unethical activities, behaviors or improprieties in our government will make it his/her responsibility to ensure the integrity of ethical behaviors by filing ethics complaints with the Florida Commission on Ethics. This is holding your elected officials and employees accountable.

The number to the Florida Commission on Ethics is 850 488 7864. Let the FCE, upon investigation let the Florida Dept. on Ethics exonerate or indict the alleged violator. No one should hesitate to file a complaint on me if they see anything I did that is unethical. .

As for me, I am making a promise to the people of Gadsden County that I will file a complaint if I observe any appearance or any indications of improprieties in our government; be it with Staff or fellow Commissioners. This is absolutely not a threat on anyone. Rather, it is an absolute promise. I do not throw stones and hide my hand. Thanks.”

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said for United Way, they set up the committee so the money would not go to Tallahassee and the same with CareerSource, they monitor the money with that. Also with the work crews with cutting, at one time they hired a fourth crew to help with the cutting.

She encouraged citizens to look at YouTube at Gadsden Community Hospital and it would show what is in the hospital and should be there.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:09 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSION HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY  
ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 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**  
                  **Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Invocation.

*Commissioner Morgan arrived at 6:02 p.m.*

He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:03 p.m.*

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lawson said there were no amendments to the Agenda.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Budget Overview and Discussion**

Mr. Lawson said he was presenting the Board with a balanced budget of \$52,602,611 and in order to balance they would have to draw down approximately \$1,550,000 from General Funds. He added if nothing changed, they were putting selves in a very critical state.

Commissioner Taylor said he mentioned a drawdown of \$1.5 Million plus, she said the amount on the front page was \$550,000 and asked the amount needed. Mr. Lawson said Mr. Price would explain.

Mr. Price in the original plan was based on the September 30, 2018 Fund balance audit of approximately \$4 Million; they put \$850,000 into a fund for Hurricane Michael expenditures leaving approximately \$3.1 Million. Both the current budget and next year’s budget were built on having 1/3 of the surtax included in both budgets and based on that they only needed to draw down \$550,000 assuming they had surtax in both years and that would have left an estimated fund balance of approximately \$2.6 Million. He said they still have \$4 Million they began with in hurricane money but the actions the Board took on September 2<sup>nd</sup> where they took the surtax away from EMS and made retroactive meant the General Fund has to subsidize and transfer to

EMS for FY 19 approximately \$1 Million and also for the next fiscal year and was where the \$1.55 comes from and leaves an estimated fund balance of approximately \$600,000.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that surtax not being approved was the reason why this was being reverted. Mr. Price said that was used last budget year to balance EMS and the budget as a source of income that was not from the General Fund but was surtax. Mr. Lawson said it was little over \$800,000 that was allocated to EMS.

Commissioner Morgan asked the current balance of the Hurricane Michael fund that was set up and Mr. Price said approximately \$150,000.

Commissioner Taylor said at a previous meeting if they had approved the \$800,000, then they would not have a deficit, but now they have \$1 Million deficit. She said since they did not do that, today they have \$1 Million and she thought the \$800,000 was based on his presentation would have not caused a deficit with EMS but then it would be balanced but today he was saying...

Mr. Lawson said they have another month of operation to go. Commissioner Taylor said the numbers were not jiving with her. She understood that EMS was on track of recovering a greater part of their debt and they had put a system in place that now, better than ever before, were able to collect, and did not understand how they got \$1.55 Million for the year 2019/2020. Mr. Lawson said this was an estimate of what they will have to supplement EMS for this current budget year. Mr. Lawson asked Mr. Price how precise was \$1 Million that they would need to supplement. Mr. Price said they did improve their billing and collections, and brought in more money but not enough to cover all the expenses; the \$800,000 from surtax was an estimate that the State provided actually came in higher; they got more money from the surtax and that helped in FY 2020 approximately \$892,000 that would have gone to EMS. He said the surtax itself has gone up for all three, Public Works, Fire and EMS.

Chair Viegbesie asked for clarification was this part of the shortfall fir running EMS for the 2018/2019 fiscal year plus the 2019/20 fiscal year and if so, why did EMS have a shortfall from this fiscal year that was currently under operation that did not end until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Price said the shortfall was because the surtax was taken away from them.

Commissioner Hinson said he heard a few months ago that EMS was in the black. Mr. Lawson said they were supplementing their budget with 1/3 of the surtax. Commissioner Hinson asked who gave them permission to do that. Mr. Lawson said it was way the FY 18/19 budget was built; they approved the budget last year with 1/3 of surtax in there with anticipation of when they brought the Ordinance to the Board that it would be approved. The Ordinance was brought before the Board four times and failed each time. Therefore, it is now the end of the fiscal year and Finance had to back that money out and was why all of a sudden there was a deficit. Commissioner Hinson asked for information to show that and Mr. Lawson said it was in the public records. Commissioner Hinson then said he remembered it, he did not remember what the date was.

Commissioner Holt said they approved the budget last year, had workshops with presentations, one with partial privately owned ran EMS, one with privately ran EMS and one that was new up and running and they compared Leon County, Santa Rosa County and another County. They all came here and presented so they could look at it and when they were done, some of the Commissioners were not there and she asked Leon County if they would be willing to come back



and present to show the full Board what they had done in order to start generating funds and to make their EMS profitable. After that, it was brought to board and the Board agreed to fund EMS until this year.

Commissioner Taylor said she believed this was a situation similar to when they voted to give the workers the money for the overtime from last year. She doesn't believe the talk last year was as transparent as it is this year. She did not think they had that conversation regarding the surtax last year. She asked to speak with the EMS Director regarding the budget.

Chair Viegbesie said, while Mr. Maddox was coming forward, why he asked the question, he wanted it to come from the Financial Manager as to how the \$800,000 impacted the 2018/2019 budget that was going over into the 2019/2020 budget because they had that conversation as to how the money would split three ways and that was a part of the budget process last fiscal year and wanted that comment on record before Mr. Maddox answered Commissioner Taylor's potential questions.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not recall him being here this time last year. He said he came on board in December. She asked him if he understood the quagmire situation that the Board was in with trying to balance the budget and using the funds for EMS as well as Road and Bridge and Fire. She asked if he had an actual budget for 2018/2019. He said not with him. He said he came in December and they picked up from there. Commissioner Taylor said he was asking for \$1 Million for that particular period for 2018/2019. Mr. Lawson explained he was not asking for it, the Board had to do this because of decisions that were made. Commissioner Taylor said if there was \$1 Million deficit, they needed to understand where it came from, they were collecting more but the debt was higher. She said they have always covered around \$700,000 - \$800,000 debt with regards to EMS and now at \$1 Million but they were collecting more and the numbers were not jiving for her. Mr. Lawson said over the years the Board has always supplemented EMS to the total of anywhere between \$700,000 to \$1 Million plus, it depended on the year and even though they were doing well with collections but there have had increases with staff and operational costs in terms of salaries and benefits and even though they were collecting more, the operational costs in terms of personnel and those things have also gone up. Commissioner Taylor said they need to see some actual numbers regarding the expenditures from 2018/2019 year to date. She said she did not want his department to be under a strain. Mr. Maddox said he could turn things around.

Mr. Maddox said they have made huge improvements and the staff has helped him get there, they have a plan and it was working and they have to continue forward.

Commissioner Hinson said this issue was not directly to EMS, but since December, someone took EMS from Midway and put citizens at risk. How can it be a deficit with the funding and what happened to the \$350,000? How can staff put people at risk, it becomes a legal issue. He asked Mr. Lawson if he could answer that question.

Mr. Lawson said they had a unit housed at the new fire station. The City of Midway was renting out the fire station for functions almost every weekend and each time EMS had to leave and afterwards it was not properly cleaned and was in disarray and not a stable location for EMS staff. The \$300,000 was still in the budget because the staff is still working because staff still has to be paid. Commissioner Hinson asked why. Mr. Lawson asked why staff was still working. Commissioner Hinson said staff was there first, they were in that spot before making that decision

and then once they made that decision, the Board made that decision and things like that needs to come to the Board and the Board make that decision, not staff. It never came to the Board. He said he did not think Staff should make those decisions without the Board being made aware or voting to change it.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt tension with the Director and said she knew the importance with the EMS staff. She said she was trying to figure out the best way to get things done.

Chair Viegbesie said given the Midway operation was removed temporarily, was any staff at Midway, did they lose their job? Mr. Lawson said no. Chair Viegbesie said the only adverse action was the response time and Mr. Lawson agreed. Chair Viegbesie asked if the difficulties with the City of Midway had been resolved and Mr. Lawson said not yet. Chair Viegbesie asked who owned the building; the County or the City and Mr. Lawson said the City. Chair Viegbesie said they would have to find way to work with the municipalities as to how to use their facilities.

Commissioner Hinson said maybe the County could meet with the City because citizens think they have EMS there.

Chair Viegbesie said maybe the Interim could make arrangements for the Board and the City of Midway to have a joint meeting regarding this matter of EMS services.

Commissioner Taylor said he gave segue into what she was going to ask, there needs to be a contractual agreement that covers the County.

Commissioner Holt said with Midway that was something they need to do, but if they were going to move to Midway, as they should with other towns anyway, if they were going to do that, they need to have town hall meetings and need to have contracts and have deliverables. She then asked to move on with the Agenda.

### **Possible Solutions**

Commissioner Hinson asked what the Elders position was. Mr. Lawson explained it was the Director of Elder Affairs that was requested to be put in the budget. Commissioner Hinson said this was his first time hearing of this. Mr. Lawson explained in some of the previous workshops, some of the Commissioners asked for this.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a tough situation for everyone. If they could not pay their own bills, how could they pay someone else's bills? He thought with the Summer Youth jobs, they did not need to touch, but get rid of anything else. They could revisit the last one in November, but with everything else, if he got two votes, he would vote yes.

Chair Viegbesie said it was necessary that bleeding has to stop, only thing they were going to have serious problem with was the additional 5% of the Constitutional Officers current budget. He said that was coming out of the current operational budget, the 2018/2019 budget and Mr. Lawson said that was correct. He said the last was to re-establish the surtax. Mr. Lawson said it would be the same item that was brought before them the earlier part of the month to split it three ways and would be the less painful way to try and supplement the budget with as less pain as possible to re-establish that to help them support EMS without having to go into the Fund balance. He said

it was a Board decision.

Commissioner Morgan said what they have done was base two of the last fiscal years' on an ordinance change to fund EMS services and selected to keep the existing EMS model with some enhancements based on that and then recently not passed the ordinance that put them in this predicament. He said the options they have was to address the Ordinance and pass it with a super majority vote or do an across the board 5% cut of the \$52 Million budget and that would generate what they need to do to get this done. He said he did not understand the difficulty in passing the Ordinance as it has been presented in support of the Clerk's Office but they were where they were. She said they certainly could not reach out to the Constitutionals and ask them to cut 5% from their budget because they did not legislate properly based on the two fiscal budgets they made. He said it was not difficult, there were decisions to make.

Commissioner Taylor said looking at the County buildings (in the Budget book) and there is \$1.5 Million budgeted for County buildings. Where is the increase going towards? Mr. Price said with Hurricane Michael, they had a number of buildings damaged and the insurance company paid them a dollar amount; they moved revenue, the amount of money that the insurance gave them (approximately \$600,000) over to Buildings so they could fix the buildings. She asked if anything there could be held off if the buildings were structurally strong enough. She said CRMC was giving \$400,000 back from the ½ cent tax, the indigent funds, with regards to EMS, those funds are to be used for indigent care, and would not EMS qualify for those funds to be used? Mr. Weiss said could not answer that question right now, he would find out. She asked if the rent received from CRMC used toward the debt services. She said she was also looking at the Library, she knew they had mandatory projects have to do per the State. Was that based on what the State mandated or could that wait and make sure EMS was taken care of. Mr. Lawson said if it was behind debt services that was the loan being paid on. She said there were places to take from without cutting the summer jobs. She said building repairs could possibly go for a while and use that for EMS.

Commissioner Holt said it was too late for this. She said she did not disagree with Commissioner Taylor. If they get an insurance claim, it must be used on that claim. If they go back now and not able to get the votes, they were going to have to cut positions to balance the budget. They need to make decisions today. If they passed the ½ cent, it would save the Road and Bridge, save the budge and allow the Board, they should have made cuts in June or July. She said they do not want to cut but they do not have a lot of options. She said she will put in a motion before they leave for the ½ cent sales tax and they can vote it up or down, this budget has to be turned in and they still have time to work around it.

Commissioner Hinson said citizens also have noticed they are investing a lot in advertising in all three newspapers.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:11 p.m.*

He said they invested \$300.000 over the past five years in advertising and that might be a way to cut some costs, they could use one paper. Chair Viegbesie said he had that conversation also.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 7:13 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie said in that conversation was people do not subscribe to all newspapers and they

were not being transparent if they advertise only in one newspaper. Commissioner Hinson said what was more important, the summer jobs or advertising, summer jobs was. In five years they spent almost \$300,000. Commissioner Hinson said they have two papers that covered the entire County, they could advertise in one or just advertise in the Democrat.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:16 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor said this is the time to make change. The Interim has presented some possible solutions.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:18 p.m.*

She said she was kind of where Commissioner Morgan was with across the board cuts so they could save the positions. Mr. Lawson said it would take \$1 Million for last year and \$1.5 Million for the next budget year and would leave a fund balance of only \$600,000. She asked if they look at 3% or 5% across the board cut for Constitutionals. Mr. Lawson said if they do that, the Departments would not be able to function and would lose employees. She said they still have the \$400,000 indigent care, she asked where the money was on Hurricane Michael. Mr. Lawson said money has been approved at the Federal level, but not at the County level. Commissioner Taylor said it was coming, as to the amount, they did not know. Mr. Lawson said was money will be coming to Gadsden County, but he could not say specifically how much it would be. He said the County was applying daily to FEMA but they could not base the budget on that.

Commissioner Morgan said regarding dollars on the hurricane, they were still waiting on Hurricane Irma. He further stated they were going to get some dollars, just did not know when and how much. He said if they go back to the Ordinance that they did not pass, if that did pass, most of their headaches were gone, but they based two budgets on the passing of that ordinance that did not pass and it caused this problem. They have a timeline to get this budget balanced and a limited number of meetings to get it done.

Chair Viegbesie said time was of the essence.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a solution, same as last year, how could they increase the increase. They increased the library administration but decreased the services, this year they did a great job of increasing everything. This year the jail maintenance, code enforcement, they increased departments throughout; why cut the Sheriff or the Clerk when they were increasing the Library. They need to go through line by line so they would not be in the blind. They have bridges falling down; kids can't get jobs, said to forget emergency housing for senior citizens but were increasing in other areas.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Lawson about the ½ cent surtax. She moved they approve the tax to be divided between the three departments. Chair Viegbesie said they could not do that. Mr. Weiss said it had to be advertised at least ten days. She asked if they could vote to advertise, Mr. Weiss said he did not think they needed a vote to do that. She said her suggested to the Board was to advertise the surtax and that would be their safety net and everything would work out fine. She said they could not cut the Constitutionals 5%; they could not cut the Board or the employees 5%; they could only possibly cut the programs and go back through the budget and that was why they started in June. She said she wanted to make sure they did not run up on October 1<sup>st</sup> with a

problem. She said another suggestion was, if they pass a balanced budget, there was nothing saying they could not move money around, but they have to pass a balanced budget.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they need to take look at the expenditures, hold off from increasing the budget and they may have \$6-7 Million in reserves.

Commissioner Holt suggested they take the budget and sit down with the Manager and Mr. Price and look over what could be cut.

Chair Viegbesie said line by line items have been in the book and the second book they have had.

Commissioner Morgan reiterated the past two fiscal budgets were funded based on a change in the ordinance. His suggestion was, if possible for them to reconsider making that change, pass the ordinance to fund these two budgets and then readdress the ordinance at a later time to give them time to look more thoroughly at it and make changes if necessary. Everything was based on that ordinance and has some pretty major projects with the communications systems and others going on in the County based on that. He said he was all about looking at the budget and making cuts. He said they need to have drastic cuts to the BOCC budget and expenditures.

Mr. Weiss said his understanding from the Clerk's Office was in order for the distribution of the proceeds of the Ordinance to apply, it had to be adopted no later than end of this fiscal year. He said he did look at the calendar and they could have a special meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> if the Board chose to do so. They still have to adopt a tentative millage rate and a tentative budget tonight and take public comments, if any. They have to adopt a final millage rate and a final budget on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and would be before they would consider the Ordinance.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **2. First Budget Public Hearing for Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate**

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Mr. Lawson stated this was the first of two required public hearings for fiscal year 2019/2020 budget. The fiscal year of 2019/2020 tentative budget has been formulated based on maintaining the current County-wide property tax rate of 8.9064 mills; the calculated rolled-back millage rate which was the property tax rate that generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year is 8.9261 mills, which is 0.0191 mills higher than the current rate of 8.9064 mills; the FY 2019/2020 tentative budget is \$52,602,611. Staff recommends first a motion for adoption of the proposed millage rate of 8.9064 mills for FY 2019/2020.

### **COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.**

Mr. Weiss said the percentage change was not mentioned of -0.22%. Mr. Lawson read into the record the current year proposed rate of 8.9064 mills as a percent change of the rolled-back rate is -0.022%.

Commissioner Hinson asked with the roll-back, would taxpayers pay more or less, Commissioner Morgan said it depended on the property value. Commissioner Hinson said he was asking the

Administrator because he was the one giving them the right information. Mr. Lawson said he reiterated what Commissioner Morgan said, it depended if the property value had gone up or down as to whether or not they would pay higher tax or not.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**3. Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020**

Mr. Lawson said the second motion for adoption of the tentative budget for FY 2019/2020 at \$52,602,611.

Commissioner Taylor said the difference between fiscal year 18/19 and fiscal year 19/20 is \$4,627,608 and was an increase and when she looked at them, there was only one she understood and was the \$600,000 insurance with regard to county buildings. She said she did not see and did ask if there were any other mandates they had to fund; they managed extremely well last year without increases, and said she would not support individual departments and then take away from the least of them. She said she identified off the cuff almost \$800,000, what was funny was the Building Inspection Department was asking for additional dollars and every other municipality was getting their own inspector so why was there a large budget for inspections. She said she would not support divvying up the surtax that was the wrong avenue. There is \$4 Million dollars there that they could look at with indigent care.

Commissioner Holt asked to balance the budget tonight required the cutting of programs tonight because they could not get the ½ cent. Mr. Lawson said it would help, they would not find the \$2.5 Million even if they cut the recommended items. She said if they approved this, it would be with those cuts and if they came back and decided they did not want those cuts, they could still change it then, do they need to vote yes or no and move on? Mr. Lawson said the \$52 Million, nothing had been cut yet, that was their recommended cuts, but they had not decided to cut anything, they were approving the \$52,602,611. Commissioner Holt said she moved approval of that and had another comment also.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AT \$52,602,611 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson said he concurred with Commissioner Taylor in voting against the budget like he did last year. They cut summer youth, emergency housing repairs for senior citizens, took out the funding for student aides, yet increased the budget by \$1.5 Million last year and now were trying to increase it this year by \$4 Million. He said last year they got rid of library services, they cut the services but increased the administration, and did not understand that. He said it was difficult for him to support this budget when the senior citizens needed some relief, just went through Hurricane Michael, peoples' houses have rain coming in, kids need jobs in the community, they cut 125 jobs from them and they need to look at why they were here, they were here to serve, not to help friends, here to serve kids, the senior citizens, serve the veterans, serve the

community as a whole, not just individuals and was why he could not support this.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Weiss if they failed to adopt a tentative budget this evening, how that would impact them in moving forward. Mr. Weiss said they have to adopt a tentative budget before they adopt a final budget and timewise, did not know if there was enough time at this point to have another public hearing for a tentative budget and then a public hearing for a final budget. Commissioner Morgan said in order to do their primary function, they needed to adopt a tentative budget, but supporting a tentative budget that did not in any way mean that they were supporting a final budget so if there were no changes and they did not support it, it simply failed until the next meeting and Mr. Weiss said that was correct. They could make changes to the tentative budget and then adopt the final. Commissioner Morgan said where they were now is they have a tentative County-wide budget that was balanced with unrestricted funds being brought down to \$600,000 if they adopt the tentative budget with no change. Without adopting the tentative budget, they cannot move forward in the process. He said he will not approve a final budget that draws down their fund balance to \$600,000. He said it was their duty to adopt a tentative budget tonight so they could move forward in the process. If not they were not doing their job. He said there was a motion on the floor but it did not sound like there was any give in moving forward and the only way to move forward was to adopt the tentative fiscal year budget based on the information in front of them. He said they did not have much of a decision to make at this point; otherwise they were not doing their primary function. He said for them to make sure they heard what he was saying; he would support the motion on the floor tonight so they could move forward in the process and he would not support a budget that draws down funds as currently proposed to \$600,000.

Commissioner Taylor said she had a question about the motion on the floor, he could not read her mind, the motion on the floor did not eliminate what his suggestions were, and they were still there. Mr. Lawson said yes it did. Commissioner Taylor said she was ready to move forward.

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

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 8:11 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said everyone needs to sit down with the Manager and Staff; this budget should have been balanced back in August.

Mr. Lawson said Staff recommended the second budget hearing to be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE MOTION FOR SAME AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE  
THE SECOND, BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
September 12, 2019-First Budget Hearing

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:13 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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 SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 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**  
                  **Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Invocation by Charles Morris. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lawson said he would like to pull Item 2 from the Consent Agenda and Item 19 from General Business.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Demonstration of the Apalachee Online Website**

Sarah Hibbard gave an overview of the new Apalachee Online website.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out and returned at 6:06 p.m.*

**CONSENT**

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

**2. ~~Approval of Addendum for Actuarial Services for Optional Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) a GASB Requirement~~**

Item pulled

**3. Approval of Extension of Contract for D & J Enterprises, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services**

**4. Approval of the Annual Certified Budget with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)**

**5. W.S. Stevens School Cafeteria Renovations**

6. **Approval and Execution of State Aid Grant Agreement**
7. **Approval of the Annual Contract between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the Operations of the Gadsden County Health Department**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Gene DeLuigi, 37 Lake Bluff Lane, Havana, FL** – Code Enforcement, Contractors refusal to perform work to County Code

Mr. DeLuigi appeared before the Board and thanked Al Smythe. He said there were so many contractors doing shotty work without licenses and still having same issues from day one from the same contractor. He said Al Smythe was getting a lot of heat from a lot of contractors and hoped he got the backing from the commissioners because he was doing his job.

Commissioner Holt said she was sorry he was having this problem but that did not apply to all the contractors in this area.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the discussion and reiterated the importance for citizens to understand importance of applying for permitting on work they were having done but to check on the contractors who they were contracting with to make sure they were licensed and insured and having the County inspect the work and getting an approval before paying the contractors and making sure the work was properly done.

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Ct., Quincy, FL Sign Ordinance

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Ct., Quincy, FL CBOR

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Ct., Quincy, FL Planning Commission Appointments

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**8. Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-Midway Business Park Final Plat (FP 2019-01)**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of an application for the final plat approval for the Midway Business Park Subdivision.

**Jill Jeglie, AICP, Senior Planner**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She gave a brief overview of the Agenda Item.

Chair Viegbesie announced it was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in opposition or in support of this item.

**Nancy Linnan, Esquire**, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Jeglie where this was located and Ms. Jeglie said south of Brickyard Road, west of highway 90. Commissioner Holt said for those that did not know you would turn at

the Waffle House in Midway and was the backway to Quincy.

**Brian Schreiber, Anderson Columbia** appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. Commissioner Holt said she knew they had the traffic count on the road but they knew the County at some point would have to come back and redo the road at some point and maybe they would consider that at some point. Mr. Schreiber said they did that originally and she said she knew.

Chair Viegbesie said in the development, would sidewalks be required to be added? Mr. Schreiber said no, it would be an industrial park. Commissioner Hinson said they may want to consider sidewalks from there to the Waffle House in case employees wanted to walk there. Mr. Schreiber said that would be something that FDOT would have to be involved with.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if that would include all items and Commissioner Holt said yes.

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

**9. Public Hearing-(Legislative)-Consideration of transmittal to adopt amendments to the Capital Improvements Element (LSPA 2019-02)**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for the Board to consider transmittal of amendments to the Capital Improvements Elements of the Comprehensive Plan to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

**Suzanne Lex, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board to briefly explain the item.

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:41 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in support or opposition of the item and there was no-one.

Commissioner Holt asked the changes regarding the parks and Ms. Lex said the documents would guide the standards that Gadsden County wants to achieve per their citizens in terms of the parks and recreation they provide so the standards were provided.

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

**10. Public Hearing-(Legislative)-Consideration of Ordinance No. 2019-012 to adopt the Capital Improvements Schedule of the Capital Improvements Element for Fiscal Years 2019-20-2023/24**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of Ordinance 2019-012 to adopt the annual update of the Capital Improvements Schedule for Fiscal Years 2019/2020-2023/2024 of the Capital Improvements Element.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN POINTED OUT THEY NEEDED TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Suzanne Lex gave a brief explanation of the item.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Commissioner Holt said this was a five year plan of how they would progress in the five years and there was a bridge that collapsed. She asked if there was an area in there for emergencies.

Ms. Lex said typically the first four years must be fiscally sound, but the fifth year is added and they could put in fifth year projects that they anticipate and if they get funding for them, they would amend the schedule and move them into the funding. She said they were seeking funding from a number of different areas regarding the current bridge and would be amended into the Capital Improvements Schedule to reflect once the money was secured.

**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.**

**11. Public Hearing-(Legislative)-(LDR 2019-05)-Consideration of Ordinance 2019-013, Amendments to Section 5700, Signs, of the Gadsden County Land Development Code**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was presented to amend Section 5700, Signs of the Gadsden County Land Development Code to allow Electronic Message Centers on wall signs as well as clarifications to other sections as listed in Exhibit A if proposed Ordinance 2019-013.

Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board and briefly explained the item. She said the recommendation from Planning Commission was to approve this item.

Chair Viegbesie said he had a Speaker Form for this item.

**Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Ct., Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board. She said she was on the Planning Commission and was pretty comfortable with changes made and hoped they would consider the safety issue and was concerned the electronic signs might be a distraction for motorists.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said he understood sign regulations were changing and did not have much of an issue with the current ordinance but did not want Gadsden County to start looking like Las Vegas.

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

Ms. Lasley reappeared before the Board and Commissioner Taylor had questions and Ms. Lasley responded to her questions.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON CHANGED THEIR VOTE AND THE VOTES WERE 4-1. COMMISSIONER MORGAN WAS THE LONE OPPOSED VOTE. ITEM PASSED.**

**12. 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 Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights (LDR 2018-01)**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this would amend the Citizen Bill of Rights.

**Suzanne Lex** appeared before the Board and gave a brief explanation of the item. She said when this was brought to the Board at the workshop, it was heard loud and clear that the super majority vote was very important to the Board when it came to significant land use changes and significant developments. She said the other point was staff needed to participate from the beginning. She then explained the changes to the Board.

Chair Viegbesie said the only question was regard to a full board not present and asked if that would then impede the process.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out 7:18 p.m.*

**Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Ct., Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. She said in the third Whereas clause, it states "The Gadsden County Planning Commission, acting as the local planning agency, reviewed this amendment and made a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners;". She said at their last meeting they were presented with a document in their packet that did not include the super majority language and was handed two other versions without time to review it.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 7:19 p.m.*

She said the Planning Commission chose to table it issue because they did not have the information in a timely manner. She said she would like for them to remand this back to the Planning Commission as they were very close on getting them the language they wanted. She also felt if they approved it, it would be an improper procedure since they had not approved it.

Ms. Lex said it was a double-sided document that did not get copied double-sided.

**Lori Bouie, 816 Hardin Street, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board and confirmed what Ms. Lasley said that they were not given a complete document. She has questioned why there were so many stipulations and she asked that they follow the State Statutes and said it does not encourage team building.

Commissioner Holt asked what was in this document that they did not see before.

Chair Viegbesie said he would lean to remanding this back to Planning and let them develop a document so the Board could vote on a document.

Commissioner Holt asked what was missing; what was there that Planning did not want. Ms. Bouie said practically everything presented tonight was not presented to them. She said there were persons that have turned out on the Planning Board and was told they would remain seated until replaced and she asked if they could serve until replaced so they would have a quorum and asked

who asked them to not return. Chair Viegbesie explained that agenda item was pulled tonight.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REMAND THIS BACK TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor thanked whoever made sure this item was placed on the agenda. She said there were certain portions she was willing to relinquish on the super majority and that has to do with major development with regards to housing. As far as business and buildings, she thought they should still have super majority but was not willing to give up super majority on housing and community development. She said they were already required to notice the community and did not agree with the ½ mile radius, she felt it should be wider. She also thought they needed to look at streamlining better. She concurred with remanding it back to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Hinson said his position was the grandparent that wanted to give their niece an acre or 5 acres of land or wanted to sell to someone else. Chair Viegbesie said he did not think that land use was part of the CBOR and wanted to stay on point. Commissioner Hinson asked if he was familiar with the process and Chair Viegbesie said he was not a genius like some were that were up here. Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney if the Chair was correct. Mr. Weiss said the Ordinance addressed additional procedures for certain types of development but not specifically regulate subdivisions and density regulations. Mr. Weiss stated if he were applying for a Future Land Use Map amendment and wanted to go from agricultural to residential then he had to have a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

Commissioner Holt said even if they sent this back to Planning, they were doing what they thought they should do. She said each one of them have not put input on the map and they were doing this backwards because Planning could only do what was already written. She said the process was unfair. She said this Board did not have to vote on anything they had to say or follow their recommendation.

Commissioner Morgan said it was important to remember that the CBOR was the primary topic of discussion and they need to be sure to maintain the integrity of their primarily rural County. He added that people that buy 100 acres of land do not want a trailer park next door to them. He also said that the CBOR has not impeded their economic growth. He said they did not want all growth but good growth.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:55 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said the CBOR has caused issues and problems. He said as an example, if he had 14 acres of land and could not sell to the next door neighbor or could not afford the taxes, or had a cousin he could not give an acre of land, it meant the land went back.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:56 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson continued and said he was looking at the citizens because they were the ones that drove the economy. This was all about the land. He said he felt the CBOR was driving folks away because they couldn't afford it. He sees now a lot of homeless folks.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REMAND BACK TO PLANNING.**

**13. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2019-025 for FY 2019**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for a Resolution 2019-025 and authorization for the County Administrator, the Finance Director and Senior Management & Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to adjust the Fiscal Year 2019 BOCC budget.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments either in opposition or in support and there were none.

Commissioner Holt asked about this item and Mr. Lawson said it was a clean-up item, moving money from one fund to another or bringing money in to recognize it for different items they put in and was a combination of amendments to clean-up at the end of the year. She asked if this applied to them solving the problem with the budget from the other day and Mr. Lawson said no.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A QUESTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if they had a Senior Management Budget Analyst and who that was and Mr. Lawson responded that was Mr. Price. She said she thought he was the Finance Director. They explained Connie McLendon was the Finance Director. Commissioner Taylor said she thought she worked with the Clerk and stated she thought they had their own Finance Director and the Clerk had Connie as his.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**14. 911 Dispatch Center**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was presented for approval of a Guaranteed Maximum Price Proposal from RAM Construction for the renovations of the new 911 Dispatch Center in the W.A. Woodham Justice Center.

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

**15. Hutchinson Ferry Road Bridge Repairs-Funding Allocation**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and was written when the bridge was first damaged on Hutchinson Ferry Road. He said this was requesting the Board approve allocations of the remaining road paving bond money to go toward the repair of the Hutchinson Ferry Road Bridge project.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought the Board should look at this and did not think they should commit right now; they should wait to see how much money they would get as far as FEMA money before committing because he promised in his district that a road would be paved. He said there were two guys that are vets and have medical needs that live on the dirt road and it needs to be

paved. He said, besides, he had talked with Mr. Lawson and he said regardless of whatever happened, it would take eight to nine months before the bridge was done anyway even if they started today so why not wait a couple more months and figure out and when the other money come in first.

Commissioner Taylor asked which Commissioner would want to give up their money and allow that to happen and then find the difference somewhere else or did it have to be all of the money because of obligations that have already been made? She said she was willing to share some of hers but she promised some striping in the Lake Talquin area. Mr. Lawson said this was a Board decision and they would continue to look for additional funding.

Chair Viegbesie said he was at the Capitol last week and was talking with the Executive Director with CRTPA and they and DOT will not have any money but the Executive Director thought there may be a Federal agency that he might be able to get a few dollars from. He added as he understood, they were now detouring people to Barineau Road and it had a metal bridge and could be dangerous.

Commissioner Holt said she was not being sarcastic but now they knew where she and Commissioner Morgan were coming from when everyone else got their roads paved on the east side. She has made several phone calls regarding the roads to the Secretary of Transportation, Senator Montford, Representative Alexander, Senator Lawson, etc. and everyone was doing what they could to find funding. She said this could be a dangerous situation if people don't pay attention to the barricades. She said she was willing to vote to move the money but on the contingency that their paving road be moved to top of the list.

Commissioner Hinson made a few suggestions: they increased the budget by over \$1 Million last year, this year by almost \$3-4 Million; they gave Constitutional Officers money; they have insurance money for Stevens School of \$600,000; have several hundreds of thousands of dollars they give to non-profit organizations (other than senior citizens); he said EMS and the Sheriff's department could not go down that road because the road was in such bad shape. He said they have money for the non-profits, Stevens's school money, staff increases, money that can be got if everyone would hold still for one year or at least 6 month.

Commissioner Morgan said they have two immediate needs, a safety issue and a transportation issue, that need to be fixed, two critical safety issues, one not planned for, that needs to be repaired immediately.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson said he voted against the EMS and Public works surtax last week, if he changed his vote and voted for that, would that cover those costs. Mr. Lawson said that would be money that would go back in the Fund Balance.

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



**16. Hutchinson Ferry Road Bridge Repairs-Professional Services**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a task order with Dewberry for the survey, design and contractor procurement of the Hutchinson Ferry Road Bridge Repairs Project.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE HAD A QUESTION.**

**Justin Ford, Dewberry**, appeared before the Board. Mr. Ford said they analyzed multiple scenarios and the option that was recommended was for concrete box culverts.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked how much money was in Public Works budget. Mr. Lawson said he would research and would send an email.

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

**17. Approval of the Contract with I.F.W. Security, LLC to Provide Security Services at the Butler Building and Gadsden County Public Library in Quincy, FL**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award bid number 19-04 to IFW Security LLC for security services at the Edward J. Butler Building and the William A. "Bill" McGill Library and for approval of the contract.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**18. Medical Director Contract**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and explained they were required to have a Medical Director.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE HAD A QUESTION.**

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was a part-time or full-time position for the amount of money. Mr. Lawson explained they were required to have a Medical Director to operate EMS, it is a contractual individual who provides services and oversight of the EMS department.

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

**~~19. Appointments and Re-appointments to the Gadsden County Planning Commission for District 1, District 2, District 4 and the At-Large Position~~**

Item pulled

**20. Ratification of Agreement with iWorQ Systems, Inc**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was to ratify an agreement for software

services for retroactive and continued services of iWorQ Systems. He explained this was a contract that was initially approved by the previous Interim Building Official and was signed by previous Building Official and has to be ratified in order to pay them for their services rendered.

Commissioner Holt said this was only software being used.

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

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

##### **21. Updates**

The Clerk was not present and there was nothing to report.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **22. Updates**

Mr. Lawson said he had nothing to report.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

##### **23. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

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

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

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

Commissioner Hinson told all the Board members how much he loved them and how awesome they were.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.*

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

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

Commissioner Holt said the land issue was very important, more than they knew. She said they needed to separate the Planning and Zoning Department from the Building Inspection, bring the old chart back and felt they needed a Planning and Zoning Director and a Building Director and they needed to be separated.

She said she had never seen a commission that could not set a budget. She said she wrote an article and it would be in the paper that would come out tomorrow. She said it would be embarrassing to send the budget to the State with not having at least \$2 Million in reserves. She asked if there were still time to advertise for the ½ cent tax. Mr. Weiss said there might be time to advertise in the Democrat because there had to be 10 days' notice and it needed to get in 10 days ahead. She said if they got down to \$600,000 and an emergency happened, they would not be

able to pay bills and the State would take over.

Chair Viegbesie said she shared she called different places regarding the bridges and he called the Capitol as well and shared they were looked at as a joke, as a caricature and was told that by a Legislator. He said he looked forward to reading her article. He said he shared the conversation with the Interim County Administrator and the terms were very unbecoming of a body of intelligent people and wanted it on record.

Commissioner Holt asked that the Interim Administrator look into scheduling a meeting if possible and if not possible, they would have to let it go.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she learned one thing in politics; you have to have thick skin. She said they have heard several times from the Clerk's Office that money was low. When she first became a Commissioner, there was only \$800,000 in the Reserves. She said she would not like to have \$600,000 and would like to have a lot more but based on what they had and based on what they had to do at previous meetings, she did not regret it one moment, for Commissioner Holt to write her article. She said she had plastered cars with negative comments and done it before; printed articles before and this was nothing new.

She told Commissioner Hinson when he started talking about the road paving, when he started talking about insurance money for a project she needed to get done (Stevens School) that was when he lost her. She said she made a decision she had to stick by and at the end of the day felt they would be OK because money was coming, it just did not look good right now. She said they were not the only ones struggling because of the devastation they have gone through; she said they were at the bottom, but were not going to run out and she was not worried about negativism.

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

Chair Viegbesie said the tax that Commissioner Taylor talked about was on the FAC agenda along with the Small County surtax.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Gadsden County Board of County Commission  
September 17, 2019-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEONG NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED  
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:56 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**

**AT A BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2019 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**  
                  **Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Morgan gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**Citizens Requesting to be Heard**

Chair Viegbesie said the Speaker Request Forms he had were to do with the Agenda.

**Nick Maddox, 301 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL.** Mr. Maddox said the number one reason he appeared before the Board was on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club. He said they would not be able to serve the children of the County if their budget was cut. They give kids the opportunity to have a safe haven to go, a place to interact with other kids and for them to grow.

**Jim McShane** appeared before the Board. He said GCDC has been able to bring jobs and tax base to the County and could not understand why a County would not want to continue to have an economic development entity helping and working for them and putting at risk some State dollars that were in the pipeline that their Executive Director has been working on that was over \$1 Million. He said also at Capital Region, that was what they were all about and was trying to help the County be profitable and prosperous but would be hard if there were no jobs to put people to work in the County that that was what the Board was turning their back on by not funding GCDC.

**Antonio Jefferson, Chairman of GCDC,** appeared before Board. He stated that GCDC was a 501(c)3 organization that was created by Gadsden County and its original mission was to position the County to qualify for the Federal Empowerment Zone Program. He said the County did not have success in that but it was soon followed by the State of Florida Enterprise Zone program in which the GCDC managed and maintained on behalf of the County.

He said they were responsible for about \$4.5 Million in grants, dozens of new jobs that they created new or retained and through the Gadsden County School Board and GTI, started the Diesel Mechanics program that was launched this year. From a regional aspect they were able to get Tallahassee Office of Economic Vitality to open up the Leon Works program to give students an

opportunity to go to Tallahassee and participate and introducing them to career opportunities.

He then gave an update on the Partnership with Logistics Zone; he said through their efforts the City of Gretna managed to get a grant for \$297,725.00 to do a Feasibility Study on 600 acres between Gretna and Greensboro that was part of the Gulf to Gadsden Freight Logistics Zone that makes up Franklin, Liberty, Gulf and Gadsden Counties. He said the 600 acres was adjacent to the A & N Railroad that extends from Port St. Joe to Chattahoochee. He said through their work with Opportunity Florida they have managed a number of trips and have seen that it takes a collaborative effort of many parties to sustain a successful economic development program. He said the efforts require a community effort, both public and private sector to make them a reality. He said they have asked the City partners to step up. He said they would also be looking at private fund raisers from the private sector.

He said they were glad to be a part of this County and many of the volunteers had full time jobs and do the work because they loved the County.

**Zack Howard** appeared before the Board and said he brought greetings on behalf of Four Star Freightliner. He said one reason they were in Gadsden County was based on GCDC; they played a big role in getting them to Gadsden County. He said they have grown from 10 employees to about 20 and hoped the County considered continued funding to GCDC.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it was possible for the BOCC and GCDC could discuss ways to generate revenue for the County.

Mr. Jefferson said there were shortfalls in the community along with the collapse of the two bridges of the two bridges. He said there were some ideas they have tossed around within GCDC and they wanted to find the appropriate time to approach the BOCC to brainstorm on how they could position themselves better. He said the bridges were a limited solution but they did need adequate infrastructure, not only locally or internally, but at the interchanges also. He said they planned to work with BOCC in the next year to bring forth some ideas and suggestions they think will begin to help solve the road problem as well as some infrastructure needs to support economic development.

Commissioner Hinson said he strongly supported organization and thanked them for doing a wonderful job. He continued and said before making any decisions, they were currently in the process of interviewing for a new County Administrator, and asked the Board if they thought this was the best angle to take and said a new Administrator may have a different approach to the County. He said there were a lot of positions and a lot of increases in lot of departments and wanted to make sure the new Administrator has something to work with when they come in. He said right now the budget was stacked so it looked like there was a shortfall but actually had an increase in the budget.

Chair Viegbesie asked how we got to where we were right now, what led us to where the County was having this discussion. He said there was a Budget presented in one of the meetings that was balanced with \$3+Million in Reserves and in that budget, the Non-Profits were being funded. He said they then voted to not split the Surtax to fund EMS, which was an integral part of the County and must be funded. He added he did not think the cuts were permanent; they were temporary and they were doing this to generate money down the pipeline. He said this was what they

needed to do currently to have a balanced budget so they were not in violation of State regulations.

Commissioner Hinson said he was a friend of EMS and they had to do what was best for the County. He said the night he voted against EMS, he said that night they had to make sure the bridges was protected and the bridge collapsed that night. He said they had a lot of money in their budget. He said for them to look at the September 17, 2018 meeting last year, he said the same thing. He continued and said they were making decisions; they gave Constitutional Officers their wish list. They then said to cut 5% from their "wish list", if someone ask for \$500,000, we cut 5% of the \$500,000, that a not cut, they were still giving them \$400,000 surplus. He said they had to make sure they were working for the people. He said it all started with 125 summer youth jobs. He said people give you a wish list, you cut 5% of their wish list, you're still giving them an increase and they had to look at that. He said they were interviewing for a new County Administrator and he wanted to make sure that person came in with \$4-5 Million surplus in the budget so they would have a lot of money so they can figure out ways. He said they need to be careful and come to an agreeance and not grandstand.

Chair Viegbesie said if there were no other comments, staff has provided them with documents.

Commissioner Morgan said they were in a tough spot from a fiscal standpoint; they had some major items they were on the tail end to complete, whether it was the Courthouse renovations, the Communications system, the AG center, in addition to a Category 5 hurricane and immediate needs with infrastructure. He said they were very fortunate that Staff put together a budget where they did not have to draw down fund balance like they were presented in a previous meeting. He said he had some suggestions.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. Budget Overview and Discussion**

Mr. Lawson said this was the Final Budget hearing and at the last Budget hearing they proposed a projected shortfall of \$1.470 Million and they were requested to make some recommended deletions to the budget. He said they were presenting a balanced budget at this point. He said once they go through the Public Hearing, they would have to vote on two separate Resolutions, one to adopt the Final Millage Rate and one to adopt the 2019/2020 Budget.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Price gave a summary of what they had been looking at. He said they started out September 30, 2018 with \$4 Million in Reserves; set up the Hurricane Michael fund from that and left \$3,150 Million. He said FY19 budget was prepared using 1/3 of Small County Surtax, which was changed and given back to the other two funds and meant General Funds Reserves had to transfer approximately \$1 Million in this current fiscal year. He said in FY20 they had to recalculate the entire budget without the EMS receiving the Surtax and had to reallocate some funds and Staff identified some cuts and based on that, it left a shortfall of \$115,000, leaving a fund balance of just over \$2 Million. He said from the shown shortfall last meeting, they were recommending reallocating some of the unused hurricane funds (\$850,000) and some funds that were identified for the Woodham Building roof and wanted to bring that back to the Board and request reallocation of those two funds and items to help with the budget. He said they were cutting some positions; the IT assistant, the Senior Coordinator and the Grant Writer; cut the Non-Profits, all of them, cut the Summer jobs, cut the Butler Building generator, cut back on

some expenses for Dispatch and EMS, there might be ways to engineer that better, and in Facility/Maintenance, they cut some of that in the Department relieving the \$115,000 shortfall. He said that was the proposal and anything that was changed would have to come from Fund Balance.

Chair Viegbesie suggested before they moved to the Speakers, instead of using "cuts" in the positions of IT, the Senior Coordinator and Grant Writer, he would rather use the word "delete" because those positions were never in the budget before, they were proposals for the 2020 budget. Mr. Price said the IT Assistant and Senior Coordinator was that way, the Grant Coordinator was the position that was previously held by Dee Jackson.

Chair Viegbesie said given the budget as it was, he would now recognize speakers that had filled out Speaker Request Forms. He then said before doing that, from his understanding, if there was no budget passed by the end of September, they would be in violation of State compliance and the State would come in and take over the running of the County. Mr. Weiss said no, and explained.

Mr. Weiss said the State would not take over the running of the County but the County would be subject to forfeiture of State funds.

(Chair Viegbesie then addressed Speakers above.)

## **2. FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE RATE**

Mr. Lawson stated for the Fiscal Year 2019/2020, the final Gadsden County wide operating millage rate is 8.9064 mills. The calculated rolled-back millage rate (the property tax rate that generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year) is 8.9261 mills which is 0.0191 mills more than the current rate of 8.9064 mills. The current year rate of 8.9064 mills as a percent change of the rolled-back rate (8.9261 mills) is -0.22% more. He then stated a motion was needed to adopt a Resolution for the final FY2019/2020 County-wide Millage rate of 8.9064 via Resolution number 2019-026.

Chair Viegbesie said before he entertained questions from the Commissioners, he asked if there were any comments from the audience and there were none.

Commissioner Holt asked if it was possible that they do not roll back the rate and kept it at the current millage rate and would that help generate more money.

Mr. Lawson said they were at the current rate and they voted last time for this particular millage rate and they could not increase it now.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they could increase and Mr. Weiss responded they could not increase it. Chair Viegbesie explained that he asked the question in case citizens were following them.

Commissioner Holt asked when they would have had to have done that and Mr. Weiss responded they would have had to do that at the first hearing but there were a lot of notice requirements they would have had to do. He added that practically speaking, it should be done when the Property Appraiser sends the proposed millage rate notices out.



**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION ONE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Morgan said they were in an unusual situation from a fiscal standpoint. His suggestion from what staff presented in addition to the projected shortfall of \$115,000 from Fund balance; he suggested in addition to what Staff presented to them, they cut two positions and one existing position in the Grant Writer position and he asked they add back in the Grant Writer position and because it impacted the children in the County, the Boys and Girls Club funding and that would increase the projected shortfall, which would have to be transferred from the unrestricted Fund Balance, to \$281,187.00.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD BACK IN THE GRANT WRITER POSITION AND FUNDING FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Chair Viegbesie asked if that motion and second was upheld, what that would do to the Fund Balance.

Mr. Lawson asked Mr. Price how much that would reduce fund balance if they took \$70,000 plus the \$96,187.000 with the current \$115,000 they were drawing down and Mr. Price responded it would reduce Fund Balance by \$166,000 and would be down to \$1.9 Million.

Commissioner Taylor had a question. She said this budget overall was at an 8% increase. She said that amount was required to be published when they advertise the budget in the paper. She said there was an increase across the Board. She asked the Interim, in some of the Departments, the Department Heads recommended an amount and then the Manager recommended an amount, for example, Personnel was almost a \$767,000 increase with Personnel. With Fire Assessment, there was almost \$287,000 increase; EMS \$787,000 increase from what the Departments was operating on last year. The Chair asked earlier how they got to where they were where the reserves were dwindling. She said she spoke briefly this afternoon with the Clerk. They could pass this budget this afternoon; their difficulties will definitely come in 2020/2021 because they will not have the fund balance to fund that budget with. She said they either do it now or do it later but cuts will come. She said she concurred with not taking anything away with regards to children. She wished they could put the \$50,000 back in the budget as well. She said she was willing to do as suggested earlier, which was to come back and look at this budget so they can realize some of the funding that will be coming down the line from (Hurricane) Michael and some other entities. She said they could not call this a permanent budget but they have to pass this tonight. She said what was right was to be fair across the Board and if they were to take 5% across the Board from everyone, they would have the money they needed tonight and not cause anyone their position or job. If they were to do right, they could come back in December and do it right. She said they need economic development but would rather put the money where it works for them. She added if they were to do what was right, pass it as recommended tonight and come back and give money when they have it to give. She said she talked with a Constitutional Officer and they said they would not mind taking a cut but they were looking at \$750,000 worth of salary increases and other Departments within their government that asked for increases as well. She said they needed to look at that first. She asked that they all meet halfway this year. That way the non-profits and summer jobs would not get the hard hits. She said to talk to departments and see if they could free up money.

Commissioner Hinson said last year he took pride in having huge revenue and seems they have been spending for the sake of it. He said throughout that year there were increases in the budget. He also asked about if there were raises and was told there were no raises, but in January the Clerk came and said there were significant raises given and this year there were increases and this year there were raises to the tune of \$1.5 Million. But only one-third of the County received an increase, the other two-thirds were left out and he did not feel that was fair. He said one department was increased by \$700,000 and not one Commissioner ever asked why or how. He said they were about to bring in a new County Administrator and they were going to have to be the bad guy. He said he talked to the Clerk and was told they could pass the budget this year with \$600,000, it would be ok this year, but next year will be difficult. Why not ask the questions why certain departments were being increased.

Commissioner Holt said they should have met and had a Post Michael workshop and did not do it. Mr. Lawson was not here and that was not done. They had workshops in June and July and no-one questioned the budget and in September it's then a big problem. It made no sense to talk about road problems. She said they lost #1 Million after the new Board came on because they were supposed to pave roads in districts 3 and 4 but it did not happen because the Board decided to split the money up. She said the split the road money up and districts 1, 3, & 5 got roads paved. She said some Departments got increases because they got grants. If they were going to move money, they had June, July and August to do so. She said she bet not two Commissioners could tell what all have been applied for as far as reimbursements because no workshop has been held and it was very important.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT CALLED THE QUESTION AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

**3. FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020**

Chair Viegbesie said the Motion on the floor was the Motion made by Commissioner Morgan that he seconded. He asked Commissioner Morgan to repeat the Motion.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN REPEATED THE MOTION TO KEEP THE GRANT WRITER AT \$70,000 AND TO FUND THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB AT \$ 96,187.00 AND THE TOTAL INCREASE IN THE PROJECTED SHORTFALL WOULD BE \$166,187.00 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

Mr. Lawson said they needed to adopt Resolution 2019-027. He said the budget was in the amount of \$51,649,793. Chair Viegbesie asked if it was reflecting cuts that Staff recommended and with the addition of the Grant writer and Boys and Girls Club would that change the amount. Mr. Lawson said the bottom line would be the same; they would be taking more out of Reserve.

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

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
September 23, 2019-Final Budget Hearing

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:13 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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 OCTOBER 1, 2019 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-appeared by phone**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to silence their phones. He gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lawson asked to pull Item 5 and Item 21.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

None

**CONSENT**

Commissioner Hinson asked to pull Item 10 for discussion.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 10 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT ASKED IF THEY NEEDED TO MENTION THAT ITEM 5 WAS PULLED AND THE ATTORNEY STATED NO. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. June 18, 2019-Regular Meeting**
  - b. May 23, 2019-Budget Workshop**
  - c. June 30, 2019-Budget Workshop**
  - d. July 2, 2019-Regular Meeting**
- 2. Ratification Memo**
- 3. Approval of Actuary Services for 2019 and 2020 required OPEB report Optional Post Employee Benefit**
- 4. Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office Training Funding Request**

5. **Suppression Gas Systems Test and Unspect-FM200 System**
6. **Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) or Emergency (ER) Program**
7. **Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Liens-State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)(Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program)**
8. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-State Housing Initiative Partnership Program**
9. **Approval of the 2020 Holiday Schedule**
- ~~10. **Approval to Extend the Agreement for Compensation and Classification Services**~~  
Pulled for discussion

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

10. **Approval to Extend the Agreement for Compensation and Classification Services**  
Commissioner Hinson asked that this item be explained. Mr. Lawson said the Board approved this item in May 2018 for the Company to do Compensation in Pay Study for the Board and when it was approved, the contract was only approved for 3 months and was not enough time to be complete. When it was invoiced, the error was noticed and should have been approved through August 31, 2019 and they need more time to complete study.

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

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 11. PUBLIC HEARING-APPROVAL OF Resolution 2019-028 for FY 2019 Budget Amendments**  
Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2019-028 and for authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director and the Senior Management & Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to adjust the Fiscal Year 2019 BICC budget.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was for the 2019/2020 budget and Mr. Lawson explained it was for 2018/2019 budget. Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any questions from audience and there were none.

Commissioner Hinson had questions regarding a budget amendment for Public works. Chair Viegbesie said this was something done on paper for the last fiscal year budget and has no effect on anything right now, just to move monies around so the budget is reflected to be what meant to be.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**12. Approval to Accept the State Funded Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant Agreement #A0055 and Federal Funded Emergency Management**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and explained one grant was Federal and one was State.

Commissioner Holt said this was one that they approve every year.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON 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.**

**13. CR 65 (Attapulgus Highway) SCOP Agreement**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a SCOP project for the widening and resurfacing of CR 65 Attapulgus Highway.

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

**14. CR 161 (Point Milligan Road) SCOP Agreement**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a SCOP project for the widening and resurfacing of CR 161 Point Milligan Road.

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

**15. Department of Economic Opportunity Grant Agreement**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for a Department of Economic Opportunity Grant for repairs to Juniper Creek Road. He explained the County was awarded \$300,000 for repairs and in addition and prior to awarding the rest of the road paving money to repair the Hutchinson Ferry Bridge, they also received \$108,077.99 from Commissioner Morgan to go toward repairs of Juniper Creek Road.

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

**16. Cooks Landing Road SCOP Agreement**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the SCOP agreement for the widening and resurfacing of Cook Landing Road.

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

**17. Task Order Amendment for East Gadsden**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for a task order amendment with Dewberry Engineering to complete an archeological assessment on East Gadsden Park & Recreational

Facilities at St. Hebron. Chair Viegbesie asked him to better explain this item. Mr. Lawson said the original task order was in the amount of \$60,000 to DPB & Associates and they were paid \$28,846.96 and left \$31,153.04 remaining in the contract. As part of the money paid, DPB was required to complete an archaeological assessment to the County and they sub-contracted this service to Archaeological Consultants, Inc. for the amount of \$4,700.00. DPB refunded the County \$4,300 and now to get the assessment, the County will need to pay \$4,700.00 to Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

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

**18. Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit to Provide the Gadsden Connector Bus Service from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of the transportation agreement between the Board and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to provide Gadsden Connector service in and around the County.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was a two year agreement and asked if historically this was done on an annual basis. Mr. Lawson said he was not sure and he could get clarification from Mr. Price. Mr. Weiss said the last time this was considered it was for a two year period but was subject to funding clause in case the funds were not budgeted. Commissioner Morgan said very good.

Commissioner Hinson noted in the background of the Agenda item it stated "Gadsden County, in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation and Big Bend Transit, Inc. received a grant to fund the Gadsden Connector, which is a weekday transit service that operates Monday through Friday and provides service between Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Quincy, and Havana." **ALSO NOTE:** Refer to Agenda Item 18 Background Information, last paragraph also states, "That grant is unavailable now and the County must pay for this service".

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

**19. Transportation Agreement between Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit to Provide the Quincy Shuttle Bus Service from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said this was for the shuttle service that runs around the City of Quincy.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if the City of Quincy had committed to participate in this as well and Mr. Lawson said no. Commissioner Morgan encouraged them to not approve this item until they have a commitment from the City and asked they think about the financial situation of the County in general and how they have approached this in the past years and could not imagine them approving this without participation from the City since their citizens were benefiting from this.

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

- 20. Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit to Provide for the Continuation of Gadsden Express Services from October 1, 2019 through September 2021**  
Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was to provide the continuation of the Gadsden Express.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

- ~~21. Appointment and Re-Appointments to the County Planning Commission for District 1, District 2, District 4, and the At Large Position~~**  
Item Pulled

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

- 22. Updates**  
The Clerk was not present and there were no updates.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- 23. Updates**  
Mr. Lawson had a couple of reminders:

Groundbreaking for the AG center was to be held on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.;

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> the Local Delegation will be here at 5:00 p.m. in Chambers;

Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:00 p.m., they would start interviews for County Administrator candidates.

Chair Viegbesie asked where they were with the CRMC contract. Mr. Lawson said at this point Mr. Glazer sent previous comments to the attorney for CRMC and was waiting to get their feedback before scheduling another meeting with GHI. Mr. Weiss said they will need to extend the Notice of Non-Renewal date and it will be on the next Agenda for another short extension.

Commissioner Holt said to the Attorney she was contacted by another hospital organization and they were interested in offering their services but they know they were in middle of negotiations. He said he did not know if they would want part of building or the whole building and asked if she could pass along information. She said she would get the information to him or Mr. Lawson.

Commissioner Taylor asked about a memo that was sent out about contacting Department Heads requesting certain services from different department heads and asked if he was asking Commissioners to forego talking to the Administrative Assistant and the Special Projects Coordinator as well and he said no.



**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**24. Updates**

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

Commissioner Taylor said she was curious about the RFP they were to put out (for Attorney contract) and Mr. Lawson said he did not have a specific time. She said the current contract matures in February and thought instructions were given.

She said there was one other thing, there were various lawsuits she was hearing about. Would there be an opportunity to have a shade meeting so it could be discussed. Mr. Weiss said usually his office does not handle the litigation, it is referred out by the insurance carrier and he is notified. In terms of the shade meeting, he would not be the one to participate; the appointed council would be the one that would have more information and be able to discuss strategy. He added until they were at the point to discuss negotiations and strategies, they were not allowed to have shade meetings.

Chair Viegbesie said with that understanding, he suggested they put together as soon as they possibly could the information so the Commissioners would know where they were within the limit of the law.

Commissioner Hinson said know because with Item 11, a settlement was reached and they did not have anything to do with it and was quite interesting they never had that shade meeting.

Commissioner Holt said normally if the Association handled it, she never remembered it coming back before them.

Commissioner Hinson said also on a separate note, in another situation where they went to trial, how could they go to trial without coming to the Board first and the Board knowing anything about it.

Mr. Weiss said when the County makes a claim under the policy and they appoint counsel, FAC has control over the litigation and the County gives that up. He tends to think if there is going to be a settlement agreement, the Chair would be the one to sign the Agreement but he is not the one to handle the case. Mr. Weiss said if something was to be approved by the County; it should be approved by this Board.

Commissioner Taylor said this payout to this individual, was it legally done? Mr. Weiss said under the terms of their insurance policy, if a claim is made that is covered and accepted by the carrier, there is a clause that they have control over the litigation, that was under the policy and he was making the point if there was a settlement agreement on behalf of the Commissioners, the Board should be the one to approve it even if the money was being paid through the insurance carrier. Commissioner Taylor said she heard what he said but it was muddy. She heard him say FAC has the authority to settle, then she heard him say anytime there is a lawsuit and a payout was involved, the County Commissioners should be made aware or have some input and in this case, there was a lawsuit, there was a payout, the suit was against Gadsden County but the Board was not involved because it was a FAC decision. She said she used the word "shenanigans" because

the Board should have had a “bite of this apple”. She said if they need to put some kind of language in the policy so they are given the opportunity, whether their input was worth anything or not, they still need to be made aware, and have some say-so on the settlement.

Commissioner Holt said FAC never comes before the Board. They even filed suit against a Manager and 2 commissioners a long time ago. They could always request updates. They cannot communicate with emails or phone calls while in litigation, which is their rules. She added that FAC insured almost all the counties of the State and it was beneficial to them because they only had to pay out the deductible. She added they could ask for a report and see what they said.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought, but was not sure, when he was on the School Board they had closed door meetings and they have had a shade meeting here in the past.

Commissioner Taylor said FAC did not serve all 67 counties and they had the right to ask and it was important that they fix it going forward and this not reoccur.

Commissioner Holt said if a case was filed and it came before the Board, Mr. Weiss would handle it.

Chair Viegbesie said they could workshop the litigation part of lawsuits.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone for a wonderful meeting tonight

He asked for a Resolution for Tony Bunion, Jr., whose 7 month old child passed away few days ago.

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

He said he was glad the Board agreed to move the budget and hoped they could revisit it in a few months. He also said they have to make sure when they have the meeting with the County Administrator, it could be possible that they could be in cahoots with a business and that could mess with the integrity of the County. He said if that ever happened, it could be trouble.

Chair Viegbesie said that was one of the reasons he has asked for transparency and why he has given the number for Florida Commission on Ethics. He said for the record the number was 488-7864.

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

Commissioner Morgan said he had no items.

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

Commissioner Holt said the Hemp conference would be tomorrow morning and was sold out at the Turnbull Center to look at growing hemp here. She said they were looking at people that may

not be farmers but might be looking to lease out their property and this was a money crop. She said FAMU and University of Florida was doing research on this matter.

She wanted to have a workshop with the Building Inspection Department. She said builders and home owners were complaining and thought it might help to have the workshop.

Chair Viegbesie thought that was a wonderful idea.

She said the Legislative agenda; the Delegation will be in Monday. She said the problem they had last time when they came last time they did not have a list and it caused a lot of disorganization last year. She said they need to get with the Manager and get their concerns to him. She said she spoke with Senator Montford today and said one thing they discussed was the hurricane recovery.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said they could use the same list from last year because they received nothing last year and all they have to do is change the date. She said that was all because they showed no unity.

She said there was a 4-1 vote on the budget and she voted for it even though it “stinks to high hell and back” and the reason was she wanted to send a balanced budget to the State and she wanted to be on the prevailing side to be able to challenge it. She said there was a \$4 Million increase and they cut Summer Youth programs and Emergency Housing. She said she was going on record saying she was talking to Constitutionals Officers about the amount they have asked for and then would be talking to the Administrator. She said when she looks at EMS for \$1 Million increase for salary certainly they could give \$100,000 back to save those programs. She said she has already started talking and getting commitments from people.

She said last year they spent \$65,000 on lobbyists and they got nothing.

She said Judge Barbara Hobbs lost her mother and asked for a Resolution.

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

**SHE MADE A MOTION TO HIRE ROBERT PRESNELL AS ADMINISTRATOR AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

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

Chair Viegbesie said all he had was to inform them that on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, there would be an event held in recognition of the hard workers of Farm Share.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNISE THE FARM SHARE WORKERS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.**

**Receipt and File**

Gadsden County Board of County Commission  
October 1, 2019

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:23 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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 OCTOBER 15, 2019 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  
Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and asked everyone to silence their phones.

Christopher Erde, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Quincy, gave the Invocation and then led in Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lawson said he would like to pull Item 2 and add Item 14a to the Agenda.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. CareerSource Capital Region Presentation**

Jim McShane, CEO, CareerSource Capital Region, appeared before the Board and gave their annual update.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:08 p.m.*

**~~2. Integrity Group~~**

Item Pulled

**CONSENT**

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

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. August 6, 2019-Special Meeting
- b. September 12, 2019-Budget Hearing

**4. Ratification Memo**

**5. Approve the Request to Receive Reimbursement from Florida Division of Emergency**

**Management (FDEM) for Hurricane IRMA and the Sub-Grant Agreement**

6. **Mutual Aid Operations Plan Agreement between Gadsden County Fire Departments and Florida Forest Service**
7. **Approval of the Lease Extension with Neighborhood Medical Center to Lease the Havana Health Clinic**
8. **Approval of Mosquito Control Agreement with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)**
9. **Ratification of Fleet Invoice**
10. **Approval if the Fall 2019 E911 Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapSAG Annual support and Maintenance**
11. **Approval of Sixth Amendment to Gadsden Hospital Lease**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Auburn Ford, 249 Peters Road, Midway, FL**-Building Inspection concerns

Mr. Ford appeared before the Board and said he had concerns and was trying to work with staff in resolving the concerns but things were getting tedious. He said the issue was there were two inspectors and one going in one direction and the other in another direction.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not know if he had met with the Interim Administrator to express his concerns so he could explore his concerns.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Lawson if the inspectors give out inspections in writing at the site and he said yes. She said she has asked for a workshop regarding this.

Mr. Weiss reminded them there should be a three minute limit and non-discussion by the commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor agreed with the concerns to that department. She asked Mr. Lawson if they could have a workshop because of Commissioner concerns because they were about to lose \$60,000 in revenue from a municipality that was about to pull out. Mr. Lawson said he would have staff look at the calendar and schedule a workshop.

Commissioner Hinson said he requested two and a half months ago this same thing because there have been a lot of complaints.

Charles Morris, 23209 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL-United Gadsden, Inc.-Trunks of Treats-County sponsorship

**Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson, 825 S. Virginia St., Quincy,**

Ms. Anderson appeared before the Board regarding Leadership Gadsden, she said they were recruiting. The next class was scheduled to be on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at Ed Dixon's home and there would be a meeting at November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Quincy Library.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **12. Scotland-Dover Road Guardrail Project Design Bid Award**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the design bid of Scotland-Dover Road Guardrail project to Dewberry Engineers, Inc.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked for a brief synopsis. Mr. Lawson explained it was in the Agenda item and it was selected for funding by the Florida Department of Transportation through their Local Agency Program (LAP) in the amount of \$149,195.00 for design.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry,** appeared before the Board and gave a brief explanation of the item.

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

#### **13. Ironbridge Road Guardrail Project Design Bid Award**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to award the design bid of Ironbridge Road Guardrail Project to Dewberry Engineers, Inc.

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

#### **14. Ralph Strong Road Sidewalk Project Design Bid Award**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for identifying this problem along Strong Road.

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

#### **14a Gadsden County Courthouse Renovation Contract Amendment Request**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to amend the contract for the renovations of the Gadsden County Courthouse. He said the contract would currently expire at the end of the month and there were additional funds left in the grant and they would like to utilize all of the funds.

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

**CLERK OF COURT**

**15. Updates**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**16. Updates**

Mr. Lawson reminded the Board that on October 31<sup>st</sup> it was brought to his attention that in the past the Board had participated in Truck of Treats at Wards Lot and it was scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

The scheduled joint meeting will be on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. with GHI regarding the hospital lease.

Commissioner Holt asked who would be in the joint meeting because they had not met with the hospital board to decide what they wanted yet. She asked if they would meet with CRMC to know exactly what they wanted and what Mr. Glazer has proposed and what their counter-proposal was. She added if they were having a joint meeting and they were negotiating and the hospital board was part of their team and Mr. Glazer was negotiating for them, would it not be prudent for them, the attorney and the hospital board to sit down and discuss the proposals and counter-proposals before meeting with CRMC. Mr. Lawson said CRMC was scheduled to attend that meeting and if it was the Board's desire to not have them there, because they have invited them there... Commissioner Holt said the Board did not decide to invite them until they saw what the counter-proposal was. Mr. Weiss said the idea was they would have a draft that will be circulated to everyone pretty soon so everyone would have an opportunity to review CRMC's counter-proposal. Chair Viegbesie said there was had meeting a while back and felt it would be a good thing to meet with GHI and put together a counter-proposal.

Commissioner Taylor said her interpretations were different. She thought that the GHI Board rather than the Board participated in the proposals. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Lawson if he invited the GHI Board and he said yes because they still needed to ratify the Sixth Amendment. She wanted to know what the counter-proposal would be before meeting.

Mr. Weiss said that could be accommodated. He said to keep in mind, it would be a public meeting and if CRMC showed up, they would have that right.

Commissioner Taylor asked again about the Building Inspection-she asked if she could get him locked in for dates-he said to let him look at the calendar. She asked about striping. She gave up money for Hutchinson Ferry Road but there is money in budget for striping and asked Mr. Lawson to look into it. She said she wanted McCall Bridge Road striped. She said Commissioner Morgan used his paving dollars to help with Juniper Creek Bridge and she thought the State was doing that. Mr. Lawson said the State was helping with the bridge, not the road. She said did they now have money for Hutchinson Ferry bridge. Mr. Lawson said it was still in the design phase and was hoping they would get that money back from FEMA and if they do, they could refund what money



that was used up-front.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to piggy-back on that because he was hit the hardest with the paving project. He said he did not think it was fair because he called Administration and said he had projects he wanted done. He asked how funding could be used when you did not have any funding. The commissioners said they were not following what the Commissioner was stating. Mr. Lawson said prior to the collapsing of the bridge, Commissioner Morgan had already allocated his money to repairing the road. When the bridge collapsed, Mr. Lawson asked Finance if there were any monies available to assist with the repair of the bridge and the only money they could initially identify was the remainder of the road paving money. He said they did not have to approve but he put that before them as an option. He said it came before them in advance and he was trying to expedite getting the bridge repaired. If they get the money from FEMA, they will get the money back. Commissioner Hinson said "You got to understand this, it's sentimental value to me because I promised these people, people trust me. I gave them my word that this was what we were gonna do. As a matter of fact, I called Administration months before this and told them "Hey, we need to do these roads' and now all of a sudden my promise is, and I take this, at that meeting we talked about, I promised, I made a commitment to these people here Commissioners. And now all of a sudden it was never, it never came out that a Commissioner already, his money already was set aside. That particular Commissioner said that 'Hey I raise my hand, I will give you my funding" so how can he give funding if he didn't have any funding. That's the only thing I'm talking about here. Now, I'm fine with that Commissioner Morgan, I'm fine with that Dr. V, if we all said that, hey, once we get the money, the money go back to each Commissioner. I think that's fair. Not we get \$1 Million and everybody split \$1 Million because I'm losing \$4-500,000 and these folks waiting for their projects to be fixed. I mean, two guys in Viet Nam, I said this a month ago, a month or two ago, I said two guys that live at the back of the road that need their road fixed. One guy live on a dirt road, he got a oxygen tank or whatever, the other guy has some other challenges and, and that's what I was saying, it was there. As long as the Board can agree and say we can move forward and the money can come back to the budget and we can divide the money back fairly, I'm fine with that. But just to take your money..." Commissioner Morgan said that was what they said. Commissioner Hinson said "But we didn't make a motion on it." Commissioner Morgan said that was what they said and what was the issue. Commissioner Hinson said "The Issue is that..." Several Commissioners started to speak and Chair Viegbesie interjected. Commissioner Hinson said "I wanted to say one more thing out of fairness. I hardly ever have heartburn with the Board; I just want to be fair. I just want everything in the process to be fair. People, people, you give someone your word, you got to follow your word and that was what I did. I'm making sure I got this right. As long as the Commissioner said that, I concur."

Commissioner Holt said another way to do it was to look at the ranking of the roads through SCOP and SCRAP and they would be paved anyway. Commissioner Hinson said he did not want to do it that way.

Commissioner Morgan wanted to make it clear to the public and the Board it was clearly laid out and stated that the districts would be reimbursed their monies that they were using to meet an immediate public safety need that they had and they had a responsibility to work together and meet that need and to prioritize what they needs were.

Commissioner Taylor said to Commissioner Hinson's point, they all had commitments for those dollars in their districts, Commissioner Hinson had specific roads, she had striping, Commissioner

Morgan had Juniper Creek road. She said she did not comment on that item at the meeting that night but when she took a step back, her only need was striping and she waited to see if anyone would reach out to her and she had not heard from anyone with regards to that. She said that was shy she brought it up tonight and wanted to make sure it was done right.

Commissioner Morgan said it was unfortunate they were in a situation where they were pitting districts against each other when they made an opportunity to work together to solve an immediate need and hated the discussion went in the direction where it implied there were things done that were not above board or not clearly expressed because they were.

Commissioner Taylor asked where they were at with the RFP for the attorney. Mr. Lawson said it was out and would close in a week to week and half.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

#### **17. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing but would take questions.

Commissioner Taylor was curious about one of the lawsuits and asked him to contact her regarding same.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Hinson said he believed in integrity.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 7:28 p.m.*

He asked for a resolution for his Aunt, Louise Jones that passed away. Chair Viegbesie said the Administration did that automatically. He then asked for a Resolution for Reverend Maxwell for his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR REVEREND MAXWELL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

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

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

Commissioner Holt asked about the Building Inspection workshop and hoped it would be as soon as possible and asked that all contractors be invited. She said she would like to do the same thing with Planning and Zoning.

She said with the paving, FEMA has a tendency to be slow. Districts 3 and 4 were promised roads would be paved out of the \$10 Million that was bonded, Commissioners changed and she understood Commissioner's Morgan's plight and said she was in the same boat.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said the first time she became upset with Dewberry was when all SCOP and SCRAP went to District 4 or District 1 and it looked peculiar. She said what was not in the priority list was made up through SCOP and SCRAP.

She said to also invite the municipalities and City Managers to the meeting regarding Building Inspection because they were losing them and losing the revenue stream.

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

Chair Viegbesie said only thing he had was going to ask was for a Resolution of Accommodation for two ladies for charity work and volunteering for Mary Bush Smith and Lee Jones Rush.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE.**

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FUTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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 5, 2019 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-appeared by phone**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and asked everyone to silence their phones. He asked everyone to stand for the Invocation given by Reverend Willie Brown of Hopewell AME Church, Havana, FL and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lawson asked to pull Items 9, 12 and 13 off the Consent Agenda and will bring them back at a later date.

Commissioner Taylor asked to pull Item 7 for discussion.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Agenda had been adopted and was told no, the Interim and Commissioner Taylor had requested items to be pulled.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH CHANGES AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of the Security Force Southeast, LLC Contract Extension**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. August 20-Special Meeting**
  - b. September 3, 2019-Regular Meeting**
- 4. Approval of the 2020 Holiday Schedule**

5. **Approval of the FY 2020/2021 Proposed Budget Calendar**
6. **Approval of the 2020 BOCC Meeting Calendar**
7. ~~**Approval of the Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreement for FY2019/2020 between the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend, Inc. and the BOCC**~~  
Item Pulled for Discussion
8. **Approval of the Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreements and Interlocal Agreements for Senior Services for Gadsden County Seniors for FY2019/2020**
9. **Gadsden County Jail-Fire Protection**
10. **Cooks Landing Road Resurfacing Project (Construction) SCOP Agreement**
11. **Selection and Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Housing Rehabilitation Specialist**
12. **Termination of Billing Services Agreement**
13. **Agreement for Billing Services between Gadsden County, FL and EMS Management and Consultants, Inc.**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

7. **Approval of the Non-Profit/Human Services Funding Agreement for FY2019/2020 between the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend, Inc. and the BOCC**

Commissioner Taylor said she understood and asked the Clerk and County Administrator to ensure that the money put forth for the fiscal year 2019/2020 would be used for all three sites and if the organization was not able to do all three units with the funding, it would need to come back to the Board for further discussion. Chair Viegbesie said he had a discussion with the Boys and Girls Club and his understanding was all three sites would receive the services and no one site should be shut down or deprived of services.

Mr. Weiss clarified that was not in the agreement itself and wanted to clarify that and if they wanted it to be part of the agreement, it needed to be written in.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson said he had the same conversation and had constituents call him as well. He submitted a letter for the record that showed Havana and Quincy will be suspended as of November 29, 2019 until further notice. He said according to their letter, they were going to cut the services for Havana and Quincy and with that being the case, the Board needed to suspend their funding until they figured out what they were going to do.

Mr. Lawson said if this was going to happen, the Board should have been notified before a letter went to the parents saying they were going to suspend the sites so he was in total agreement with what they were saying, the Board should have been notified. He further stated they should

perhaps come back before the Board and let the Board know what their actions will be and this was the first he had seen or heard about the letter.

Chair Viegbesie said this was also the first he was seeing this but he had engaged in conversation with the Board members of the Boys and Girls Club and he impressed upon them that he did not see any reason why any of the sites should be shut down and they led him to understand that they were expecting some grant money to come in soon and they did not think they would be shutting any sites down. He said he was unsure if the letter was prepared before he had that conversation.

Chair Viegbesie said he was willing to make a motion to table this item.

Commissioner Hinson said he wondered if they were trying to send an inconspicuous message to the Board. He also said he knew they had been having a lot of financial issues over the years and the Board was funding them \$225,000 and was under the impression until recently that they were paying people full-time but found out they were only paying people for three hours a day. He asked where the \$225,000 the Board was giving them going and then was told they had 120 or so people at a site. He said he only saw at the most about 40 people at a site. He said based on the letter, he questioned the integrity of the process now and said you did not “send stuff to parents trying to flex your muscles” and this person should know what the implications should be. He said they needed to show where “every dime” was going because the taxpayers needed to know. He said if he had not been called, they would have approved this item tonight and there would have been one site only in Chattahoochee.

*Commissioner Morgan appeared at this juncture of the meeting (he previously was appearing by phone).*

Chair Viegbesie said when he had the conversation with the Executive Director, he did not read the Consent Agenda until this morning and he suggested he schedule a meeting with each member of the Board individually to explain what was going on and what their plans were. He said he felt that right now, pulling this item was the best way for them to go.

Commissioner Holt suggested withdrawing the motion and seconding and going ahead and scheduling for them to meet. Chair Viegbesie said he thought the motion was to pull the item.

Commissioner Taylor said the Attorney needed to put language in since he clearly stated language was not in there when it was mandated that service must be provided for all three sites and that needed to be done and asked for the Attorney to look into that and said to the Clerk to get the Boys and Girls Club here to clarify before one dime was spent.

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

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

**Gary Murray, 108 S. Shadow Street, Quincy, FL**—regarding Woodberry Road – appeared before the Board.

Mr. Murray asked the Board to help him adopt Woodberry Road and maintain it, pull ditches where it could be feasible for them to travel on.

Chair Viegbesie told him there was an Ordinance that the Board put in place for adoption of roads and asked him to schedule an appointment with the Interim Administrator or the Assistant County Administrator concerning this matter.

Mr. Weiss said their Ordinance stated that any items raised by citizens that were not agendaed would not be discussed but historically if a Commissioner wanted to make a brief comment that had been allowed.

Commissioner Holt told him to get with the Manager and she, him and Mr. Hall would get together and discuss it and go over the process.

**Linda Barkley, 530 Dusty House Road, Quincy, FL** –regarding adoption of road process. Ms. Barkley appeared before the Board and said if they remembered the Ordinance sunset in 2014. She said if she was clear, what they were supposed to be doing was scheduling a workshop first. She said she has done what they instructed the previous gentleman to do and she was then directed back to the BOCC. She asked that they to hold the workshop they originally stated they would do.

Commissioner Taylor said when time comes to her comments she will ask for the workshop.

Commissioner Holt said she and Ms. Barkley have had a conversation and she instructed her to contact the Administrator and Public Works. She said they would get there.

**Veronica Davis, 4801 Bainbridge Highway, Quincy, FL** said she was speaking for her Mother, appeared before the Board. She said her Mother has been waiting for ten years or more trying to get a road done and she has been trying to help her. She said she heard tonight about the road sign changing from blue to green and would like to sign up and would be waiting for the workshop.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**14. PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-014, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, FL granting subject to conditions, for up to 10 years, an economic development ad valorem tax exemption pursuant to Section 196.1995, Florida Statutes, and the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Ordinance to Coastal Plywood Company for the assessed value of the net increase in the tangible personal property acquired to facilitate the expansion of its existing business and the establishment of new jobs in Gadsden County; Approving a written tax exemption agreement; providing for repeal, severability, modifications**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was to adopt Ordinance 2019-014 granting, subject to conditions, for up to 10 years, an economic development ad valorem tax exemption pursuant to Section 196.1995, Florida Statutes, and the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Ordinance to Coastal Plywood Company for the assessed value of the net increase in the tangible personal property acquired to facilitate the expansion of its existing business and the establishment of new jobs in Gadsden County and approving a written tax exemption agreement setting for the terms, conditions, requirements and obligations related to the annual application and approval of the economic development ad valorem property tax exemption.

Mr. Weiss said they have an Ordinance on the books that authorizes the Board to grant Ad Valorem tax exemptions under certain conditions. This company is proposing to purchase and acquire and install equipment that will enhance production and will hire employees and pay above average wage in Gadsden County.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone who wished to speak either in opposition or support of this matter.

**Brad Richardson, Finance Manager, Coastal Plywood Company**, appeared before the Board. At the time the Mill was built, used equipment was used and gave them a significant cost advantage over their competitors and they were still using that same equipment. They have grown to 320 full-time employees and were the only plywood manufacturing mill in the State of Florida. He said technology has grown and they need to upgrade equipment. They have a plan to invest \$20 Million +/- in new equipment and he explained the equipment.

**Bryan Bates, CFO, Coastal**, echoed his colleagues sentiments. Coastal Plywood is a proud member of the Gadsden community and will continue to work with the County.

**Michael Dooner, Southern Forestry**, appeared before the Board and echoed what has already been said. He said the mill was critical to the environment of the County.

**Beth Cicchetti, GCDC**, appeared before the Board and said this was brought to them through Enterprise Florida and they have worked with the company over the past year. As required, they have worked with the Property Appraisers' Office to prepare the packet that was before them and prepare an analysis over a ten year period.

Commissioner Taylor said she heard the amounts and she asked the attorney if he had a chance to look over the item. She said she did not comprehend it. She said Coastal was a very good community partner and wanted to keep them that way. She asked what impact it had on the future with regard to revenue coming in.

Mr. Weiss said as the Ordinance stated, they work with the Property Appraiser to make a determination as to the amount of tax revenue the County would forgo by granting the exception. That was what was on Page 4 and 5 was the estimate. Mr. Weiss explained the new equipment would not be on the Tax Roll until 2021 and from 2021 to 2030 the amounts of the abatement and that was the amount of revenue the County would forego each year and the total was \$813,000 and that was an estimate. He said that was the difference between equipment being retired and new equipment that was coming on-line. He said he thought what the Commissioner was asking and what was important to remember, this was not taking money that already existed, it was forgoing new money that would otherwise be realized.

Commissioner Taylor asked them to show where in 2021 dollars would be generated. Mr. Bates re-appeared before the Board and said there would be 30 new people coming to work every day. Commissioner Taylor asked if those 30 people would be coming from Gadsden County and if they would be hiring based on experience, knowledge, and skills. Mr. Bates said they would likely be entry level jobs and be first qualified person would get the job. Commissioner Taylor asked where they were with regards to background screening. Mr. Bates replied they had a voluntary box on their application with regards to if a person had committed a felony, if they do not check it, they



do not look and they do a limited background checks that only go back a few years.

Commissioner Holt acknowledged that she met with Mr. Bates and Mr. Richardson and they discussed the jobs, background checks, etc., but she had a couple of questions for Mrs. Cicchetti. She asked the amount of taxes roughly paid last year and Mr. Bates said it was roughly \$250,000. He said from what he understood they would continue to pay what they have been paying, but not new taxes on the new equipment.

Commissioner Hinson said they get questions from the community about jobs and know they hire because he knew folks that worked there. He said he was willing to approve and Commissioner Holt said second.

Commissioner Morgan said as this related to local economic development strategy, one of the key ingredients was for them to have the opportunity to offer certain incentives if the criteria was met and one of the most important thing they do every ten years was put a Referendum before the local voters requesting their permission for them to be able to offer these type things. He said the way he looked at this, and also disclosed he had also spoken with Coastal and others about this particular investment, the question they have to ask, if there was a proven industry that was a good partner for the County and offer all the things they have seen through the years from Coastal with 350 jobs and the direct, positive impact on the economy, would you offer the incentives to have that company come to our County and would want to think so. He Asked if the enhancements would be an expansion to the physical plant and if they have had the conversations with people in the area was told it would not increase the actual footprint of the plant. He said he had no issue with this.

Chair Viegbesie said he also has spoken with them and asked questions and was most impressed with the new equipment and lived not too far from the area and heard the saws. He said he was also in support of the item.

Commissioner Taylor said it sounded like everyone had made contact with the company except her and was offended and was not going to support this (laughing).

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

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **15. Economic Development Professional Services Contract-Gadsden County Development Council**

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was seeking Board direction and approval of the contract with the Gadsden Development Council for the current fiscal year for the funds allocated in the budget and wanted to point out part of the request was also for a lump sum figure and typically in the past the funds were appropriated in quarterly amounts based on their reports.

Commissioner Taylor said in their workshop they need to tag on with the funds, deliverables. She said to write out someone a check for \$60,000 and not knowing what they would get in return was not being fiscally responsible and they needed to have a list of items.

Commissioner Holt said they could see what they do with regard to Coastal and Hoover and other companies. She said she felt they needed to work with GCDC on sites that have been certified in the County to look for development. She said they could not market something if they did not know where it was. She said one of the deliverables could be that they tell them if there was a company that was looking for a certain type or piece of property in one of their districts.

Commissioner Morgan said what GCDC brought to the table was important but did not understand the need to make a single payment instead of the quarterly installments as they have always done. He said they also need to remember the certain financial condition of the County right now and need to keep that in mind when making decisions.

Commissioner Holt asked if Mrs. Cicchetti could explain the request.

Mrs. Cicchetti said the request was to serve as a match for a grant they were working on through EDO and that was explained in their packet. She explained they have cut their marketing and was going after grants to fill the gaps.

Commissioner Morgan asked the timeframe of the match and she responded they had to have one turned in by November 22<sup>nd</sup> and it was well underway and with the Disaster Supplemental, they have to satisfy all goals in their 5 year Strategic Plan and now was the time to go through the next strategic phase but they needed to continue to work on the sites.

Commissioner Morgan asked with the grant that required the match was in November, asked how long that was for. She said she was not sure if there was a term if had to be spent by. She said under the EDA, they had to show a match and they reduced the match from 75% down to 50% and if they could combine what they have in their budget plus what they could potentially get through the Rural Infrastructure fund at the State level that would serve as match at the Federal level.

Commissioner Morgan said since they have been funded at that level, that would serve as the match, whether or not it was given up front or throughout the fiscal year.

Mrs. Cicchetti said by the time they receive their first installment, they will be two months into the year and they will ask for the second installment. Commissioner Morgan questioned that she stated they needed the money upfront to show the commitment from the County. Commissioner Morgan asked whether they received their money installments or all upfront, they could still use that money as the match and she said true.

Chair Viegbesie said the questions he had Commissioner Morgan had just addressed with regards to the installments. He echoed what Commissioner Morgan just said with the accommodations for the efforts with what GCDC has done.

Commissioner Holt asked the amount of the grant requested and Mrs. Cicchetti and it was \$300,000 max and Commissioner Holt said she did not see a problem. She said the \$60,000 was not going anywhere and they needed it in order to get \$300,000. Commissioner Morgan said they did not need to do that to get the \$300,000. She said she could not see doing what they needed to do to get \$300,000, not to mention the fact that with EDA, there would also be other funding. Commissioner Holt asked how much she was able to apply for with EDA and she responded they

have to show the scope of work and they was still working on that part of it but that could be matched for 50%.

Commissioner Hinson said he heard everyone and it all made so much sense. He suggested they give \$15,000 now, \$15,000 next quarter and then \$30,000 for this year.

Commissioner Morgan encouraged them to stick with the quarterly payments.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were going to take a chance on \$540,000 for \$60,000 and said mathematically that was not (inaudible). She said the money was there and was not going anywhere.

Commissioner Taylor said if they were looking at 50% match for \$540,000, they were looking at \$270,000, of they were looking for \$300,000, they were looking for \$150,000 match and if they gave a letter saying they were committed to \$60,000 funded for this fiscal year, that could be used at the match, it did not have to be tangible and she agreed it needed to be in increments of \$15,000.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO PAY IN INCREMENTS OF \$15,000 TO THE CHAMBER AS WELL AS GCDC AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN SAID HE WOULD SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Morgan said they were strictly talking about GCDC, he had no issue but felt they should take that up with the Chamber when the Chamber's agreement came to them.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AMENDED HER MOTION TO WHAT WAS ON THE AGENDA FOR GCDC AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked Mrs. Cicchetti if that would work and what she needed to show on the grant. Mrs. Cicchetti said they invoice quarterly and will send an invoice for first \$15,000 and in December will send a second invoice for \$15,000.

Chair Viegbesie asked if she needed a Letter of Commitment from the Board showing the commitment of the \$60,000 and how it would be drawn and she said they would be asking for a Letter of Support.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were only ones funding and Mrs. Cicchetti said no, they were getting funding from all six municipalities. Commissioner Hinson said he would like to request amendment of the motion to \$20,000; \$20,000, \$20,000. Commissioner Taylor refused to amend her Motion.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT ASKED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO GIVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT.**

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

#### **16. Updates**

Mr. Thomas said forwarded an email from the Finance Director regarding the approval of the

Dispatch Center project and the issue was Dispatch encompasses more than Fire, it was mostly Law Enforcement, Sheriff, Police Department, and EMS. He said all the funding was in the Fire fund and the source of that fund was the Fire Fund balance and the source of that was the Discretionary Sales Surtax. He said upon review of the Ordinance, Finance Director feels they have encumbered this expense and they need to amend the Ordinance to make the payment from the Fire Fund as budgeted and that was their recommendation.

Chair Viegbesie said he read the email and asked if that was something the Attorney and the Clerk wanted to work on the appropriate language to revise the Ordinance and bring it before the Board.

Commissioner Holt said to also include the Finance Director. Commissioner Morgan asked the Clerk if this was his recommendation and Mr. Thomas said yes. Mr. Thomas said this could be a one-time thing coming from the Fund Balance and not impact the ongoing revenue that was being disbursed to the two funds.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **17. Updates**

Mr. Lawson said he had some reminders:

November 8<sup>th</sup> was the bid opening for legal services;

November 11<sup>th</sup> will be the Veterans' Day celebration at 11:00 a.m.;

November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. is the Building Department workshop;

He asked the availability for the joint meeting for the GHI/BCC/CRMC meeting the week of Thanksgiving if November 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> if that would work. Commissioner Hinson said he felt sometime in January would be better. Mr. Lawson explained if they waited until then they would have to do another amendment.

Commissioner Holt said to include that amendment in the next meeting in case it was needed.

Commissioner Taylor said to try to nail down a date, maybe the second week of December.

Commissioner Holt said to put an extension in the packet just in case. She said to also hold it during the regular meeting and make sure it was publicized more.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he said to have a public meeting and then have another public meeting to vote was because a lot of folks did not realize, even ones that supported it, because people have had no input.

Commissioner Taylor said they have had three or four meetings on the contract, they have gone through it, made suggestions and to continue to kick this can down the road was unfair to citizens. She asked why prolong this other than try to derail this whole thing.

Commissioner Holt said the extension was needed to be in next agenda as a safety mechanism.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not see why it could not be on the Agenda. He said he hoped they could finalize the current contract and get approval.

Chair Viegbesie thanked the Interim for his diligence and for coming out of retirement and helping the past few months.

Commissioner Taylor asked for a workshop for GCDC and the Chamber for deliverables. Commissioner Morgan asked if they would be separate or together and she said together. She also asked for a workshop regarding private roads. She said the Citizens Bill of Rights should have been back some months ago and had not heard on that and Affordable Housing and she wanted to see something on the Agenda in the near future. She asked why they were waiting so long on the meeting for the Planning and Zoning workshop regarding permits. She said the SHIP funds were one thing she never understood, it was like a maze. She said nothing is ever done and that was one thing they needed a workshop on, she's heard there are pots of money but did not know how it was being disseminated, who was choosing the applicants and when people come to her because they still have blue tarps she could not tell them anything. She said with regard to the Summer program, she had no problem with it going back on the Agenda because she saw her Commissioners open their heart and fund an agency that allowed our funding source to dip below what we said we would never do.

Commissioner Morgan echoed what a great job Mr. Lawson did. He said regarding specific comments on the workshop for the Chamber and GCDC, he encouraged them to schedule individual workshops for them.

Chair Viegbesie said on that same note, he felt having them separate would be better.

*Commissioner Taylor left at 8:01 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt disagreed with that comment and wanted them to work together. She said the Chamber was looking as retention of business that was already here and GCDC had always been more successful with EDA and Opportunity Florida and going after funding for different projects to certify sites. Commissioner Morgan agreed. Commissioner Holt said they could see then what their major thing was and everyone could see at the same time what each one was doing and wanted to see progress from each one and not make them competitive. She said since they were both receiving funding, she expected them to let them know what they would be receiving for the money. She then said Commissioner Taylor said something regarding the super majority vote and CBOR, if they were going to look at that, she felt, on a step down process, if looking at industrial, you step down from that to light industrial, then commercial. She said you could not have residential being next to a factory and if they put those policies in place, a super majority would be needed for any of it because the policy and procedures would already be in place. She said she hoped they would start getting that from the Planning Department. She said if they looked at the step-down process, and they were using it at other locations, it would cut out them requiring different things from builders and homeowners because they would not be competing next to each other.

Chair Viegbesie said a CBOR was not an item that needed to be agendaed during a regular meeting; it needed a workshop by itself.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**18. Updates**

Mr. Weiss echoed his sentiments to the Interim County Administrator and said to Mr. Lawson it had been a pleasure working with him again.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 8:06 p.m.*

He said with respect to CBOR, when it went to Planning, they wanted a joint workshop with the Board and he understood it was in the works.

Commissioner Taylor said she would welcome that.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson echoed what Commissioner Taylor said about the roads.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 8:09 p.m.*

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 8:09 p.m.*

He said along with Planning, he wanted to look at permits;

**SHIP**

He said he did not have any issues with that, his citizens said they have been doing a decent job;

**Summer Youth Employment and Emergency Housing**

He said he would like to see Summer Youth on the next Agenda along with Summer Youth. He said Friday while at Gadsden County High School; one girl came to him and asked if he could help her find job.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:12 p.m.*

**Lawson and Associates**

He said he did not want to miss the boat, they funded them the last couple of years and it was almost too late now. He wanted it on the next agenda and to pay them \$25,000.

He said his Uncle Melvin Hinson passed away and asked for a Resolution. Chair Viegbesie suggested he call and give the Administrator the information.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said they need a Grant writer, they have funds for that and need to get one to go after funding for some of these requests.

She said they need to individually get with the Manager and Finance Department on line items on workshops before they get there. She said they had pretty much cut to the bone.

She agreed with Commissioner Hinson and said Congressman Lawson called her and she was asking for things on the federal level and she wanted, if they had the opportunity, wanted to request information on some funding.

She said as for Lawson and Associates, they need a person to approach and they need to go after funding. She said they need to have a specific person that was assigned.

She thanked Mr. Lawson for everything he had done.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

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

**Receipt and File**

- 20.**
- a. FDOH-Gadsden's Quarterly Progress Report for ½ Cent Sales Tax Prevention and Education Program
  - b. October 3, 2019-Quincy CRA #1
  - c. October 3, 2019-Havana Downtown Redevelopment
  - d. October 3, 2019\*Midway CRA 2011

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

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

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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, FL ON NOVEMBER 19, 2019 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-not present**  
                  **Eric Hinson, District 2**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3-not present**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 6:06 p.m., asked everyone to mute their phones, gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hall stated he would like to remove Item 16 from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Holt asked to pull Item 6 for discussion.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE CHANGES AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HOLT AS VICE CHAIR AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**2. Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend**

**Nicholas Maddox, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club, appeared before the Board to discuss an email that was sent to the parents.**

He said they were committed to Gadsden County and continuing to provide services in Gadsden County. He said during the October Boys and Girls Club Board meeting, the Board passed a motion to suspend activities in the Quincy and Havana units effective December 1<sup>st</sup> and Staff followed that direction and sent a letter to the parents of the students of those two locations. He said it was not a permanent suspension; they were considering a couple of things that was happening in their budget over the past few years. He said upon receiving the letters, a copy was given to a

Commissioner and was then passed around to the rest of the Board and that was why they were present tonight to explain why they took the action that was taken. He said the commitment to the Club by the Board was \$96,187.000 and the Board based their decision on a continuous decline in the commitment to the Club. He explained some of the background between the Club and the County and some of the shortfalls they were experiencing. He said there was a mis-notion that when they sent out the letters it would be a permanent thing and was not the sentiment from the Board or from him as CEO.

Commissioner Holt said there may be a delay in the programming starting and Mr. Maddox said his Board voted to continue operation in all three clubs throughout the month of December and that would put them through the new year in January. He said his Board was asking for the \$24,046.74 to be released for the three months of service that they have provided between October 1, 2019 to December 1, 2019 and the second part was they understood the interest was to continue to provide service at all clubs but at the same time his Board wanted to opportunity to sit down with an appointed Commissioner or the full Commission to see if they could come up with a solution that worked for both. He said if the Board chose to release the funds; the Club wanted to be in Gadsden County and would find a way to open those Clubs in the County as soon as possible. He said at the time the Board made the decision, they had applied for a (inaudible) grant that was about \$60,000-\$65,000 and have since found out they were being funded at the \$60,000 level and that would help fill the gap.

Commissioner Holt asked about the funds from October to December and Mr. Maddox responded they provided service starting October 1<sup>st</sup> and committed to providing service through the end of December. He said the Board was asking even if the Commission released all of it (\$24,046.74) the Executive Committee be able to sit with an appointed Commissioner or the Commission to have a conversation as to how they move on from January until the next fiscal year. He said starting in January they will start working on a three year Strategic Plan on how they plan on moving forward.

Commissioner Holt explained there were shortfalls due to Hurricane Michael. She asked the Interim Manager, with the money they approved, have they not approved to release funds and Mr. Hall said correct. Mr. Weiss said the agreements with the Non-Profits have not been approved yet; this was on for a presentation and not for the approval for the funding.

Chair Viegbesie explained the item was on the last Agenda and when they saw the memo, there was concern and they pulled the item for the time being. He also said if he understood correctly, if she or Commissioner Hinson could meet with the Boys and Girls Club, they would be speaking on behalf of the Board.

Commissioner Holt said if this was going to be on the next agenda, maybe they could come in an hour before the next meeting. Chair Viegbesie asked if she was suggesting a special meeting on that one item one item before the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. She said yes. Chair Viegbesie said rather than making it a workshop, make it a special meeting so it could be voted up or down. The Deputy Clerk pointed out there was already a meeting scheduled regarding Attorney Interviews before the next meeting. Chair Viegbesie said they could still meet with the Club. Mr. Maddox said he would speak with Mrs. Bradley and arrange a meeting and try to have it done prior to the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**CONSENT**

Chair Viegbesie said Item 6 was pulled for discussion and Commissioner Holt said the only thing for the Manager, when there were bids, to please include the score sheets. Chair Viegbesie asked if they still needed to pull that item or if it could be added back in and she said it could be added back in.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

- 3. Ratification Memo**
- 4. County EMS Awards Grant**
- 5. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. September 23, 2019-Special Meeting**
- 6. ~~Award Bid No. 19-15 to Rudd's Pest Control~~**  
Pulled for discussion but item was added back in
- 7. Approval of the Library Annual Plan of Service 2019-2020**
- 8. Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Training Funding Request for Marine Enforcement Operations**
- 9. Interlocal Agreement with City of Chattahoochee for Animal Control Services**
- 10. Interlocal Agreement for Animal Control Services with City of Quincy**
- 11. Termination of Billing Services Agreement**
- 12. Agreement for Billing Services between Gadsden County and EMS Management and Consultants, Inc.**
- 13. Approval of Access Easement over Drake Acres Road**
- 14. Approval of an Interlocal Agreement with Gadsden County School Board for Sheltering**
- 15. Seventh Amendment of the Hospital Lease**
- 16. Approval of Professional Architectural Services Task Order**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson, 825 S. Virginia Street, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board regarding the Voter Program. She wanted to make the County aware of the Knock and Vote they did Saturday at Gadsden Arms Apartments and they were able to register 47 voters by doing so. This Saturday they will do the complex behind Winn-Dixie and will meet at Taco Bell at 9:45 a.m. and she invited those that wanted to join to do so.

**Emmanuel Sapp, 821 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board. He was before the Board requesting the County look into a new ordinance for a 4% sales tax for amusement parks and the funding could be used for non-profits. He had information he gave to the Deputy Clerk to pass on to the Commissioners.

Chair Viegbesie asked since this was a non-agendaed item, if it was up for comments by the Commission and Mr. Weiss said their Ordinance did state that it was non-discussion items and historically, they have at time allowed a brief comment but no discussion about the item.

Commissioner Hinson said he got excited when he heard amusement park and Mr. Sapp said it was a café internet. Hesaïd that was a name that they allowed them to come to the County as amusement café internet services and was the title that was given to these great new businesses.

Commissioner Holt said for Mr. Sapp to meet with the Manager and thought it may be a good idea.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **17. PUBLIC HEARING-Legislative-Consideration of Ordinance 2019-009 to Adopt to Update the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2019-02)**

Chair Viegbesie said he understood the next three items would need a super majority to pass and they did not have enough commissioners present and asked for guidance from the Attorney. Mr. Weiss said they had been advertised and had not been pulled from the Agenda and there needed to be some type of action taken individually, in case anyone wished to speak on them but with the understanding the item could not be approved tonight. He said they could continue or table the items and he recommended they be re-advertised again prior to the next meeting they were scheduled to be heard.

Chair Viegbesie asked for a motion to table so there would be no need for discussion because if they have conversation, they will have to be continued.

Mr. Weiss said they would have to be addressed individually as a matter of procedure.

Commissioner Holt asked where the other two commissioners were. Mr. Hall said he had not spoken with them and did not know. Chair Viegbesie asked if he did not hear from them and Mr. Hall said he did not and could not say if Mrs. Bradley did or not.

Commissioner Holt asked if it could be the majority of commissioners present and Mr. Weiss said that was not how their Ordinance was written.

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for consideration of adopting Ordinance 2019-009 to update the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of the Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing although the Commission would not be able to take action but asked if anyone in the audience had any comments.

Mr. Sapp appeared before the Board. He asked how they could resolve the issue of the super majority vote and Mr. Weiss said the Ordinance would have to be amended and had to be done so

by a super majority vote of the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked if the citizens could sue in order to change because the Judge's order would supersede their Ordinance. Mr. Weiss said anyone could sue anyone at any time. Mr. Sapp said he thought she was right.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was anyone else that wished to speak and there was no-one.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not in favor but in all fairness, there was a legislative conference going on right now and was giving them (the absent Commissioners) the benefit of the doubt they were driving to the conference.

Chair Viegbesie asked for a motion for continuance.

Commissioner Holt said a couple of things, they read the analysis but did not tell the audience what this was about and felt the people should have an opportunity to speak on the item if they wished to do so.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Hall to call Ms. Lex up to give a summary of the item.

Ms. Lex said this was a housekeeping item and they were required to have a long-range plan by the State and there were elements they were required to have in that long-range plan; one being the Capital Projects.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was any way possible they could have workshops prior to public hearings so they could digest and staff could brief them on things.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**18. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2019-015 Approving the 1604 Flat Creek Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2019-01)**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of adopting Ordinance 2019-015 adopting the Flat Creek Road Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map.

Ms. Lex re-appeared before the Board to give a brief description of this item.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak.

**Jay Peterson, 547 N. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL, Jim Stidham and Associates**, appeared before the Board in support of this item and said there was no detriment to this extension.

Commissioner Holt said on page 11 of 43, that was one of the properties she wanted to do an overlay of Commercial and asked if they would continue to pay ag taxes because the County was the one that helped them with the zoning change. She said also of they were able to get infrastructure help in order to get those interchanges overlay as commercial instead of ag and rural residential that would definitely help the land-owners.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**19. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2019-016-2434 Kemp Road Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment (SSPA 2019-03)**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for consideration of Ordinance 2019-016 to adopt the Kemp Road Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendment to change the future land use category from Agriculture 1(AG 1) to Public/Institutional (PI).

Ms. Lex said she was very excited about this item coming before the Board. She said Ms. Johnson was dedicated to run a small, private school and she had already completed a lot split and separated the parcel so it was under the 10 acres required for the Small-scale land use amendment and was an appropriate location. She said she has direct access onto Kemp Road and would be a small private school that would be located on 7.72 acres. The surrounding land uses were agricultural but there were no objections from any participants attending the Citizens Bill of Rights meeting.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition of this item.

**Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental and Land Services**, appeared before Board and encouraged them to vote in favor of this project. She asked when the next meeting would be and was told December 3<sup>rd</sup>. She said the CBOR has now affected 3 of her last projects and has had an impact on the County financially.

Chair Viegbesie said Staff just said Commissioner Taylor not here because of having a procedure done and they were trying to find out why Commissioner Morgan was not here.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND AND THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Hinson said also to everyone here for them to stay until the end of the meeting.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**20. Economic Development Professional Services Contract with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Development Center**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion, review and approval of the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce and the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt wanted to hear the presentation.

Chair Viegbesie said if Commissioner Hinson was trying to get everyone out on one time, they needed to jump on that. (laughter)

**David Gardner, Executive Director**, appeared before the Board and thanked the Board for supporting the Small Business program and said it was making a difference. He said one request they hear every day was for a full restaurant. He added with regard to their largest employer, Trulieve, they continue to grow with over 1,100 employees in a very short four year span and they were working with them to address a lot of issues relating to minority contracting, employment concerns and make sure they were committed to this community. He said overall the economy in Gadsden County was pretty strong.

Commissioner Holt asked the number of small businesses that have opened and Mr. Gardner did not have that information with him but would get it to them. Commissioner Holt said they need jobs, need manufacturing jobs where they make a product. She said she wanted to get in line to get to where they needed to get to in order to provide jobs for people here.

Commissioner Hinson said there had to be a plan in place to get the interchanges together and need to increase revenue in the County and asked how they could hold that conversation first and then increase infrastructure.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**21. Award Bid for the East Gadsden Park "Walk and Bike Trail" RTP Project No. T1710**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the East Gadsden Park "Walk and Bike Trail" RTP Project No. T1710 to the low bidder in the attached detailed bid tab. Dewberry was the low bidder.

**Allen Meeks** appeared before the Board and said it was a \$200,000 match from the State and \$200,000 from the County.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**22. Discussion of Funding the Summer Youth Program in the FY 19/20 Budget**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to discuss funding the Summer Youth Program in the FY 19/20 Budget using the General Fund Balance. He said Staff was directed at the November 5, 2019 meeting to bring back an agenda item to discuss funding the Summer Youth Program in the FY 19/20 Budget using the General Fund Balance.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Hall to give the public a little understanding of the analysis. He said they have discussed the financial funding and currently it has gone to \$0.

Chair Viegbesie said personally, this Board could find one way creatively, either by working with private organizations or somehow, to fund the \$50,000 either by working collaboratively to find a way to provide the summer youth employment. He said he was now charging staff to find a way to employ the number of youth they employed last year.

Commissioner Hinson thanked him for the gesture. He said he received a phone call from a

principal of one of the schools. He said there were shootings going on and this thing was serious as serious as could be. He said they need to give these young people jobs and teach them responsibilities, show them the value of work and it would help the kids out so much. He said he called an employee the other day and was able to position six kids to get a job. He said of all things, this was the one thing they should vote for.

Commissioner Holt said she did not disagree but thought there was a better plan. She said if they were able to do 10 jobs, the School Board do 10, the cities do 5 jobs each and she understood the smaller cities might not have that type of money so they could do three jobs each, there would be 44 jobs. She said the Chamber had a whole bank of businesses that would not have to hire, they could donate \$1,000 each and we would be back to where we needed to be. She said she was willing to put her hat in her hand to go to the businesses and ask for a donation. She said she was leery of touching the \$2 Million and they had to be able to run the County. She said the auditors' recommendation was \$3 Million and they were already \$1 Million down. She said we hire 10, the School Board hire 10, the municipalities hire some, plus the Constitutional Officers and it was worth a try. She said she never said and she never would when the revenue is down, she would not say she would vote for it but to bring it back later and if they found a way, she was good, but she just could not see doing it. She said she saw the need but if they could not manage their own house, how could they expect someone else to do it. If they did not have the money, they just did not have it and what if there was another disaster; they have to cover bills, have to pay insurance, and their portion of healthcare. She said they had people working every day that pay insurance, pay their portion of healthcare, they had to do it.

Chair Viegbesie said this item was agendaed for discussion only. In this conversation he suggested they charged staff if they could not find a way to fund Summer Youth employment for the minimum number that was funded last summer, for them to reach out to the community. He said it could be done; they had to think outside of the box.

Commissioner Hinson said everything said was wonderful and he could not argue with that. They have to look at the budget before making that decision. He said they gave the Constitutional Officers a wish list and asked them what they wanted and they were cut 5% of what they asked for. That was not a cut but was an add-on; their own budget was increased by a few Million instead of being decreased. He said to not tell him there was a budget shortfall when the budget was increased and the only thing cut were the services.

Mr. Sapp reappeared before the Board and said there were several things he wanted to bring up to par. Tallahassee was spending over \$6 Million in correcting ill behavior in terms of their youth and knew Gadsden County was not in that capacity and our revenue and income was not sustainable. He said the small amount of \$50,000 would generate them more in the long run.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make a few corrections. Mr. Sapp was talking about industrial certifications. She said they could not budget for grants because they may not get them. She said she was all for Staff helping but they have five elected officials up there and they raise money every time they run for office. They could go to some of those people themselves and ask for money.

Chair Viegbesie said the option was direction to the Board and he suggested for staff to explore in one way or another to look their books, into the community, private partners, and find a way to



provide a minimum of \$50,000 to provide the summer youth program as they did last year. Commissioner Holt said they had to do something and Chair Viegbesie said that was what Staff was to do and they could contact the Commissioners to ask for their help. He said for them to bring this back no later than the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. He said this was for discussion and felt they had discussed this item enough and would come back in the very near future, no later than the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**23. Discussion of Funding the Emergency Housing Repair Account in the FY 19/20 Budget**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was to discuss the Emergency Housing Repair Account in the FY 19/20 Budget using the General Fund Balance.

He said the estimated General Fund Balance is approximately \$2 Million

Commissioner Hinson said this was another item he asked to be brought back. Normally this was for the senior citizens and disabled and was for people that had a leaky roof or needed a ramp. He said the Clerk said a few years ago, there was \$600,000-\$750,000 that had yet to be touched and they were supposed to help folks. He said he hoped this could be put on the next agenda.

**24. Approval of Salary for Interim County Administrator**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for board approval to increase the Interim Administrator's salary while he is serving as the Interim County Administrator.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this mirrored the last Interim County Administrator and Mr. Weiss said yes.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**25. Updates**

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**26. Updates**

Mr. Hall said on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 the Legal Services Applicant Interviews would be held;

On December 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 there would be a BOCC/GHI/CRMC joint meeting.

Commissioner Holt asked on the BOCC Meeting regarding the Hospital, she wanted it to be specially advertised or marketed to the community so everyone would know about it; she wanted more than a newspaper notification.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Holt did not realize she could change that time to a more convenient time to her if she chose to do so.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad he mentioned that because a date in January or February

would be fine because of the holidays.

Mr. Weiss pointed out the contract was extended to February but GHI has not approved the extension as of yet.

Chair Viegbesie suggested if they could work on generating a directory of the Churches in the County so they could email to the Pastors so when they have something of this nature the pastors could announce this to their congregation.

Commissioner Holt asked if the contract ran out, did it go to a month to month and Mr. Weiss said they had been extending the renewal; if they did not give that notice it would renew for 5 years.

Chair Viegbesie said right now there was a notification for December 9<sup>th</sup>. He asked the Administrator to poll the Commissioners for a new date and a new location.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO MOVE THE MEETING TO THE SECOND MEETING IN JANUARY AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Weiss if that was something they could do now according to their policy and procedure. Mr. Weiss said he did not know if there was a particular procedure, if they looked at their Ordinance, generally speaking, there should not be action taken unless it was an item on the Agenda. Commissioner Hinson said it was on the Agenda. Chair Viegbesie said for them to understand that would be a joint meeting and they did not know what GHI's schedule would be like. Chair Viegbesie said they were going to ask Staff to look into another time and Commissioner Holt said in January.

Chair Viegbesie said they had established the meeting would be sometime in January and asked if Commissioner Holt would withdraw her motion and she agreed and Commissioner Hinson withdrew his second.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**27. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he wanted to make sure he responded to Item 24 and wanted confirmation and Mr. Hall said the salary was the same. Mr. Weiss said with that he had nothing else to report and was happy to answer questions if there were any.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for everything and knew he got emotional tonight; he loved everybody and thanked everybody for their support after his Aunt died.

He said he wanted to be able to pass the budget and wanted to entertain, he asked the Havana Senior Citizens to allow him to be able to use the area for a point of pick-up and they did and they had volunteers come in and they were able to give food and water to a lot of people from different

areas. There were people that came from Georgia, Tallahassee and all over and they were able to help a lot of people. He was thinking with Havana Northside High School, they have a cafeteria and it's been fixed up real nice and have a gymnasium and think, in his humble opinion, in emergency situations, they need to have another location and that would be great place for that. He would like to put that on the Board's Agenda to put Havana Northside High School now known as Havana Development Corporation on the Agenda so the Board could vote to give them \$25,000 so that could be an additional place for a shelter.

He thanked the Board for everything and wanted to put the Summer Youth Employment for 125 jobs on the Agenda for a vote as well as the Emergency Housing Repair funds of \$100,000.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt told Commissioner Hinson she appreciated his passion for his items that she was not against them but wanted to be able to pay bills first.

She said regarding the Hospital issue, at the end of 30 years the County will have spent \$18 Million that was taxpayer dollars on a facility that was not a hospital and still not have a hospital. She said she was not in favor of the lease because there still would not be a hospital at the end of it.

She said she's been telling people to change the super majority vote, to take them to court, She said they have right to sue them and people need to know what their rights were.

She said she was doing a letter for an elderly lady right now at the library because she did not have a computer at her home, for her denial letter from FEMA and she was assisting her. She said to the Administrator she hoped there was some place they could direct people to the library in case they did not have access to a computer and to the internet.

She said they were about to go into Session and they did not have a lobbyist to represent them and in her opinion that was an emergency because that was their opportunity to get money.

She said they had to have a shelter. She said to Commissioner Hinson about the building in Havana, Building Inspection would have to check the building out first.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

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

Chair Viegbesie thanked them for their vote of confidence for giving him another chance at being Chair and hoped they would be very respectful of each other as well as respectful of time when they have the recognition to speak.

**Receipt and File**

**29. Administrative Budget Amendments**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
November 19, 2019-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:57 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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 DECEMBER 3, 2019 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Commissioner Morgan gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Hall said the next item was Amendment and Approval of the Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND A SECOND (BIT THE VOTE WAS NEVER CALLED FOR).**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1.     Resolution honoring Bonnie Ann Francis**

The Board presented a Resolution to Major Bonnie Ann Francis, Retired, which was read aloud, and pictures were taken.

**CONSENT**

Chair Viegbesie made note that Commissioner Taylor (who was present at the meeting earlier) may not be returning due to not feeling well.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MR. HALL SAID WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 6 HE WANTED TO PULL FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON THEN ASKED TO PULL ITEM 5 FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND TO THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**2.     Ratification Memo**

**3.     Training Funding Request for 2019 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Assembly of Cities**

**4.     Approval of the Proposal and Service Agreement with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP for Suppression Gas Systems Test and Inspect-FM200 System**

**5.     Approval of the Amendment to Agreement No. T1710 required by Department of Environmental**

~~**Protection of the Grant Agreement for the East Gadsden Park and Multipurpose Complex at St. Hebron**~~

Pulled for Discussion

~~**6. Approval of the Agreement for State Lobbying Services with Lawson & Associates for Fiscal Year**~~

Pulled for Discussion

**7. Approval of Minutes**

- a. July 18, 2019-Budget Workshop
- b. October 1, 2019-Regular Meeting

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**5. Approval of the Amendment to Agreement No. T1710 required by Department of Environmental Protection of the Grant Agreement for the East Gadsden Park and Multipurpose Complex at St. Hebron**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of amendment number 2 to Agreement No. T1710 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Gadsden County BOCC and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

Commissioner Hinson said he asked to have this item pulled because he received a phone call today because things were being cut out that were detrimental to the park, i.e., lights to the restrooms so would not be able to use them, drainage and other issues and there was a potential to have other change orders and thought they needed to address those issues before they voted.

Chair Viegbesie said this would just be a walking trail for now.

Commissioner Hinson said this was still a part of the \$200,000 and they needed to make sure before moving forward all their ducks were in a row.

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:17 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt asked what the suggestions were because they approved the walking trail and asked if the restrooms would come second. She asked if they were laid out be in stages.

Commissioner Hinson said before getting into it he wanted to make sure they were on the same page first.

**Allan Meeks** appeared before the Board. He said originally the restrooms started out to be compost restrooms and now they will have water and skylights. The walking trail has been shortened up because they did not have the needed funds or the acreage to do a mile and the holding pond has been reduced; there was no need to build a huge holding pond until they were ready to build the parking lot, which would come at a Commissioner later phase.

Commissioner Hinson said in his humble opinion, maybe they needed to halt this and hold a brief workshop so it could be explained to Commissioners so they know exactly what was going on and to keep the change orders down. Mr. Meeks said this was reducing costs so they could build the park and this was also just an amendment to the Agreement for the State for the scope of work.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not vote because of the costs to park but it looked like this item was simply extending the existing agreement they already had by one year with DEP.

Commissioner Hinson said they did not have to extend the agreement, he did not mind stopping the agreement right now; but if they were going to continue, they needed to know what they were doing so the people would not get something that was not fully complete. He said he had a problem with this because they have a bridge that collapsed and they took \$200,000 out of this funding to take care of this and felt the bridge should take priority first.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly at the last meeting the project was approved to be conducted and explained this was only asking for the DEP extension and was changing from a compost toilet to a regular toilet. Commissioner Hinson said there would not be lights in the restrooms and it was not fair to have citizens walk in and there be no lights, it would not be safe.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a deadline on this and what the impact would be if it was not approved. Commissioner Hinson said to table this until a workshop was scheduled. He said in short, he voted for this, after Hurricane Michael, they had a bridge that collapsed and they took money out of Public Works, and was since told another bridge was at risk.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THEY HAD A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked if Commissioner Hinson was talking about the bridge in Juniper and he said he did not have the information on hand and the Administrator said there were two bridges; one on Hutchinson Ferry and one on Juniper Creek and said Ms. Lex could give a report as to where they were on those and both were under construction.

Commissioner Morgan called for point of order and said they knew the bridges were progressing but this item was strictly regarding an agreement they entered into with DEP and was for an extension from the original completion date and had nothing to do with the impact of the project and did not apply to the agenda item they were discussing now.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE EXTENSION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

6. **Approval of the Agreement for State Lobbying Services with Lawson & Associates for Fiscal Year**  
Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the agreement for the State Lobbying Services with Lawson & Associates. He added that they currently have an agreement with Gadsden County that would expire on December 31, 2019.

Commissioner Hinson said he brought this up and thought the issue was if they went over \$25,000 and thought for the sake of time and effort, they could go with \$24,999 for the contract.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding of the item was since the contract was through December, 2019, the contract would carry them through the legislative session which was January, which was the reason for the recommendation of \$15,000.00 from Staff. Commissioner Hinson pointed out this was for the entire year. Commissioner Hinson then asked if, according to their procurement policy, they had to be under \$25,000. Mr. Hall explained with \$25,000 they had to have at least three bids.

Mr. Weiss explained there were different levels on their procurement policy; that was accurate for a formal bid. There was an existing agreement for \$15,000 and they could increase but they would need to get quotes. Commissioner Hinson asked they put this back on the Agenda.

Commissioner Morgan said he was actually the one that pulled this item for discussion and thought he would have a chance to comment on it. He said there were two lobbying firm agreements in place. Mr. Weiss said there were ones with the Gunster firm and Lawson and Associates.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not see the need for this agreement and was outvoted last year regarding this. The County did not have the money to be hiring the different lobbying firms when there was already one in place and the reason he pulled it was to encourage them to delay it for this year and maybe the next couple of years until they were in a better position financially where they could better afford it. He asked they not approve it at this time.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION OF OPTION 2 TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt said some of the subcommittees have already started meeting and the County currently had no representation and a lot of progress was not made last year and there was a need to be better organized and they needed representation in the meetings.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AT \$15,000 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AT \$25,000 FOR LOBBYING SERVICES AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if they take that amount in this particular agreement, would it be one that warranted a bid or could they move forward with the lobbying service.

Mr. Weiss said their procurement policy would not require a formal bid but did require written quotes from three firms. Commissioner Taylor asked if what was driving that was the amount of \$25,000 and Mr. Weiss said yes. She asked Commissioner Hinson if he was willing to adjust his amount so they could move forward.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON AMENDED HIS MOTION TO \$21,000.00.**

Mr. Weiss pointed out under their procurement policy, there was a \$15,000 level and then they would jump to a \$25,000 level. Commissioner Hinson said they would need three quotes anyway



at \$15,000 and Mr. Weiss said they had an existing agreement that could be extended at \$15,000. Commissioner Hinson said since they were a reputable company and they would continue to do their job, they could stick with \$25,000.

Chair Viegbesie asked if his motion was for \$25,000 and he said yes.

Commissioner Taylor said she preferred to not go to the limits where they have to do a bid or get themselves in a quagmire with regards to their procurement policy. She said for them to stay with the \$15,000 that was originally on the floor.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion and second on the floor and asked if she was suggesting a friendly amendment and Commissioner Taylor said so moved what he just said.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

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

Mary Alice Tiller, 815 Sunset Drive, Quincy, Items 8 & 9

Sean Marston, 2851 Remington Green, Items 8 & 9

Ronnie Dawkins, 28305 Blue Star General questions

Down Bot, 958 Ames Barineau Road, Items 8 & 9

Tracy Johnson, 1246 Carl Pitts Road, Chattahoochee, FL Item 8

Richard May, 331 N. Monroe Street, Quincy, Items 8 & 9

**Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson, 825 Virginia Street, Quincy, FL** Mrs. Anderson appeared before the Board on behalf of the Walk/Knock/Knock and two weeks ago they were able to register 45 people and this past Saturday they registered 13 people.

She also pointed out on the new Barack Obama Round-about, when it was first built, it was so horribly done a truck could not maneuver around it and it was extended so an 18 wheeler can now drive around it but the arrows are pointed in the wrong direction. She said she had witnessed two almost accidents, one being her. She went to the City and they said it was County and the County told her it was the City's responsibility.

Commissioner Holt said regarding the Round-about, it was the County's responsibility and it would be addressed first thing in the morning.

Jerry Potter, 1807 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**8. PUBLIC HEARING-(Quasi-Judicial)-RFM Day School Special Exception Use (SEU 2019-01)**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of an application for a Special Exception Use for the Robert F. Munroe School (RFM) (SEU 2019-01).

**Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner**, appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and gave a description of the item.

**Sean Marston, 2851 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, FL** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and was there to address any questions the Board might have. He said they looked at other sites but this was the best site they looked at.

**Tracy Johnson, 1246 Carl Pitts Road, Chattahoochee, FL** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and spoke in support of the school.

**Jerry Potter, 1807 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and read a prepared statement speaking in support of the school.

**Richard May, 331 N. Monroe Street, Quincy** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and spoke in support of the school.

**Mary Alice Tiller, 815 Sunset Drive, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and said she was an alumnus of the school, was a chair member and spoke in support of the school.

**Ronnie Dawkins, 28305 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and had questions regarding the buffer along Highway 90. He asked what is impact regarding noise, lightning, on people now that are in school zone. Does traffic study warrant a light at Lanier and South Lanier? He said he felt it was a dangerous intersection.

Mr. Marston re-appeared before the Board to address the questions asked by Mr. Dawkins. He mentioned there were a significant number of trees within the median that would buffer noise and they could not take them down, they were DOT trees. They did perform a traffic study and had met with DOT; they specifically asked about a light at the intersection and DOT told them at that time a light was not required and they wanted to see the project in its fill build-out stage to determine the need for the traffic light and were in conversations with them concerning a Speed Reduction Study.

Mr. Dawkins re-appeared and said when DOT was putting in a turn-lane, there were accidents that happened after hours.

Mr. Marston said there was a drive-way connection permit submitted to DOT and they were reviewing it.

**Dawn Burch, 261 White Oak Drive, Crawfordville, FL** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk on behalf of RFM School and said she believed in the school and also taught there.

**Melissa Darby, 1010 Sunset Drive, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and spoke on behalf of RFM School. She said she also taught 68 students at the

school.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:32 p.m.*

**Christy Ulrich, 114 Westwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL** appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and spoke on behalf of RFM School.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:34 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said this was in his district and he wanted to disclose he had spoken with Mr. Dawkins and he had concerns and they were discussed tonight. He asked if this would trigger a traffic light in Midway and said that may spark that conversation because there were a lot of traffic accidents there as well. He also wanted to disclose he talked with someone that worked at the school and was thankful Mr. Dawkins brought his concerns forward.

Commissioner Holt said she met with Mr. Marston and he answered her questions. She said when it came to Highway 90, US 27, I-10, they had to be careful about them and they had to work with FDOT.

Commissioner Morgan said usually when they fill up a room they get a little nervous but this was a good thing. He said he also appreciated Mr. Dawkins questions and concerns, especially since this was in his neighborhood. He said he also spoke with Mr. Marston concerning his questions and issues. He said the campus would be built out in phases and thought that was a great thing for the community.

Chair Viegbesie disclosed he also met with Mr. Marston. He felt this was a very good project for the County.

Commissioner Taylor said anytime there was a chance to grow education was good and she was ready to move the question. She said she also had a business on Highway 90 and she was concerned about the egress and ingress and this was a chance to partner. She said this was an asset. She said she would yield to Commissioner Hinson because it was his district but she was ready to go home.

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

**9. Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-RFM Day School Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2019-01)**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for consideration of an application for a Conceptual and Preliminary Phased Site Plan for the Robert F. Munroe School (RFM) (SP 2019-01).

Chair Viegbesie announced it was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak. Before that, Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board.

**Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner**, appeared before the Board, , was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and gave a brief description.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and called out names of ones that filled out Speaker Request Forms and earlier appeared before the Board.

**COMMISSIONERHINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH CONDITIONS 1-T AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Holt asked who owned the cemetery. Ms. Jeglie said from the Property Appraiser's records a contact could not be found but the project would not impact the cemetery.

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

**10. Public Hearing-Approve the Funding of the Summer Youth Program in the FY 19/20 Budget**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to discuss and take action regarding the funding of the Summer Youth program in the FY 19/20 budget.

**Lori Bouie, 816 Hardin Street, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board in support of the Summer Youth program.

**Cathy Johnson, 517 Country Lane Havana, FL** appeared before the Board in support of Summer Youth funding, said it would reduce delinquent behavior in the community and help with emotional development for the children. She said she was an entrepreneur and hires at least two youth as did the Town of Havana and she was going to ask them to increase the number they hire.

Chair Viegbesie said this was for public discussion and he asked that staff explore ways to fund this and he asked if they were successful. Mr. Hall said most private businesses would not hire students until they reached the age of 16 years of age.

Commissioner Taylor said what the Interim did with private business, was what she did with Constitutional Officers; she reached out to some of the Constitutionals who had requested and received increases in their budgets to see if they would be willing to return some of the funding to support some of the Non-Profits they did not fund and support some of the programs they did not fund. She made her way to the Sheriff and Property Appraiser and they agreed to turn back some of the money they were given. She said in piggy-backing off the Chairman that gave directions to reach out to private sectors, call the Constitutional Officers. She said she was still rocking and rolling over the \$1 Million increase in EMS budget and that was primarily for raises, not equipment or services, and asked they look into that.

Chair Viegbesie said that was the direction he was going. He said they could think outside the box to be able to continue this.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to be honest to citizens, their budget was not tight. He said they fattened the budget so they would not be able to hire the students and they were giving false narratives about things that did not make sense because they could not increase the budget by \$3-4 Million and say they had no money. They did the same thing last year. The Clerk told them they gave \$1.5 Million in raises to selective people last year to 1/3 of staff. He told them they needed to be careful but the Board approved it anyway. He said how could they not want to

protect the kids of Gadsden County? If the kids had jobs, they would not get in trouble. He said he had a Pastor tell him a child broke into his house and when he asked why he did that, his response was because he did not have a summer job.

Chair Viegbesie said one thing brought to his attention by staff was there were some employees that work a 4 day week and some work a 5 day week. He said he did not know how much they could extract if they had a uniform five day work week for everybody and that might cut down on overtime and might be source of funding for this program.

Commissioner Hinson suggested they give the Interim County Administrator direction to increase the budget by \$4 Million and then carve out \$132,000 by any means necessary to make sure these kids had a job for the summer. He said the Board said in September “We said we going to approve the budget, y’all remember that, because now we can come back and review the budget. They said, Commissioner, don’t worry about it, we gonna approve it and then we’ll take this out and take that, we got to approve it first, am I right Mr. Attorney? We said that, you remember that conversation right? We said we can approve the budget, come back and amend the budget. That’s what the Board, these five Commissioners said. I think I still voted against it, but we voted as a Board for that to amend the budget when times come, when a time like this. So my humble opinion, let’s see how creative it be for the kids. If he can’t find anything, I’ll stop, I will stop talking, I promise you, I can’t promise you, but I will try to stop talking about this issue again. That would be my recommendation. Let’s make sure he is creative, this man did over a \$1 Million \$100 Million budget in his lifetime when he worked with the State and everything else, millions of dollars in his own business. So let him be creative and see how he can carve out \$132,000 for the kids out of \$3-4 Million increase, if I’m making up something, someone please help me out.”

Chair Viegbesie said they heard his suggestion and asked to give his fellow Commissioners time to express themselves.

Commissioner Holt said in 2006 two commissioners were fighting for the Summer Youth program and if \$2-3 Million was given to someone, she had not seen it. She said when the Clerk said what was done in raises, he never said what raises he gave (Deputy Clerk said none). She said this Board approved the budget and not one Commissioner could tell the rest they approved something and they gave someone something. They did it. She said they know they were down by \$1.5 Million. FEMA has not sent a penny; they have \$2 Million in the bank; if they stumble they would be in trouble and could not pay the bills after two months. She said she would not vote to move a penny out of reserve until they had money coming in. She said people were working every day and had a right to get paid. She said if their money was down, look at it and see if anything was there. She said if they had positions that were not filled and those people were taking up extra duties, that was fine with her, she did not have a problem with it. She said they have contractors that work with them every day; if they make money off the system, they should give back to the system. She said it gives the impression they were giving away money. If it was there, fine, but it was not there. She said to go out and lobby people for money for the summer youth fund.

**Jeff Price, Senior Management & Budget Analyst**, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Hinson asked him if raises were given last year to a certain group of people and Mr. Price said yes. Commissioner Hinson asked how many employees there were and Mr. Price said about 200 and Commissioner Hinson asked if 102 received the raises and Mr. Price said that was about right. Commissioner Hinson asked if there was about \$1.5 Million in raises given and Mr. Price

confirmed. He then asked how much budget increased this year by and Mr. Price said \$3 Million. Commissioner Hinson asked if they did not have the money, how they could increase the budget. Mr. Price said they had the money and at the time they did not know about \$1.5 payroll increase and now catching that up. He said he was working on the highlights of the entire budget to give them the details. Commissioner Hinson asked out of the \$3 Million, they could not find \$132,000 for the Summer Youth Program.

Commissioner Holt said they have had this discussion before, they discussed the amounts of money paid for overtime for employees; positions that were not being filled and asked if he had those numbers and he said not on him. She said he does the budget and should have had the figures attached to the agenda item. She asked the Interim County Administrator for the figures to be attached for the next meeting. She said information on the budget should come from the budget person, not the Clerk, the Clerk steps in when he sees something was wrong. She said the Finance person lets them know by State Statute whether they were spending the money correctly but the budget person was the one that would throw up warnings if something was going wrong. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to reiterate that no matter what the Administrator did or what the Attorney did, they voted on it. The Board would vote on what was brought to them. They have input two to three weeks before it reached them. She added she knew Commissioner Hinson was not going to budge on what he said and she was not going to budge on the reserves until they found some money. Mr. Price said the County Administrator asked him to look into the budget to find some money for the children. Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Hinson was bringing up concerns that must be addressed.

Chair Viegbesie said his comment was to the County Attorney. He asked if there was any policy regarding work days for employees or was it at the County Administrator's discretion.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out 8:44 p.m.*

He said if there was no policy and it was left at the discretion of the County Administration, he suggested the Interim County Administrator and Mr. Price directions to determine how much the County would save between a 4 day work week versus a 5 day work week.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 8:46 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor said she listened to both Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Holt. She said for the budget they just approved, on that particular night, everyone was up in arms that they send a balanced budget to the State and wanted to make sure that the County did not falter on sending a balanced budget and they also had concerns about the budget but knew in due time there would be an opportunity to come back to make adjustments.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out 8:48 p.m.*

She listed some facts:

“\$1.5 Million increase in staff salaries that went with this budget, \$1.5 Million. The explanation for that was that because some employees took on the responsibilities of others that were not here. My God, that means that nobody was working and one person was working for 5-6 people to warrant that kind of increase. So I don't think that's going to be the rationale as to why these people received those increases when we get a chance to look closer and I commend it being

looked at closer. I support that. You are going to see people receive increase just because; it didn't have anything to do with additional responsibilities. I'm guaranteeing you, not at the numbers it would have to be at in order for the numbers for this kind of money to come for, that did not happen. So that's \$1.5 Million. Here's another \$1 Million that also came in this budget and that went to EMS. I mentioned earlier, EMS money was simply for raises. Here's another \$750,000 that went to Constitutional Officers who wanted to see increase this year in their budget, \$750,000. That's where the \$3 Million came from, from those increases. The \$1.5 Million in the salary, the \$1 Million to EMS, \$750,000 to the Constitutionals. That's where your \$3 Million came from. So we looked at that and we said 'You know what, we're over \$3 Million plus'. So thus Board had the genius idea of cutting the non-profits, the people who help children, the people who help the disabled, the people who help the seniors, they cut the non-profits completely out of this budget and that saved them a whopping \$250,000. Made sense, no-ma'am, no-sir, it did not. But that's what they did. Some you just heard a moment ago say 'Well, I will not touch the Reserves, I don't give a flying flip, I'm going to let that Reserves stay intact, we'll do it somewhere else' but that same night they went into the Reserves to fund the Boys and Girls Club. "

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:51 p.m.*

She said continued and said, "We were at \$2 Million but once they fund that Boys and Girls Club and allowed the Grant position to stay in place, we went down to \$1.93 Million. That's what happened. We fund programs that we want to fund. Programs that they don't want to fund, they don't fund. Now the Chairman of this Board sits in a very, very sensitive position. He does. If the Summer funding is going to come, it will be because of the way he swings because I know Commissioner Hinson and I are 110% of funding these programs **by any means necessary. I don't care where it comes from as long as it comes.** So, listen at this educated people, if we spend \$132,000 on Summer programs the County won't be able to pay salaries, how ridiculous is that statement. We won't be able to carry out government for two months because we chose to spend \$132,000 on children to go to work but because we choose to do this, it dips into our reserves so we cannot keep the government running so that's why they don't want to fund it. Is that not ridiculous, that a County government stands on falls, fails to see \$132,000? Unheard of. We are an A rated government and we can borrow \$132,000 if we need it to keep this County afloat. But this is what's being said to people. 'O can't go into the Reserves because if we do people are going to lose their jobs.' How ridiculous is that? We're talking about \$132,000. 'I can't go into the reserves because that means the people won't get paid'. Not so. Not so. People choose to do what they want to do but there are so many people that are out there and I think Commissioner Hinson said he got emotional, there are so many people out there that are gullible, that wants to believe what these people are saying, they really believe that this is the truth. 'Well, no, no, we've got to pay these people to work, so I don't blame you for not taking the money.' \$132,000, we'll make sure people don't lose their salary because of it. We'll make sure that we can get that money from somewhere. We're an A rated company, a business. We don't want to borrow but I don't think that would shut us down. Isn't that ridiculous? But there are people that believe that because they don't want to believe people would tell them anything that was wrong or misleading. So, yes, ladies and gentlemen, we are in a quagmire. I agree that the money should not come out of Reserves. I agree with that. But of this \$1.5 Million that went to Staff increase, of this \$1 Million that went to EMS and of this \$750,000, I'm a little off with that number that went to the Constitutional Officers; there is where your \$132,000 is. So nothing there because these people just got whatever they wanted and nobody came in and explained anything to us. They just sent a number in and we funded it. But the real organizations like North Florida Legal Services and give

free legal, the little organization like, what's the name of the company this gives free health assistance? We cut the bejeezus out of them. \$250,000 is all we saved by doing that. So I say this to us tonight and this is all I'm going to say Mr. Chairman because I know you don't like no-body going on and on and on and on, but I was going to say this at the closure. I, I, I am not seeking re-election for 2020. I am going to finish out my term but I am **NOT** seeking re-election because what's going on around here (motioning around the dais) is not me and people are able to convince people of these misleading, like this gentleman said a moment, these misleading facts. They are able to convince people and that's just not me. I have been born and raised to help. That's all I know to do. To be misleading, misguiding, that's not a part of me and I know God don't want me up here with her. But this is wrong. What we're telling people as to why you aren't going to fund it. Now that gentleman (pointing to Mr. Price) started to say something a moment ago and was cut short that this gentleman (pointing to Chair Viegbesie) directed him to find the money and that he had located it but then he was cut because now, whup, a solution, can't let that come into the atmosphere. So he was cut, because, and then, and then this was what was said. 'No, no, not right now because there is some other questions and issues that need to be solved before this can come forward.' People just keep moving it, keep moving it, keep moving it. But at the end of the day we have to give an account to what we do. Thank you for giving those directions to this gentleman, thank you for your due diligence to find the money and I know you have done just that Sir. At some point and time, Thank God it's December, Thank God it's December and it's not April and May where people trying to get jobs and its December. Maybe we can work it out. But here's one right here, November 2020, ain't got to worry about this no more. I've got enough of this up here. Thank you very much."

Chair Viegbesie said they were going to find a way and there was going to be a meeting of the minds.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO GIVE STAFF DIRECTION TO FIND MONEY OUTSIDE OF RESERVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Morgan said he has been pretty consistent on his position. He said he knew Summer Youth program was important to the children and they had funded it in the past years. He said their primary job was to set policy and make decisions and understand how important prioritizing was when it came to funding. He asked the Board if they wanted to go to Finance, but not just ask them to find money for Summer Youth, but to look at how to responsibly prioritize all the needs they have in the County. He said when they go to someone and say they cannot make the repair on the road because they were funding Summer Youth, they would have a problem, and there would be folks not happy with that at all. He added it was important to look at everything, not just one item; it was not the correct way to spend the taxpayers' dime.

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

**11. Public Hearing-Approval to re-establish the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY19/20 Budget**

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval to re-establish the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY 19/20 Budget using the General Fund Balance.



Commissioner Hinson said he brought this item up could make it short and the reason he brought this up was it was needed. He said before Hurricane Michael he stated they needed to refurbish homes before a tropical storm came and instead they had a hurricane. The Clerk said they had \$750,000 that hadn't been touched in about a year or so and they have money for housing that wasn't being used to help people that need help and some people had been on the SHIP list for almost 13 years. They have people that need ramps and that was what the emergency fund was for, for Seniors, emergencies, etc. and each Commissioner had \$20,000 and was able to repair a lot of homes and put ramps for people that need ramps. He said he was not into being shot down and wanted to table this issue for another night.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ISSUE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said he was on a roll. She said there was \$500,000 there. The problem was setting up the program fairly so that the money could be used. That was the direction the Interim County Administrator needed to take. She said no-one calls in and she didn't do it because she didn't trust those people over there so she didn't call in and tell anyone to do anything. She said it needed to be set up where it was done fairly and equally across the Board. She said the money was just sitting there and there was no reason why because there was a waiting list. She said they voted to have some of those dollars used in this emergency housing after it got zeroed out, that money was out there; it was just not being used, "he" needed to be tasked on how to move forward and get it used by the people that need it. She said this program was for two groups of people; seniors and people with disabilities. She said instead of \$100,000 there was \$500,000; they did not want to turn this back to the State, they did not want to use what has been given because if they do, it was hard to get it the next time they go over there. She said she thought maybe there should be another group of people; pull from another department that could help go through the applications, and award services, give people the repairs that are needed. She said she has heard a lot was going on in that department; there was a lot they had to be responsible for so some of this stuff needed to go to other departments. She added they were a big group, the money was sitting there not being used so it needed to be, in her opinion, coming up with a mechanism to be put in place so that the money could be used to help the disabled and the seniors. She said she did not want \$100,000 for her district, just wanted money to be used. She said she did not need to take part. She told Mr. Hall to come up with a plan to put this where it needed to be.

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

Commissioner Taylor said it was being tabled to give Interim opportunity...

Chair Viegbesie said he heard the conversation and hoped he heeded the conversation and one was find a plan to make sure the \$500,000 was used.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**12. Updates**

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**13 Updates**

The Interim County Administrator said he had nothing to report.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**14. 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**

He said he received a text and was told the Boys and Girls Club did not want to be a part of here anymore. He said the Board made it clear if they were not going to continue service for Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee, the Board would not honor their commitment. Chair Viegbesie said he talked with the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club and the Board of Directors was actually meeting to see how they are going to work into continuing services for all the locations in Gadsden County. Chair Viegbesie told them to put the plan together and bring it back to the Commission to explain to them how they would be fully operational. Commissioner Hinson said the letter he received was more consistent to what has taken place. He said he was trying to be proactive. A lot of parents were taking the children out and placing them in 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Havana and Quincy because there was no place to go. He thought maybe he could help them out little bit because him being a fan of the Club, they need to be proactive and thought if they gave them \$25,000, we keep \$75,000, and they have to show they were using it for outreach and the County would be saving \$75,000 but they have to use it for areas like traveling, outreach.

He also mentioned increasing Revenue and how they could increase revenue-with whoever they have for economic engines; they need to start having meetings with them about increasing revenue. He said maybe they could start having meetings twice a week or once a month with the economic engines and they have to tell them what they have in place to increase revenue. He said he was not worried about jobs anymore that sounded farfetched. He said they need to have infrastructure in place. He just wanted to have conversations once a month or every two weeks, whatever, with both groups.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a fundraiser that could be done so the Veterans could have some soft money. Lots of times veterans call in needing assistance with utility bills and rental assistance.

**Commissioner Morgan left at 9:11 p.m.**

Mr. Hall said he would check with Mr. Jackson. Commissioner Taylor said she did and was why she was asking.

Commissioner Holt said they would do better if they went after economic development; they were not asking companies what they could do to help them expand. When they approved the tax exemption ordinance with Coastal, the County won't receive revenue, but Coastal would be employing at least 30 additional families.

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

Commissioner Holt said about the Manager and staff looking at some of these things they just discussed, she wanted that money to be used also, but always fell back to State and Federal law, and she was going to follow that because she was not going to jail.

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

Chair Viegbesie said he would like for the Board to pass an Ordinance banning human trafficking in Gadsden County.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:22 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY 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 DECEMBER 17, 2019 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:


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

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

 Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 6:04 p.m. and asked everyone to mute their phones. He asked Rev. Jimmy Salters to give the Invocation and then led in Pledge of Allegiance.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

14a-JAG Contract 2019-JAGC-GADS-1-M2-174  
14b-JAG Contract 2019-JAGC-GADS-1-N#-072

 Mr. Hall stated he would like to pull Items 3 and 14 on the Consent Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Commissioner Holt asked about the two additions. Commissioner Morgan stated he thought they were added. It was confirmed they were pulling Items 3 and 14 and adding 14a and 14b to the Consent Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CONSENT**


1. Ratification Memo
2. Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction/Parcel ID No. 2-17-3N-3W-0000-00234-0200
3. ~~Approval of the Amendment to the CenturyLink Master Service Agreement and Amended Quotes between CenturyLink and Gadsden County~~  
Item pulled

4. **Approval of Signatures for the Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-State Housing Initiative Partnership Program**
5. **Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Contractors Payment Addendum to Section 21**
6. **Approval to Renew the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement with Waste Pro of Florida, Inc.**
7. **Green Shades Fire Station Buildout**
8. **McCall Bridge Striping Bid Award**
9. **Appointment to the Gadsden County Planning Commission At-Large Position**
10. **Appointment/Re-appointment of Board Members to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors**
11. **Armory Board of the State of Florida Addendum**
12. **Approval of the Change Order with Motorola Solutions for the New Jail Tower**
13. **Ratification of Payment for Fire Truck Repair**
- ~~14. **Approval of the Contract for Advertising, Promotional, Marketing and Public Relations with Paradise Advertising & Marketing, Inc. for the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council**~~  
Item pulled
- 14a. **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Contract 2019-JAGC-GADS-1-N2-174**
- 14b. **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Contract 2019-JAGC-GADS-1-N3-072**
15. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **October 15, 2019-Regular Meeting**  
Mr. Hall said the next item was for Approval of Minutes.

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

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

 Rev. Shirlean Thomas, 482 Frank Jackson Road, Quincy, FL Item 7, appeared before the Board and thanked them for the support of Greenshade/Dogtown fire station and had a few words to say.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
December 17, 2019-Regular Meeting


Kirk W. Douglas, 1226 Dodger Ball Park Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department and thanked the Board for their support regarding the fire station.

Pam Kenon, 1252 Jamieson Road, Havana, FL Item 7

Willie Robinson, 7164 Salem Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Willie Robinson II, 7164 Salem Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Gloria Thomas, 8602 Salem Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

 Kirk Douglas #7 appeared before the Board and thanked them for their continued support.

Patricia Kenon, 1160 Dodger Ball Park Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Jesse Kenon, 375 Jack Scott Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Lina Douglas, 1226 Dodger Ball Park Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

James A. Smith, Item 7

Linda Smith, Item 7

Ben Albert, 814 Dodger Ball Park Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Daryl Lightfoot, 6896 Attapulgus Highway, Quincy, FL, Item 7

Gloria Bost, 215 Williams Lane, Quincy, FL , Item 7

Jasper Hill, 89 Glover Akins Ct., Quincy, FL Item 7

Nick Maddox, Post Office Box 7141, Tallahassee, FL

 **Gadsden County Students Working Against Tobacco**

Elijah Robinson, 45 Strong Road, Apt. 115-C, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and spoke against tobacco use.


Kenshaun Isaac appeared before the Board and spoke against tobacco use.

Jeremiah Williams appeared before the Board and spoke against tobacco use.


Shelanda Shaw, 1356 St. Hebron Rd., 21


**PUBLIC HEARINGS**


**16. Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-017 An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to include as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes, up to \$460,000.00 of the proceeds generated during Fiscal Year 2019/20 for capital expenditures for the Emergency Dispatch Center renovation; 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 an effective date**

 Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for Board adoption of an ordinance amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to include as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes, up to \$460,000.00 of the proceeds generated during Fiscal "Year 2019/20 for capital expenditures for the Emergency Dispatch Center renovation.

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


 Commissioner Morgan asked for clarity on the use of the proceeds.


 Mr. Weiss said the operational expenses referred to were in the Statute itself and the Ordinance would dictate the use of the surtax. Commissioner Morgan asked if it was for capital expenses and he said yes.

 Commissioner Holt said he hit where she was going and said it was not for operation of parks and Mr. Weiss confirmed it was not for parks. He also pointed out this would require an ordinary (super-majority) vote.


Chair Viegbesie asked what would happen to other parks that were in the County with regards to being able to maintain them.

Mr. Weiss said parks was not an authorized use of this fund. There was an amendment for the St. Hebron park for a certain amount of time.

 Commissioner Morgan said there was already a line item in their budget for Parks and Recreation in their existing budget they fund.

 Commissioner Taylor said if they use these dollars, it would mean less dollars for other items they had planned for in their 2019/2020 budget and by approving this item tonight, what other items would be impacted by this.

Mr. Hall said he would bring up Mr. Price to explain how the \$460,000 would be impacted.

 Jeff Price, Senior Management and Budget Analyst appeared before them. He said the surtax would be split between the Fire Fund and Public Works fund and both funds currently have over \$1 Million fund balance. He added the money coming out would not affect the daily operational use of either of the funds.


Commissioner Taylor asked if there was no particular project ear-marked for FY 2019/2020 that would need these funds. She added, based on what he said, the money would generate itself back over the year and wanted to make sure there was no paving project, no bridge that needed to be built, or anything that was a priority that might lose because the dollars were being moved elsewhere. Mr. Price said nothing had been budgeted.

**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.**

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was a bid item or a sole provider. Mr. Hall said it was a sole provider item.


### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**17. Project Azalea Incentive Request**

 Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said was for Board approval for an extension or push of one year to the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund schedule for Hoover Treated Wood Products.


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

**18. Sublease Agreement between Eye Associates of Tallahassee and Lighthouse of the Big Bend for a portion of the hospital building space that is currently leased to Eye Associates**

 Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said was for the Board's consideration of a sublease agreement between Eye Associates of Tallahassee and Lighthouse of the Big Bend for a portion of the hospital building space that was currently leased to Eye Associates.

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

**19. Evaluation Committee Results of Legal Services Proposals**

 Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board with the Committee's evaluation results of the proposals received from law firms desiring to provide legal services to the County.

Chair Viegbesie said with whichever firm selected, suggested the contract should be two years for the first run and after that should be annual. He also pointed out a typo in the Agenda Request item under options and said should be beginning February 22, 2020 and ending February 22, **2021**.


Commissioner Holt said they had a workshop and looked at the numbers on the three firms and the law firm with the most points was the Williams Law Group and that was her recommendation.



**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE WILLIAMS LAW GROUP AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR CONVERSATION PURPOSES. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Taylor said although they were ranked according to numbers, all three firms were interviewed and all should have been given consideration. She said if they were going to take the top ranked firm, she did not feel they should have wasted the time of the other two. She said she was still open, although she felt Williams was a reputable firm, but they were not her first choice and thought the Board should decide.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the ranking they were looking at came from the committee members only and Mr. Hall said yes. Commissioner Morgan suggested and hoped they would consider, recommended they maintain continuity and encouraged them to maintain their relationship with the Ausley McMullen Law Firm. He said they hire two positions, the County Administrator and the County Attorney and asked they maintain continuity.

 Chair Viegbesie said one thing he looked at, especially in preparing for the Legislative session, he wanted them to consider the firm that had lobbying experience.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator if the Board currently had a relationship with two separate lobbying firms and Mr. Hall replied the County had a relationship but the contracts were close to expiring.


Commissioner Taylor said she understood at the previous meeting the Board did vote to fund Lawson & Associates and those dollars were approved and Chair Viegbesie said yes.

Commissioner Holt said they were already behind because the sub-committees have already started meeting and she called the question.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A VOTE AND ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>


**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR THE AUSLEY LAW FIRM. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**


 **COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR THE PITTMAN LAW GROUP AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**MOTION PASSED 4-1. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

Chair Viegbesie said the Pittman Law group will be new law representation and asked if the Board would consider making it two years and then the contract be annual.

 Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with a two-year term but wanted language in the event they wished to separate ties if the attorney was not meeting his obligations. She also thought they needed to continue the relationship with Ausley regarding the Hospital and felt they should bring back that option to keep legal services they currently have regarding the negotiating of the Hospital contract.


 Commissioner Holt said she did not feel they had gotten everything they should have gotten out of the contract because things were not settled with the hospital and need another law firm for that. She said three law firms were applying and wanted to make sure that the same was offered to Williams Law Firm and see if they were interested, they worked the hospital issue before also.


Chair Viegbesie said he felt Ausley's fees they were charging for the hospital were pretty exorbitant.

Commissioner Taylor said this Board knew they were in the ninth hour of the contract agreement and there was not a lot of time to bring another firm up to speed.


Chair Viegbesie said with regards to the continuation of the hospital services, he suggested it be agendaed as soon as possible.

**20. Discussion for Approval of the Allocation of funds for the Boys and Girls Club of Big Bend**

 Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was to approve funding of the BGC in the FY 19/20 budget.

 Chair Viegbesie said there were three options that would allow them to continue to provide services in Gadsden County and read them aloud.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was advertised in the paper and Mr. Hall said it was. He said he did not see it.


 Commissioner Taylor said she did not remember when they asked Commissioner Holt to meet with them.


*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:00 p.m.*


She added they tapped the attorney to draw up language that stated the dollars that were funded could only be used if all three sites were opened and fully functioning. She said that was a stipulation the Board voted on and they gave the Attorney directions to draw up language likewise.


*Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:01 p.m.*

Chair Viegbesie said his recollection was the request by the Board was to meet with the Boys and Girls Club with the various options and asked the Deputy Clerk to check. She explained she did not have access to those minutes on the computer she was using.

 Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to recognize the benefit of the Boys and Girls Club to the children of the County and the Board had continuously and generously supported the Organization for many years. He said the situation was they have chosen to fund the organization for the upcoming fiscal year at a specific amount. He said his recommendation was they should not allow the organization to put them in a position to dictate they run their day-to-day operations. He added he did not think they were trying to do that but to show how their costs of doing business had gone up and probably with receiving limited funding, they have a different model for doing business. He added he had “no comment on how they run their day to day operations, this is the amount of money we can afford to give on this. We’re obviously in a situation financially that we can’t afford to fund any additionally and it is what it is.”

 Commissioner Hinson said he heard Commissioner Morgan say it was OK for them to fund Quincy and Havana if they chose to do so as long as it did not affect Chattahoochee.


 Commissioner Holt said she was for funding them and reason was, they have 21<sup>st</sup> Century at all the schools and they have to pick them up and if it was reduced at one place, they could still go to 21<sup>st</sup> Century. She said she met with them and felt all of the Commissioners should meet with them, but she was not the one that would be working at those sites. She said if they could keep 1or2 clubs, she was happy.

 Commissioner Morgan said he had all the confidence in the world in Mr. Maddox.


**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS ITEM AND TO REITERATE THAT THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS WAS THAT OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR QUESTIONS.**


Commissioner Hinson said personally he was pro-kids. Chair Viegbesie interrupted and said he had a Speaker Request form.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not like being dogmatic, wanted to look at all the facts, did not want to get rid of it and wanted to support it this year if they would support all three sites.

 Commission Morgan wanted to clarify his motion, he said he approved the funding but for them to stay out of the day to day operations. He said he withdrew his previous motion and wanted to restate to make it clear. Commissioner Holt made the second.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Morgan changed his position and Chair Viegbesie stated he simply amended his motion and Commissioner Holt made the second.


 **Nick Maddox** appeared before the Board. He wanted to make it clear this was more than a business because he used to be one of those kids. He said he had been running the organization since October with no contract. He said they wanted to be in Gadsden County and want to service the children and want to make his Club directors full time but did not have the funds to do that. He wanted to get to a place where they provide for a long time; he said he was not just saying this to the Board but to the citizens that they needed their help. He asked for the opportunity to build

 Commissioner Taylor asked if they were asked to pay rent and utilities at the three sites.

Mr. Maddox responded by saying he believed with Havana and Quincy they pay \$6,000 in rent as well as utilities at both sites but not in Chattahoochee. She asked where they were located in Quincy because she thought they were at one of the schools. He said they left prior to him and went to the Community Center and now were in conversation about going back to Crossroads.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Havana Northside High School, they paid \$6,000. Mr. Maddox said before him, he saw a check go out and they paid them \$6,000. Commissioner Hinson asked if they had met all their obligations and Mr. Maddox responded as far as he knew they had.

Commissioner Taylor said she did her research and she wanted to know how many students were coming. She looked and the numbers have been low for years; 21<sup>st</sup> Century was getting the bulk of the students. She said for almost 5-6 years the Board had given them \$225,000 from the Board with that small number of enrollments. She said it was important they had a good ratio of students but there was no mandate on the ratio set by the Board. She further stated they gave them \$96,000 this past year; and went into the Reserves to do so. She said she could appreciate where he was when it came to after-school programs, she ran one herself, and knew it was important for them to keep their doors open as well as quality services. She said the Board said that the three sites were to receive the funding equally. She said tonight he was given carte blanc to do what he wanted to do with it and that was asinine; Government should not be ran that way and hoped the Board rethought the motion that was on the floor. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent in such a way and it reeked of wrongness in all kinds of ways. She added that the attendance was low and they did not need as much staff because of such. She did say she thought they were located in areas that were not charging them overhead and was surprised. She asked for the three sites to be kept open.

 Commissioner Hinson said as he knew, his heart was with the BGC and wanted them to be fair. He said his word was all he had and wanted them to move forward and do what was right for the kids.

Chair Viegbesie said he hoped Mr. Maddox heard the pleas of the Commission.


Chair Viegbesie called for the vote. Commissioner Hinson interrupted and said they were funding two sites, Havana and Quincy and then added Chattahoochee. Commissioner Holt said

she was ready to vote but they failed to mention they had to get bussing through the School system to those off sites.


Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion and second to call the question and they had to carry that. The Board voted 5-0 by voice vote.


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

**21. Approval of Funding for the Summer Youth Program in the FY19/20 Budget**

 Chair Viegbesie asked for moment to let people clear the room.


*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:46 p.m.*


 Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to approve the budget amendment for funding the Summer Youth Program in the FY 19/20 budget. He said the Board decreased the funding down to zero by passing the budget. Staff was charged with getting in contacted all Constitutional Officers and they were waiting to hear back from four, one was doing some research and two told them no.

 Commissioner Hinson said if that was the direction he went with; he would live with that direction. Staff had said at the last meeting they found money; staff said in a meeting they increased budget by \$3-4 Million and now saying those kids will be out of jobs.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:49 p.m.*


Mr. Hall said if they looked at the Analysis portion of the Agenda item, Staff reviewed the budget and has prepared a budget amendment that will fund the Summer Youth Program in amount of \$50,000 by reallocating funds from the General Fund account; Medicaid at \$50,000. That would employ 45 youth.


 **Shelanda Shaw, 1356 St. Hebron Rd, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and spoke in support of this item and wanted to volunteer to teach the kids professionalism and offer her support.


 Commissioner Taylor said seems every County Administrator and Chairman succumbs to fear. Ut was clearly stated at the last meeting for them to find funding for 125 students, but there is “always the meeting after the meeting plus the meeting kind of meeting and when it comes back, there is the aftermath that we see in writing”. She said first there was none and now there are 45 students and that was not what the Board collectively said at the last meeting. She said she understood the browbeating and the integrity of this board was being compromised and not being respected; which was why she “gladly relinquishes this seat in November”. She said they agreed on 125 and heard the Chair echoing the sentiments for them to find the funding and then to come back with this. She said she knew there was more available, they just gave \$96,000 to a man and told him to spend it how he wanted and did not know if 15-20 students will be served. She said their only job was to help people, they were a service-oriented business and was not going to agree to this tonight and her vote would not go

very high but would vote for 125 summer jobs for the children and direct staff to find that money.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO FIND FUNDING FOR 125 SUMMER JOBS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE HAD A QUESTION.**

 Chair Viegbesie said in rebuttal to Commissioner Taylor's comment, the instruction at the last meeting was to instruct staff to find monies so they could provide summer jobs. The goal was 125 jobs and what they established was an amount that was less harsh on County. They were the ones that came up with \$50,000. He said if they did more, it would cause a hardship on the County. Chair Viegbesie asked if Mr. Hall followed up with the Constitutionals on what they could do and he said yes.

 Vice Chair Holt said the Interim Administrator was not browbeaten by her but she did meet with him and they were supposed to meet with him and meet with Staff and do their research and Staff did more than the Board members did.

 Commissioner Morgan said citizens needed to be reminded from a financial standpoint this year based on what the County had been through this budget season, they simply did not have the money to prioritize a summer youth program that could perhaps be funded through the private community. He said there were too many needs that needed to be funded ahead of a Summer Youth program and he could not support any funding on this this year.

Vice Chair Holt said she was ready to vote on the amount set aside at least so there would be that many.

She called for the vote and they voted. Commissioner Hinson asked for a roll call vote as he was unsure who voted for what. She stated they had already voted. The Deputy Clerk said she was unclear who voted for what. Vice Chair Holt then called for a roll-call vote.

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>NO</b>

**MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 2; MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION BY STAFF TO APPROVE \$50,000 FOR 45 STUDENTS AND OTHER SEARCHES THEY COULD FIND FROM CONSTITUTIONALS THAT HAD BEEN PROMISED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED IF THEY WERE APPROVING OPTION 1 AND HE SAID YES.**

Commissioner Taylor asked to not limit to Constitutional officers but private sectors and what was well within the budget because they just took \$50,000 from Medicaid and certainly there was more, they just gave \$1 Million to EMS for raises and raises only. She agreed with the motion if they could add on to not limit them to Constitutional Officers but to search for additional funding.

Commissioner Holt said if she could, she would not include that in the motion, to get the \$50,000 and then go with something else. Commissioner Taylor said it was already a part of his motion and Commissioner Holt disagreed. Chair Viegbesie said his motion was to approve option 1 as presented with a continuous search for other funding as to the Constitutionals but would not mitigate a continuous search for the \$50,000 for 45 students was what they could rely on based on his motion.

Commissioner Hinson said to be true, it was said in September they would pass the budget because they could come back and amend it. This was the first thing they tried to amend and now they were trying to tell him they were not going to amend anything the rest of the year.

Vice Chair Holt said they were not saying not to amend, this was an amendment to the budget coming from Medicaid into Summer Youth so that was an amendment. She added that what she was saying was take that to another item. Commissioner Hinson said the budget was increased,

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 8:06 p.m.*

...by \$3-4 Million and now they were trying to tell him out of that, they could not carve out money for this program and was far-fetched.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:07 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said he promised them he will have over 100-200 kids by the end of the January meeting or the February meeting that will be lined up in "this place" from 14 – 18 years of age and if no-one could gather people, that was his strength and they will sit there and talk.


Commissioner Holt called the question.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were moving to approve option 1 and Commissioner Holt said yes.

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>YES</b>

**MOTION CARRIED 4-1.**


**22. Discussion of the Plan of Action on the Implementation of the Existing Funding for Emergency Housing Repair**

 Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for discussion of the plan of action on the implementation of the existing funding for Emergency Housing Repair.


**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE \$100,000 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Holt asked how much money was in the budget for SHIP Housing.

Mr. Hall called Sonya Burns, Housing Program Coordinator, up.

 Ms. Burns appeared before the Board and asked them to look at the second page of the report for FY 18/19 and it gave a balance of at least \$325,000 and currently they had 11 units awaiting procurement policy completion and will cost approximately \$550,300.00. Commissioner Holt said that was the amount they had that they were currently working with now and Ms. Burns replied yes, \$325,000 but did have partnerships established with USDA for any applicant that was the age of 62 years or older that could receive funding from that and was still working with United Way.

Commissioner Holt said she was about to ask about that because she had a request for that and asked if they were still doing any disaster and Ms. Burns replied yes. Commissioner Holt said there was request on (Highway) 267 in District 5 and she sent them to Ms. Burns' office. Commissioner Holt said there was money but they were going to need more people in the Housing Department in order to work this. She said you could not have one or two because that would not help facilitate the funding from USDA that would be coming in.

 Commissioner Taylor asked how long had funding had been available. Ms. Burns replied July 1<sup>st</sup> was the start of the State fiscal year, that was when the FY 18/19 funding became available. Commissioner Taylor said "My understanding from the Manager the past week, and, of course, facts change (looking at the Deputy Clerk) you might as well quit typing over there. Facts change based on people. But my understanding was \$500,000 has been sitting over there and not been tapped, not been touched."


Ms. Burns said to look at the first page and it explained \$500,000 they were talking about and the second page explained the \$551,000.

Commissioner Taylor asked her to explain that in her language.

Ms. Burns said \$35,000 covered Administrative costs; \$25,000 funded Homebuyer education costs; approximately \$50,000 went to first time homebuyer program and remaining \$325,000 was what she was talking about with 11 homes in procurement.


Commissioner Taylor asked her to follow her math: Ms. Burns said they received \$350,000 plus \$201,500 for hurricane totaling \$551,000. Commissioner Taylor said she mentioned educational classes and Ms. Burns said yes. Commissioner Taylor said she mentioned first time homebuyers and Ms. Burns said yes. Commissioner Taylor said she mentioned salary and that



all totaled...Ms. Burns said the administrative costs totaled \$35,500 and that all totaled \$105,500. Commissioner Taylor said that was \$105,500 off the \$551,000 and Ms. Burns agreed. Ms. Burns said they also had four homebuyers that were approved at \$10,000 each so that would be minus \$40,000. Commissioner Taylor asked how long the money had been sitting there and Ms. Burns said it had not just been sitting there, they had been spending the money and Commissioner Taylor said on things other than homes because... Ms. Burns said they could only spend money on homes, it could be spent on housing rehabilitation, special needs and emergency repairs. Commissioner Taylor said she mentioned classes, salaries and something that totaled \$105,500 that did not have anything to do with not one person's home getting refurbished; that she mentioned overhead and administrative costs, not saying anything was wrong with that but based on what was just said, four houses with a minimum of \$10,000 was all that had been done out of the money and that money had been there. She said that had been an issue and they mentioned it to the Administrator and she knew there were applications that have been there. She said she was looking for another way of going through the stacks so they could help people with that money. Ms. Burns explained SHIP was broken down into three categories: 10% for Administration; 20% for special needs and handicapped and that per Florida Statutes, and there was Administration funding and Homebuyer. All applications are reviewed and there was a process they have to go through with the applications, they have to make sure they actually own the property, and that was one problem in Gadsden County was heir property. She added she had been working with the homeowners and referred them to Legal Services and had talked with the County Attorney on a couple of issues and they had to income qualify. Commissioner Taylor said she had a history with the program and it was pre-Sonya and there was not enough oversight and, in her opinion, to be done fairly; she needs help.  She said there needed to be an independent committee that goes through the applications and the process be done fairly, not saying it was not done now, but saying only four houses with \$10,000 each seemed a lack of service somehow. She added she was concerned and what she was getting now, she did not think the remedy was coming now to help the citizens. She said she did not call Ms. Burns often for anything. She said she just heard Commissioner Holt say she was referring people and was surprised of that because she always made it a point to not refer anyone, that people should just walk into the door blindly. Commissioner Holt said that was not true. Commissioner Taylor said her position was, and stated it clearly and hoped it made it into the Minutes, there needed to be another Board over there that was looking at the applications and some assistance given with regards to identifying people across the County fairly. To her, they were not doing their due diligence if they have only bid four houses, something was slacking there and knew there were several homes that needed services that were actual homeowners. Ms. Burns started to speak and Commissioner Taylor said she was basing her information on what Ms. Burns just said and she mentioned four houses at \$10,000 and a lot of administrative things that was done and she was looking at that. If there were more, she was glad. She added from her understanding, there was still a lot of money left over there and that was where her concern was. She asked the Administrator that she was hoping they could look at some type of process where they could help Ms. Burns with regards to some of the "quagmires" she was running into so more people could be reached and get more services out there.

Mr. Hall said he could continue to look into it and see what they could come up with.


Commissioner Taylor said it was recommended at one point an independent board should be able to help look at the applications and get her some assistance so they could get some of the houses done because some people were living in very bad situations when there was finding to help but was still stuck in processes. She wished Ms. Burns well.


 Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Burns to explain herself.


(Commissioner Taylor started to leave and was told there was a motion on the floor.)

Ms. Burns said to correct Commissioner Taylor, the four people she was talking about was for first-time homebuyers; they did approximately 8-9 applicants ranging from \$34,800 - \$69,700.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to clarify two things: 1) she tells no-one whose house to fix, she sends them to Ms. Burns' office so that was stated incorrectly by her co-worker. What she would like to say is; she spoke to a couple of people who were at the Courthouse taking care of other business and she informed them she thought \$57,000 was too much to spend on a house and have heard that from her before. She said she did not believe on spending that much money on houses; she believed there should be a certain amount and that should be it. She said she also believed when you spent taxpayer's money on people's houses, at least they should pay back something, she did not care if it were \$100 a month so money could go back into an account to do more houses.


 Commissioner Hinson said the motion on the floor for refurbishing homes; they need to have a conversation about some other things. He had a phone call the other day and was told the deadline passed and they did not know anything about the deadline but he will have a conversation with the Administrator about that. He said a lot of Seniors worked from sun-up to sun-down for free labor for other people and if the government say they meet the qualifications and can do it for free, he was for that because they earned that. He said he was talking about the original money they created before he got there, the \$10,000 per district and then it went to \$20,000 per district for the seniors that had holes in their roofs, needed emergency repairs, a veteran or old person needed a ramp, or their door needed fixing, they had a good thing going before Hurricane Michael. But they had a Hurricane Michael a month before Hurricane Michael because the Board voted to cut out the \$100,000. You can look at the Minutes and he said that just before the Hurricane.

 Commissioner Holt wanted to clarify two things; when she was talking about paying back money when they inherit the property and had not worked for anything on that property and do not pay back anything; the other was two reasons why they had a problem with the Housing and the Summer Youth Program; they had Commissioners telling Staff which houses to fix and was true because one employee quit because of that and who to hire for the Summer Youth Program.

 Chair Viegbesie wanted on record that the motion was for \$100,000 whereas they have \$325,000 yet to be spent on repairing home for eligible applicants. So, the motion was to provide \$100,000 for home repairs and there was a second. He asked to carry the vote by roll call.

<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES AND FOR CLARITY THE \$100,000 WAS TO HELP ADDITIONAL PEOPLE</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>NO UNTIL FINSH SPENDING THE \$325,000</b>


**MOTION FAILED.**

 Commissioner Taylor said “With regards to the students, for clarity, because a lot of times people get information incorrectly from Commissioners. There was a provision placed with regards to the Summer Program that Commissioners were given to choose five students and recommend those names to the County Administrator; that was a provision that was provided through this Board and was carried out by the Commissioners. With regards to the Emergency Repair Program, each district was given so many dollars to get houses repaired per their district. We gave directions to those in our district on whom to call. Even in giving those directions, it was not an automatic approval because there was still an application that needed to be taken and an applicant needed to qualify for the money so there was no mandate being placed; there was still a process that had to be performed before anyone got or received services so Commissioners mandating did not, is not a true statement, Commissioners followed what this Board directions were. Again, we were given authorization to recommend students for hire and we were given so many dollars to recommend people from our areas for services. Did not indicate at all if those students were going to be hired or if those applicants were going to receive services. All we could do was follow the provision that was given by this Board and that was what we did. Anything else that has been said to you or said to you incorrectly and the Deputy Clerk can pull up any and all of these Minutes to verify what I just said. Thank you and I’m going home.”

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 8:37 p.m.*


**CLERK OF COURT**

**23. Updates**

 Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker said there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**


**24. Updates**

 Mr. Hall stated he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Morgan said they discussed at length on a conference call the Health Department building in Chattahoochee and asked if it was scheduled for the second meeting in January and Mr. Hall stated yes.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**


**25. Updates**

 Mr. Weiss congratulated the Pittman Law Firm, it had been a pleasure representing the Board and will work with them over next few months and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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


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

 Commissioner Hinson wanted to recognize Miss Ora Green, she turned 100 years old and asked for a Resolution.


He asked for a Resolution for Coach Ross, he was retiring from the Town Council of Havana. He asked to do a Resolution for Mr. Howard McKinnon who was also retiring from the Town of Havana.

He also wanted to recognize someone but did not have the name who was in the military years ago, was about 103 years ago, in Arizona, and received the Purple Heart, Chair Viegbesie asked if this was posthumously and Commissioner Hinson stated yes.

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

 Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the services from the Ausley Law firm and thanked David and welcomed the Pittman Law Group. He said he spoke with Howard today and wished him and Vernell Ross well. Lastly, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

 Commissioner Holt asked when they would have another Building Inspection workshop. Mr. Hall said he would get the date and it would be scheduled for January.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 8:43 p.m.*


She said she called him regarding Mrs. Johnson and could mark that off her list.

She said she received five requests from Rev. Colston. She said they want an Economic Development meeting with the BOCC, School Board and the Cities to sit down to see what was being done to get jobs here. She also directed him to DOE.

She said they were in need of two members on TDC, they had to wait to get their meeting started because of lack of quorum because they were short two members. Chair Viegbesie suggested to the Administrator on next Agenda to have that on there and not hold it hostage. Commissioner Holt said they may be able to get another from people that applied through staff because they held up payment of one vendor.

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

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

 Last meeting Commissioner Taylor questioned how to generate soft money for the Veterans and one thing he thought of was to put in brick pavers around the Veterans'

Monument to generate revenue and thought that was one way that could help generate revenue.

He said other thing, he asked for a Letter of Support for his intent to run for Second Vice President of Florida Association of Counties. Commissioner Hinson said he intended to run also.


**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVE FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BE VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Mr. Hall thanked Staff for hanging in and supporting him and said he appreciated them and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

 **THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:51 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**