

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 7, 2020 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
Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

With a quorum present, Chairman Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Pastor Allen Jones, New Temple Church gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hall asked to pull Items 2, 3, 4 from the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

None were had.

CONSENT

Commissioner Morgan said he had no issue with approving the consent agenda, but he needed to pull Items 11, 12 and 13 for discussion. Commissioner Hinson asked to pull Item 5 also for discussion.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, WITH EXCEPTION OF THE ITEMS PULLED, WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED.

1. Ratification Memo
2. Suppression Gas Systems Test and Inspect-FM200 System
3. Old Federal Road SCOP CIE Task Order
4. Old Federal Road SCOP Bid Award
5. ~~CR 12 (Fairbank Road) SCOP Agreement~~
Pulled for discussion
6. Florida Department of Corrections Interagency/Public Works Agreement

7. **Public Officials Bon Review**
8. **Approval to Award Bid No. 19-24 for HVAC Services to Artic Mechanical Services**
9. **911 Dispatch Center Task Order for Architectural Services**
10. **Approval of the Geographical Information System Services Agreement with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council**
11. ~~**Ratification for Payment of Emergency Building (Inspection) Department Services by EPCI Services**~~
Pulled for discussion
12. ~~**Approval of Assistance for United Way**~~
Pulled for discussion
13. ~~**Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Matching Grant**~~
Pulled for discussion
14. **Approval of the iWorQ Systems, Inc. Software Services Agreement**
15. **Approval of Contract of Interlocal Agreement with City of Midway, Florida for Animal Services**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

16a. **November 5, 2019-Regular Meeting**

16b. **November 19, 2019-Regular Meeting**

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

5. CR 12 (Fairbank Road) SCOP Agreement

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like a brief overview of item 5 so the community could hear it so they would be aware of things in the future.

Lisa Robinson, Interim Public Works Director, appeared before the Board to address issues. She stated item 5, County Rd. 12, was one of the SCOP projects from the 2025 Rural Projects through DOT. She stated that Fairbanks Ferry was to be resurfaced, not widened.

Commissioner Hinson asked if widening was possible, because the people on County Rd. 12 said the issue was the road needed to be wider. He stated it was a narrow road and he was curious about that.

Mr. Hall stated he could do research and find out what the cost would be.

Commissioner Hinson stated he thought in the past 20 years, there had been 3 or 4 deaths on that one road and in one area twice.

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 6, 2020 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 – appeared remotely
 Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Taylor would be phoning in and Commissioner Hinson would soon be joining. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 6:03 pm., then asked everyone to bow their heads for moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. June 16, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Approval of FY2021 SC108 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)**
- 4. Approval and Execution of State Aid Grant Agreement**
- 5. Big Bend Jobs & Education Council, d/b/a CareerSource Capital Region, Gadsden County BOCC, Leon County BOCC and Wakulla County BOCC**
- 6. Scotland Dover Road Safety Improvements – Bid Award**
- 7. Iron Bridge Road Safety Improvements – Bid Award**
- 8. Approval of Resolution 2020-056 Budget Amendments for FY 2020**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.
V read aloud the statement for citizens requesting to speak.

Louise Jones, 4577 McCall Bridge Road, Quincy, FL

She appeared before the Board and said everyone that had property there received a letter about a meeting with Planning and Zoning. She said even though there was no cul-de-sac to speak of, you would go to the end of the road to Idlewild Fish Camp and could circle around the big oak tree and could go back out. Idlewild Homeowners Association put up a double gate. She did some investigating and found out that the County had received approximately \$5,000 from the homeowners' association. She said they had a house there and after the gate went up, her fence was torn completely down. Her Commissioner, Commissioner Taylor, could attest to that. Her home was destroyed when Hurricane Michael came through and they rebuilt. Her driveway is county property and as she left tonight, she has people that turn around in her yard constantly. She said there are signs that say dead-end and there is no turn-around. She said the County did put a turn-around up past Talquin Lodge and it was asphalted. She said Commissioner Taylor has tried to help but people do not pay attention to signs. She asked the Commissioners for their help in resolving this issue.

Chair Viegbesie asked her to make an appointment with the Interim County Administrator and the attorney and see how they could help resolve this matter.

Commissioner Holt said she did not vote for that and added that it made no sense to put up a gate on a road that the County owned. She added that all they could do was have the attorney look into it and look into the history.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Interlocal Agreement between Greenshade-Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department and Gadsden County

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an Interlocal Agreement between Greenshade-Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department and Gadsden County.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND HAD A COMMENT AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if this agreement was comparable with the other fire stations and was told yes. Dr. Grant explained this was a single agreement, when it expires, they will all be on an

agreement together. -She asked that when it comes back, she wanted to start looking at what they were doing for the County.

Commissioner Morgan said the amount of money each fire station received was based on several factors, one being the number of calls they respond to.

Commissioner Holt said she was aware of that, but relative to number of calls, sometimes the calls were not equal according to locations.

Commissioner Morgan said the agreement was revised after he was on the commission because he started asking about that.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	DID NOT RESPOND
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-0

10 Approval of Proposal for Professional Services for Repairs to the Massey Building

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the proposal for professional services for repairs to the Massey Building.

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

Commissioner Holt asked if \$7,500 was an in-house bid and was told that was the costs for Dewberry to do an assessment of the building and develop a task order. He added they had to have something to put out to bid and had to get a task order so they would know what to bid out.

Chair Viegbesie said that was exactly the same question he had.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NO
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	WAS NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-1

Commissioner Holt said she would vote yes but she wanted to know more about this item.

11. Re-Location of Social Security Office in Gadsden County

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction for the re-location of the Social Security Office in Gadsden County.

He added a letter was received letter from Sheriff Young requesting the office be removed from Sheriff's Office as soon as possible. He explained there were three locations staff had researched and found:

- 1) Gretna Post Office;
- 2) Current location of Extension Services; and
- 3) Gadsden Senior Services Center

Commissioner Morgan said based on the locations seen, he felt the Extension office was the best choice of the three. Chair Viegbesie said he thought Gretna Post Office was best because of accessibility and he had had a walk-through of the building. He added they had enough room for privacy that was needed. Gadsden Senior Services was not the best place, he has heard of altercations of behavior and conduct from some when it was located at the library.

Commissioner Holt said most of the people that use the office was seniors and she liked the idea of them being there.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Holt's comments but felt the Extension Service would serve better; the lighting and parking was more appropriate.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had discussed the health department. Chair Viegbesie said the health department was currently EMS headquarters and they have done a lot of work themselves to retrofit their needs and services. Commissioner Hinson said he thought some of the Commissioners had directed that they go with the Health Department and wondered why it was not on the list.

Dr. Grant explained the health department was not considered because of them previously being EMS headquarters.

Commissioner Holt said this was brought to them but did not know if it was for a vote. He said the only hiccup with the current location of the Extension Services, was there was too much traffic and they were talking about disabled people and a lot of traffic.

Allan Meeks, Facilities Director, appeared remotely. Commissioner Holt asked if the County owned the property and parking lot directly behind Don's Hair Par and jewelry store. Mr. Meeks said the building was not wheelchair compliant.

Dr. Grant said there was one-way in and one-way out of that building.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they could construct an entrance in back so patrons could use the back exit and they could also use front entrance? Mr. Meeks said he could contact the property owner, looking at the Property Appraisers' website that Padgett's owned a lot of the parking lot.

Commissioner Hinson said they may have to add disabled parking in the front.

Commissioner Morgan proposed they table this until further research was done.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

12. Sheriff's Office – Training Funding Request Daytona Beach, Florida Chris Fuller's Advanced Undercover Techniques and Survival

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund to pay costs for Deputy Emmanuel DeLeon to attend the Charlie Fuller's Advanced Undercover Techniques and Survival course.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

13. Bid No. 20-18 Results/Gadsden County Radio Tower Civil Work

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented to award Bid 2020-18 for the Gadsden County Radio Tower Civil Work on the three tower sites (Peavy, Midway and the Jail).

Commissioner Taylor phoned in at 6:44 p.m.

He added that Motorola was the only company to provide financing.

Commissioner Holt asked if all items were in the bid packet and Dr. Grant said yes. She asked if all contractors had that and he stated yes. Commissioner Holt asked if they did not select Motorola, where was the money coming from? Dr. Grant said they had budgeted the amount. Commissioner Holt said they did not have to finance and Dr. Grant stated no. She said when they have bids, do not have Department heads be one of the evaluators of the bid. She said she was ready to vote and she had no problem with this; they needed to get it over with. As long as all the bids were equal, she had no problem. She asked who wrote the bid packet up? Dr. Grant said Sandy in Purchasing. Commissioner Holt said with the Massey Building, someone else wrote up the bid. Dr. Grant said with Motorola, it was already done. She said to take the top person out when it comes to evaluating to stop buddy-buddy bids.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were doing something wrong on this and Mr. Knowles asked him to be more specific. Commissioner Hinson asked if this was in-line with what they were doing and was it being done correctly. Commissioner Holt said she had an issue with the bidding practice, they have a department head over the process of selecting and was there problem.

Commissioner Holt clarified that it was not illegal but the best practice was to not do that. Mr. Knowles asked for what. She explained if she was hiring someone to be a contractor for her department and she was working under the manager, normally the three that score the bids would not be her because she could set and could tell the contractors what they needed to bid. That way she could get the contractor she wanted.

Mr. Knowles asked Commissioner Hinson if he was asking if it was OK for a department head to be a part of the bid committee and Commissioner Hinson responded yes. Mr. Knowles asked to look through their procurement policy.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with Commissioner Hinson proceeding with this. She said even if this was not in their Policies and Procedures, it needed to be in there.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not want this item to go past today as it had been tied up for too long. He said whoever they went with, they needed to make sure that person was going to provide everything they were asking for without any chance for an increase change order. He said whether they went with the less or higher, whomever, there will be a guarantee of no change orders in the bid they submitted.

Commissioner Hinson asked/said felt comfortable with the RFP that they have the company come explain what they were offering and the County getting.

Commissioner Morgan said comments made previously was on par; the project needed to be completed and not held up. The most important thing they could do was choose the correct vendor in completing the project. He encouraged the Board to support Motorola and said that would be his motion at the proper time.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN SAID HIS MOTION WAS TO HIRE MOTOROLA, THE WORST THING THEY COULD DO WAS HIRE A VENDOR THAT COULD NOT COMPLETE THE PROJECT ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAVE TO CORRECT A PROBLEM AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Knowles said within their Procurement Policy, Section 10.2, where it talked about participation and Employee conflict of interest, it read “it shall be unethical for any County employee to participate directly or indirectly in a procurement contract where the county employee knows that 1) the County employee or any member of the employee’s immediate family has financial interest pertaining to the procurement contract; or 2) any other business, person, or organization with whom the employee or member of the employee’s family is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning respective employment is involved in procurement contract”. He said this was County dollars. If someone had a beneficial interest/financial interest in the outcome of it, there was cause for concern; he agreed that it

would be good and thought there was some merit in having them present to the Commission after an RFP when the bids come in.

Commissioner Taylor said at a previous meeting, one bidder had a bid that was not complete. A Commissioner directed the Administrator to reach out to ensure all information was requested. She asked if Dr. Grant had the opportunity to reach out to the potential bidders to ensure all information they needed to the potential bidders. Dr. Grant said he understood his instructions was to bring back the bid material because they were not included in the agenda item that night. They brought back the item that was presented to them for the bid conference. She said there was specific materials that was directed to the Administrator to get, did he reach out to the bidders to ask for specific items that was missing from previous bid.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly, what Commissioner Holt asked was she wanted to know the specifications that each provider presented in their bid. He said he had his folder with him and staff prepared a folder containing what each vendor specified that would be in their services. He did not recall staff was asked to reach out to the bidders on missing information.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Hinson was right that they normally had bidders come to the room and tell them about the bids and they have the score sheet and who was on the scoring team.

Commissioner Hinson said he was being consistent with the process; he did not mind coming back Monday and have a meeting and have everyone come by and them interview all four because he wanted to make sure it was the right way.

Commissioner Taylor said since the beginning, she has never stood with Motorola, they were too much money and she was not going with them, she still thought they could bring the bid in lower. She concurred with Commissioner Hinson to talk with other bidders. If they could bring the bid in for a lower amount for the same quality of work, why not do it and save the County hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Commissioner Holt asked who would monitor the work to make sure the done was correctly. Mr. Meeks said they would have to have permits and get grounding and all. Commissioner Holt said they had no project manager on this. Mr. Meeks said that Al Smythe has worked on towers. Commissioner Holt said she was not going to address that. Dr. Grant said the only one that has a project manager was Motorola. Commissioner Holt said who would manage the project. Dr. Grant said he guessed Motorola would because they have other equipment that would tie into this equipment. Commissioner Holt said before he came, they did a change order for \$400,000. She said she had no problem with bidding, this had been going on long enough.

Commissioner Morgan said to her point, the project manager fees were included with Motorola's bid and assured they would not be project manager with no costs involved to the County if they were not the vendor selected.

Chair Viegbesie said the Motion and second was to award this to Motorola and asked for vote.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NO
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NO

COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-2

14. Gadsden County Agreement for Architectural Services

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a contract with Clemons, Rutherford and Associates which outlines the services required for renovating and building-out the Gadsden County Hospital portion that has not been built-out so that it could be utilized for a COVID-19 Special Needs Shelter.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a project manager on this and Dr. Grant stated yes, he would be provided. Commissioner Holt said this was to be used as a special needs shelter but built out like a hospital and Dr. Grant said yes. Commissioner Holt asked why it was \$781,365. Dr. Grant said it was not coming out of County money; it was clearly stated it would be CARES Act money. Commissioner Holt said this had to be invoiced before the last day of December. She stated she wanted to make sure everything was invoiced by the last day of December.

Commissioner Taylor said she was looking at the packet on this item, was she to understand that the actual amount would be a percentage of the entire project. Dr. Grant said that was on page 30 of 30; the amount was \$781,365. Commissioner Taylor said they were giving the architect that amount.

Dr. Grant said it was for Phase 1 and was about three wings and the center court. Commissioner Taylor asked if there were any other bidders and he stated yes. Commissioner Taylor asked if they were under/over or not qualified bidders. Dr. Grant explained they did not have the credentials that this company had.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was credentials or ACHA requirements. Commissioner Taylor said she was not voting for this; it was ridiculous to give this company this amount of money.

Commissioner Morgan said this was a \$10 Million project, an expansive design of the hospital.

Chair Viegbesie said in looking at Integrity, the hospital construction was about \$10 Million that they would be requesting; the \$781,000 was what they were paying just for the hospital architectural plans and services.

Commissioner Hinson said he always was told just be fair when was younger. He added there was one company that did not meet all the obligations. He heard Gadsden County residents were not going to get more relief and they need to help the residents instead of doing this. He felt they should put half the money into the residents' program and the other half into the small business program and he could not do this because it was not fair. He added they opposed other companies from coming and they had the bid in their hand.

Commissioner Holt asked if the attorney would address some of the issues that Commissioner Hinson brought up regarding the sole bidder. Mr. Knowles stated there were two bidders. It

was mentioned that Hoy Stark Hagan was the other bidder. Commissioner Hinson stated they did meet the qualifications but the other group was the only one that met the qualifications.

Chair Viegbesie said in the background (of the Agenda item) it stated “CRA Architects and Hoy Stark Hagan submitted qualifications by the deadline. Also, a committee was chosen that conducted an evaluation of both vendors. The evaluation results were unanimous, with CRA Architects scoring 295 points.” Commissioner Hinson said he understood where they were coming from, but the other company did not meet the qualifications.

Mr. Thomas said for the record, he forwarded to the Board documentation from FDEM and it seemed to indicate this project might not be eligible for CARES Act money.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not going to support this item and “Gadsden County cannot have a full-fledged hospital at this time. You are talking about \$10 Million from FEMA or HUD, that’s a bid, that’s a bid we have to put in for, that’s not an entitlement like the CARES Act money, that’s a bid. We have to be competitive to get these dollars. What could very well happen, we will have almost a \$1 Million worth of design and not come up with the \$10 Million for the build-out because we have to compete for it. I understood Integrity to say that our chances are good (inaudible). The reason why we put that Million in there was that when the hurricane season comes, we would have something there that could take care of our people with COVID. That’s the reason we put that money in there initially. All the money we put there for the build-out and construction was being taken up from the architect. That’s not what we originally said. Now my understanding, there was already designs down there and it was a matter of using those designs to build the place out. Now to have someone come back and do more designs on top of what was already down there, because there was designs drawn up for the County hospital to be built out but we didn’t have the necessary funding to do it initially, which is why it wasn’t done. To throw money after this and hope and pray we get \$1 Million and then you ask a question, Mr. Chair, a few minutes ago, or someone, whether or not the \$750,000 would come off of the \$10 Million? No, the \$10 Million was being asked specifically for the build-out. You are taking the CARES Act money for the architect and then going to ask for \$10 Million for the build-out. The answer should have been no to you...What hurts me, the people that will need this shelter, it will not be made available to them because we’re looking for a pie in the sky that we don’t even know if it’s available to us or not. Thank you.”

Chair Viegbesie said he just read what the Clerk said and he entered into record the comment of his concerns as the Chief Financial Auditor and asked him to enter that again.

Mr. Thomas said yesterday he forwarded documentation from FDEM that indicated to him this project might not be covered by CARES Act money and thought they should review and make their determination.

Commissioner Holt said if they did not have a project to move forward through CARES, then they would get no money and no design and felt they should approve the item contingent on getting CARES Act money for this project and said that was her motion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF THE HOSPITAL CONTINGENT ON RECEIVING MONEY THROUGH CARES ACT.

Mr. Thomas said the \$1 Million they have in the 55% remaining, they have documents on how they were spending the \$1.9 Million; supposed to get 25% more and they decided how that would be spent. What he was understanding was that they want to see that they have significantly spent the \$1.9 Million before they receive the \$1.5, even though the Governor has said 55 Counties would be getting their second disbursement. If the \$1 Million they were going to spend on the project is in the 55%, it appeared to him that all that would be reimbursable and they were saying essentially that they would put the money upfront and then seek reimbursement based on how they have agreed to spend the money thus far. By approving this, they were saying that they will fund this money and seek to get reimbursement through the CARES program.

Chair Viegbesie said what he said was the question he was going to ask. The 55% that they have not received, he understood they would have to front that from their pockets and it was a reimbursable expenditure. If they spent almost \$1 Million on this item, that was almost all the additional 20% that the Governor has just approved in addition to the 25%. He said he did not know how they would go with that being contingent on the CARES money.

Commissioner Holt said if they spent the \$1.9, no matter what they spent it on, could they go after the other percentage. Can they be reimbursed for that or for the hospital itself?

Chair Viegbesie his understanding of the Governor's position with regard to CARES Act for the 55 Counties, was the \$1.9 they have already received, and then they submitted a plan as to how they would be using that \$1.9 Million and based on after they have spent a certain amount of that, then they would receive the \$1.5 Million, which was the 20%. Then when they show what they were doing with the 20%, then they could continue to spend the 55%, but that would come from their coffers and would then apply for reimbursement of the 55% of the \$7.9 Million that was granted to the County.

Mr. Knowles said there was a conference call last week with FAC and some of the folks from DEM and they put out a pdf. He said "Phase 2 funding disbursements will be for 20% of the overall previously identified County allocations. Counties will be required to sign an amendment to their Funding Agreement. In order to get phase 2, counties must expend the first 25% allocation; report the expenditures in Salesforce; submit a plan outlining how the county intends to spend the 20% allocation and how the county will spend any funds they intend on accessing on a reimbursement basis. Submit the plan to the FLCares email address and clearly identify the county in the subject line of the email. If the county has not yet expended all of the 25% allocation; once the county has expended the first 25%, please report in Salesforce and send an email to FLCares notifying FDEM that the county is now ready for Phase 2 funding. He said in light of that, they had to be careful. He added that he did not necessarily agree or disagree with the Clerk's assessment, he thought Mr. Miller was on and could enlighten them more. He thought the disconnect in the guidance the Clerk provided versus what they were doing, which was treading a fine line, and as Commissioner Taylor said, they were allocating a substantial amount of money to not do any build-out, but that might be why this was an eligible expenditure because it doesn't involve a permanent structure, it was the planning for the permanent structure. He said from what the Clerk sent out, which was good, and stated Question 28 of the Treasury's September 2, 2020, Frequently Asked Questions generally addressed capital improvements, that's building out new things, stated that "Fund payments may be used for the expenses of... establishing *temporary* public medical facilities and

other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity or improve mitigation measures, including related construction costs.” He said he would venture to guess that the related construction costs would be that initial architectural sort of design build services they were doing here. He said he was not commenting on whether or not that was a value service, just whether they were good under CARES. He believed the other money would come from FEMA or HUD where they would do the actual build-out. He said he understood the Clerk’s position because he was saying...

Mr. Thomas asked that he go on down and Mr. Knowles read “Some counties have asked whether they can use Fund payments to purchase real property or construct permanent buildings. For the reason stated below, the State believes that the purchase of real property and the construction of permanent buildings are ineligible expenses but thought where they differed was, they were not constructing a permanent building with the money. They were related construction costs.

The Clerk said the bottom line was, they got this in the 55%, haven’t spent the 25%, and they have to spend that and demonstrate they have spent that to get the 20%. He said the \$1 Million was included in the 55%, which was after the 20%. Mr. Knowles said which they would have to pull from their own coffers. Mr. Thomas said even just based on time, they were running out of time. Mr. Knowles said he was not disagreeing with him on time or planning, he was saying clearly from the standpoint of actual use of this money for the architectural design services from CRA, they should be ok on it.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not disagree with what he was hearing, but what they were talking about funding was for a permanent structure and was what he thought the Clerk was trying to explain. You are either purchasing land or using the money in a way for a permanent structure and even though it was planning money they were talking about, it was for a permanent structure and gives him pause.

Darryl Cox, Integrity, appeared remotely. He said he agreed with Mr. Knowles and the Clerk. Simultaneously, the costs related to the build-out of a hospital, when they initially discussed the hospital costs as a COVID eligible cost, it was for design elements as well as some temporary that may become permanent build-out related to COVID cases going into a hospital. He said reflecting back on the three things that make a CARES Act cost eligible was unbudgeted, COVID related and spent by December 30th. He added that obviously they have received some additional guidance and have received an opinion from DEM on what was eligible and not and said it was a decision the Board would have to make. He added in their opinion, it was a borderline cost and would have to be the Board’s decision. He said they would be updating the Salesforce costs as they are spent and could update the plan as they went. He agreed with the Clerk that the way the costs were currently budgeted coming out of the 55%, could make reimbursement more difficult on that item rather than coming from the 20% and requesting reimbursement on some of the additional business grants as they come through. He said they could do an invoice pull-down Last point he wanted to make was in the October 1st webinar there was some clarification from the Interim Recovery Bureau Chief on what encumbered or incurred costs could be eligible and it sounded like from her discussion along with the questions Mr. Suggs was asking, the County could invoice those costs before they were technically in the County’s Finance Department actually spent. He said once the costs were encumbered, they could be recorded through the Salesforce website as spent, which would help the County.

Commissioner Holt said that was why her motion was contingent on getting the CARES Act funding. She said the reason she asked about reimbursement in the first \$1.9 Million, that was disbursed, then they would be able to get the \$1.5 Million under the 20%.

Mr. Cox said they needed to submit the plan to DEM and then create in Salesforce a financial activity report and show the first 25% had been spent. Once that was done, they would send an amendment to the Agreement and start the process of receiving the additional 20%.

Chair Viegbesie said his question was, contingent on what part of the CARES Act funding, the 55% or the 25% already received or the 20% that they were not even sure they would receive until they have proved they have spent. Commissioner Holt said the \$1.9, the 25%, they already owe to the citizens. She said the State would not let them be evicted and was done under the direction of the State. She said they need to do what was promised to the citizens they would do. She said they were stalling and it was already October 6th.

Mr. Thomas said to follow-up what Commissioner Holt said, if they looked at the 25% break-out, there was only \$11,000 in the Residents' Assistance Program and \$195,000 in the Small Business Assistance Program in the first 25%. Commissioner Holt said that could be adjusted; what they were doing was turning in a plan they were hoping they would get.

Commissioner Taylor said when the attorney read the interpretation earlier, when he talked about temporary build-out that could be used, was why they were leaning on when they put that money in for the hospital. She said she was pleased when she understood that there were some old drawings that were available through CRA to use for the temporary buildout. She added she could not hear the Clerk, but thought he was saying that reimbursement for the architect was not allowable. She asked where was Integrity. Chair Viegbesie said their opinion confirmed some of what the Clerk and the attorney said.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Administrator could come closer to the mike as she had a question. She asked if there were drawings that could be used to help with the build-out and COVID citizens, could CRA work with them and build the place out. She said there were some that wanted a hospital, but they could not cut off their nose to spite their face.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO SEE IF THERE WERE DRAWINGS WHERE THEY COULD DO A TEMPORARY BUILD-OUT, WHICH WAS WHAT WAS APPROVED WITH CARES ACT MONEY THAT THEY COULD HOUSE CITIZENS IN THAT AREA AND USE AS A SHELTER AS NEEDED AND USE CRA AS A CONSULTANT ON THE DESIGN AT AN AMOUNT THEY COULD AFFORD. MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if Integrity was still on and they were. She said the Clerk made a comment about the 25% plan, could those numbers be altered for residents and businesses and was told yes. Mr. Cox said those numbers were for qualified residents and business grants at the time they had to submit the First Quarterly Report and they attempted to show in that first report that they had at the least, encumbered all of the 25%. Since then, in the last 5 days, they have qualified more, the encumbered costs, they can show DEM they were into the 20%. Commissioner Holt said she was talking about the residential and business part. If they were able to go ahead and fund some of these people, that left them to deal with government costs.

She added in order to get the 20%, they have to show they have spent or encumbered the 25%. Mr. Cox said they could easily show the 25% been encumbered. She said she was trying to get the individuals out of the way in order to go ahead and then move on with the plan and cut the deadline and keep moving. She said if they were able to get it and get some help, this was the time to get the help for the hospital. She said she did not understand who they would not get the architectural stuff done.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BRING THIS ITEM BACK ON FRIDAY. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor asked the attorney that he said earlier what CARES Act could do with regards to the build-out. She asked that he re-read it so they could clearly understand with regard what could and could not be done with the money. She asked if the design was an acceptable expense.

Eric Miller, Integrity, said the most recent guidance issued by FDEM, spoke to the purchase of real property and permanent structures and it said the “Federal guidance does not expressly make purchase of property and construction of permanent structures explicitly eligible or ineligible. He added the State posted directly to Treasury and had yet to receive a direct response.

Mr. Knowles said to answer her question, he agreed with Mr. Miller and the Clerk, they were treading a thin line, and if they moved this into their first remaining \$1.4 Million.

The Clerk said the first \$1.9 Million was basically already encumbered as stated by Integrity, but not all had been disbursed yet and was impossible to put the \$700,000 into the 25%. He said that would put it in the 55%, which made it reimbursable.

Mr. Knowles said if he heard correctly, it was not set in stone, they could theoretically change the amount to what they wanted with the 25% they had now. He then said he thought there was some credence to Commissioner Taylor’s point in that there was a possibility that the State could come back and say this was ineligible expense and deduct it from the County’s amount and they were \$700,000 in the red for other expenditures; OR as the Clerk was saying, it was in the 55% for reimbursement, they could not get reimbursed. He asked if that was correct and Mr. Miller said that was correct. Mr. Miller said if that were to happen, there were other options. Mr. Knowles said he agreed with Commissioner Taylor, it may be better to air on the side of caution. If they were going to run the risk of taking a \$700,000 bath, that may be a problem. He said he wanted to be on the record saying maybe they should re-evaluate this and bring it back at a later meeting.

Commissioner Holt said that was why she said “contingent upon getting funded” and her second motion was to bring back on Friday. She said there was no need to discuss if they were not getting funded. She added it made more sense to table until Friday.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL FRIDAY.

Commissioner Taylor said the reason she did not second this item, she did not think CRA should get that much of the build-out money.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion to table until Friday and he would make the second. He then called for the vote.

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

MOTION TO TABLE PASSED 3-2

15. Johnson Controls Sale and Installation Agreement

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

16. Approval of Elected Official (Commissioner) Appointment to the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint one elected official to serve on the Community Development Advisory Committee and advise the housing needs for Gadsden County.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were re-appointing Commissioner and Commissioner Holt said this was a new appointee.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1

17. Approval of New Road Name (PCJC Cemetery Road)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a new road name-PCJC Cemetery Road.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIOENR MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE CHAIR CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

18. Approval of New Road Name (Teague Lane)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a new road name-Teague Lane.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CLERK OF COURT

19. Updates

Mr. Thomas said he had no reports.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

20. Updates

Dr. Grant said the Integrity Group requested they have a workshop to deal with the HUD applications due the end of November. They set the date for October 22nd-and would be a workshop to discuss and prioritize the HUD projects that have been requested.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood that a Commissioner ordered campaign signs and billed the County. Commissioner Taylor said the sign company thought since she was a commissioner, the bill should be sent to County. No-one directed the company to send it to the County, the sign company made that assumption and it has since been corrected.

Commissioner Taylor asked when would the County Administrator position be brought before Board. Dr. Grant said it was his understanding it would be brought at the second meeting in October. Commissioner Taylor said since they were getting ready to entertain a new Administrator, asked the Board to consider a moratorium on the Administrator giving raises and firing unless it was detrimental to government. She said they needed to make sure no raises were given. She said the other thing, she spoke with someone from the Sheriff Department, and she thought they included requests of the Constitutional Officers in their budget. She said she understood there was quite a bit of money the Sheriff wanted put back in because he wanted to be competitive with salaries.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

21. Updates

Mr. Knowles said for the shade meeting scheduled for October 20th at 4 p.m., he requested the Commissioners be present physically, they could not do Zoom for this meeting. He said there was confusion on Friday, the Resolution said the curfew started at 11:00 p.m. and should have been 10 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

22. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he thought the last three-four years, the Board has been attacking other Board members and they need to stop.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:36 p.m.

All of them have degrees, etc. and things were being said that was not appropriate in meetings. They need to put a positive spin on the County; like what was said earlier, that was a question that could have been asked in private. They need to stop throwing innuendos out there. He then thanked the citizens for another four years for him to represent them.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had no comments.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Holt asked if Department heads in charge of departments – yes

If any write-up coming from department go through him or who-Grant said depending – one type goes to HR and other goes to HR and Administrator. She asked to see Policy and Procedure on that

When contractors do bid on individual items, want to see bids on items.

Would like to get Integrity to move as quickly as possible on individuals – get out of way then only have to deal with their costs and what going to fund. Have sent list to Trudei in Finance. Should move quickly.

Don't believe staff should be part of scoring process.

Grant asked if want score sheets or scores. Raw score sheets

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked if they had entertained the broadband bid yet. Dr. Grant said it would be brought back at the next meeting on October 20th.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:38 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could meet next week, if possible, about broadband.

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

Receipt and File

CARES Act Quarterly File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED IT ADJOURNED AT 8:46 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

Chairman Viegbesie said the Commission was doing what he was requesting now with Attapulcus Hwy. He further stated if this was approved by FDOT, what the County could do is resubmit additional funding to this and then the BOCC could take it from there. Chairman stated for them to work with the engineer and can see how the County could get additional funding for the shoulder to the road.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 5 WITH A SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. Ratification for Payment of Emergency Building (Inspection) Department Services by EPCI Services

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with the item other than the fiscal impact since the County was transferring 25% of the cost in the general fund balance. He stated the BOCC had it in this year's budget and he would like clarification on that.

Suzanne Lex appeared before Board and explained the money was already paid from last year's budget and this was for ratification.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator to speak on item 11, so the citizens would know what was going on because this was very important.

Mr. Hall explained it simply was removal without a Building Administrator going outside and have a contractual agreement with someone to do building inspection. He further stated once the County hired a permanent Building Inspector; the County did not have to do this anymore but the County always had to have a Building Official in order for permits and things to be approved and continue building in the County. He further stated this gave the County a Building Official on a part-time basis and this was the revenue it cost for him to work for the County.

Commissioner Hinson said he knew this because it was one of the items that the County had discussed and had many workshops and complaints.

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

12. Approval of Assistance for United Way

Commissioner Morgan said item 12 was looking to a non-profit contribution for United Way of Big Bend for \$500 and he had spoken with the Administrator about this. He stated he personally supports the United Way and they have a new CEO and it was a great organization that benefits our citizens and he wanted to support them. He further stated the County employees have an opportunity to contribute each pay period and many of them do. His question was whether or not this had been through the process, like all the other non-profits during the budget time, and the Administrator told him it did not, and this was an additional non-profit. Commissioner Morgan asked why this was being entertained at this point and why not do it in the next budget year, particularly with the position the County was in financially, it did not seem fair to the other

non-profits that went through the process and the BOCC told them no, due to the finances the County could not contribute. He asked for clarification from the board how this got thrown in as an agenda item.

Chairman Viegbesie said he suggested it be put on Agenda because The United Way, in the last meeting, was looking for funding to help them with assisting Veterans in this community with some financial issues they are having with medicine co-pay and other bills. Chairman Viegbesie said he thought \$500 to help them help Veterans would be something the Board should consider, which is why he suggested it be put on the agenda. He suggested at the end of the last meeting, sources of soft revenue to the Veteran Affairs Department to help Veterans with subsidizing their financial hardship. Chairman Viegbesie said in the next meeting is a discussion on brick pavers around the Veteran Monument on the Courthouse grounds to help generate soft money to help Veterans. He thought this was something the Board should seriously consider and provide \$500 to The United Way.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated what the Chairman had to say and Commissioner Morgan had no problem if each Commissioner wanted to contribute personally \$100, he would be glad to do that, but did not feel this was proper when other non-profits had been turned away.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the point was very well taken and it was a very wise discussion.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt heartburn a little because the BOCC had discussed how they could put funding into Summer Youth Employment and he noticed they were now taking money from General Revenue. The BOCC took \$10,000 extra from this year's budget out of General Revenue and now another \$500.00.

Commissioner Morgan told Commissioner Hinson that was last year and they just had conformation on it.

Commissioner Hinson stated the paperwork he had did not say it was from last year and he would like that checked on.

Commissioner Holt said she was the old person on the board and before, they did not do non-profits. She stated she had no problem with each Commissioner giving money to keep it from coming out of the General Fund. She understands Commissioner Hinson's point, because after the hurricane she said to pay those bills down and there would be no need for any of the non-profits to come back until the bills were paid down and the County got money back from the Federal Government.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO GIVE INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS TO THE UNITED WAY COMMISSIONERS WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN.

Commissioner Hinson said he just donated almost \$1,000 to East Gadsden High School. He stated whatever the Board wanted to do would be great and he thought The United Way was a great organization, but he would hate to say each Commissioner would donate with one Commissioner not being present.

Chairman Viegbesie stated it would be optional. He echoed the Commissioner's statement regarding employees make substantial contributions to the United Way and the Board members could make additional contributions because the money would be going to help the Veterans in our Community, those that have served to protect our individual freedoms in this country.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO COVER THIS ITEM FOR DONATIONS TO THE UNITED WAY WITH DONATIONS FROM THE BOARD AT THE WILL OF THE BOARD FROM EACH COMMISSIONER AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson recognized Councilman Johnson, who was in the audience, stating she was always donating to help Gadsden County High School teachers and staff.

13 Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Matching Grant

Commissioner Morgan stated he had no issue with the item and asked where the matching money of \$22,875.25 was coming from for the matching grant.

Jeff Price, Senior Management & Budget Analyst, stated the County had \$25,000 budgeted in Public Safety.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Terry Williams, 188 Martin Street, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and spoke about a new Non-profit Company, Keystone Endeavors. He explained it was a re-entry type of company that would assist individuals that were coming out of County and State jail and prison to help with becoming more successful in life by way of education, vocation and betterment classes. He stated these people were our neighbors and his company wanted to give them assistance so it would not be a revolving door in and out of jail/prison. He said he would appreciate any help the County could give him, either monetary or by way of a building to operate out of. He stated he was licensed with the State and Federal Government and he had his 501(c)(3). He told the Board the flyer he handed out had his contact information on it and he would come before the Board again because he was putting together a fundraiser to assist him in starting up. He said the State of Florida housed over 97,000 individuals and they are getting out on a daily basis and his company believes he could assist these individuals and stop the revolving door in and out of prison. He had already made contact with the local educational resources as well as in Tallahassee and all of them welcomed him. He asked if the Board had any questions.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was known to do a breakfast every 2 months and Mr. Williams was more than welcome to attend and that would help him understand what was happening and who could help and assist. Homelessness is a serious issue.

Mr. Williams stated the most individuals coming out of prison had no place at all to go. He stated this was only the beginning and he had some things on paper he was trying to get together and the Board would see him again.

Annie Green, 466 Spring Meadows Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board to speak concerning Code Enforcement and Building Permits. She stated she had problems with a neighbor. When Clyde Collins was with the County Administrators Office, he gave her neighbor a permit to set up an RV in a residential area and since then he had taken up residence in this RV. After the neighbors complained, he moved the RV out (March), and when he thought the neighbors had forgotten about it, he moved it back (November). Ms. Green stated she had spoken with Mr. Hall, Mr. Williams, and Al Smythe concerning the matter. He has threatened her, her daughter and her small children. Since she was having problems, she was going to put up a fence. When men were putting the fence up, he came out and threatened them. He told Ms. Green he was going to damage some of her property. There was a pipe running from her daughters' mobile home, he said part of the pipe for the sewer system was on his land, he then busted the pipe and sewage was running everywhere. After he busted the pipe, he called Environmental Health. Environmental Health showed up and told Ms. Green she had to fix it. She told them her neighbor broke it and they told her it was on his property and he had the right to bust the pipe. She stated this had been going on for over a year. Her nephew came to her house to see what was going on and her neighbor's wife threatened to shoot him and then the neighbor came out and harassed him as well. Her nephew left when Ms. Green told him not to argue with the neighbors. She further stated she had been getting letters from Code Enforcement because he had been complaining that in her wooded area of her land there was some trash. She has been on that property for 20+ years. Code Enforcement is telling her that she has to go into the woods and clean up the trash and she wants to know if it was legal.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:28 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to look into this. He stated if you had been walking through someone's property for 20 years, they cannot change that walkway/property. He said she had rights and asked for the County to look into this and make sure she was protected.

Chairman Viegbesie stated there needed to be another meeting and they needed someone from the Sheriff's Office to be present. He further stated that law enforcement may need to be at her house while the drainage was being diverted from her neighbor's property to her own property, but that would be answered.

Ms. Green stated she pulled all of the permits needed and if her sewer was on his land, that should have never happened because that was the purpose of her pulling her permits and paying all kinds of money to do so.

Commissioner Holt said the property description should be on her deed and to do a title search and it would show property lines. Commissioner Holt stated title searches go back from 30-75 years and encouraged Ms. Green to pull all of her paperwork. She stated there are corner stones in the ground and that would give her a better determination of where her property lines were.

Ms. Green stated when her neighbor moved in, he got someone to survey the property, and they did another marking of the property.

Commissioner Holt stated the reason she brought up the property description and the deed

were because in Florida, markers are sometimes 20-30 feet off of a marker. She said survey offices only worry about the deed that is presented to them and they could not do a title search. She further stated if Ms. Green could not afford an attorney, she should see Legal Services of North Florida and start working on the issue.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the meeting that the BOCC would schedule, he would suggest Commissioner Holt be a part of.

Ms. Green asked again if she was required to go into the woods and clean up the trash that was there.

Mr. Hall said he would check with his Code Enforcement Officer tomorrow and research this and get in touch with her.

Linda Barkley, 530 Dusty House Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board.

Chairman Viegbesie said they were in the process of scheduling the Private Roads Workshop and Ms. Barkley was before the Board recently and she stated she had been before the Board several times and the last time was November. Chairman Viegbesie stated the Board had not been able to find time to schedule the workshop but he appreciated the friendly reminder. Ms. Barkley stated she wanted to go on record again in reference to the adoption of the Private Road Ordinance that the County had in place. She wanted to know where the Board was on scheduling a workshop and expressed that she did not want the Ordinance to expire and have nothing happen. She asked if there was any day or anything in place as to when the Board would be looking to schedule a date.

Commissioner Hinson said he would add that to his comments when it was time for Commissioner Comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out 6:48 p.m.

17. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Ordinance 2019-015 for the 1605 Flat Creek Road Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2019-01)

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was a Public Hearing for approval of Ordinance 2019-015 to adopt the Flat Creek Road Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendment.

Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board and gave a brief description of the item.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 6:50 p.m.

Ms. Jeglie stated the Options were:

1. Adopt Ordinance 2019-15 approving the 1604 Flat Creek road (Vrasha, Inc.) (SSPA-2019-02) Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment from the Agriculture 3 to the Neighborhood Commercial future land use category and authorize the Chairman to sign.
2. Do not adopt Ordinance 2019-015 and deny approval of the 1604 Flat Creek road.

(Vrasha, Inc.) (SSPA-2019-02) Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment from the Agriculture 3 to the Neighborhood Commercial future land use category.

3. Board direction.

The recommendation was Option 1. (exhibit A should say neighborhood commercial)

Vice Chair Holt asked, if possible, to have a map put on the monitor so the audience could see the location of the item. (page 9 or 10)

Vice Chair Holt stated the reason she was bringing this up was to be able to get input if the audience was better informed on what the item was. She stated it was the I-10 Chattahoochee Exit and there was a small store there and most country stores would not have been Commercial or Neighborhood Commercial. There was not a Planning Map when most of them were built. Vice Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak for or against and no-one wished to speak.

Commissioner Morgan said they were talking about minimum expansion of the existing convenience store and gas station was located near the old Jai-Alai building at the I-10 and Flat Creek Road exit.

Ms. Jeglie stated the maximum square foot they could have in Neighborhood Commercial was 5,000 sq. ft.

Commissioner Morgan stated there were no issues as far as conformity went because it was an existing store.

MS. Jeglie stated it was shown as Agriculture 3 on the map and so the owners could not improve it.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO MOVE APPROVE OPTION 1 AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson stated he said 7 years ago that the County had to find a way to improve the infrastructure.

Ms. Jeglie stated the Board had not workshopped that and there could be outlays if they wanted to get in the utilities or expand utilities. She further stated most of the intersections off of the interstate have been annexed with the exception of the one in this area by the various local governments and they are extending utilities to the area.

Commissioner Hinson said if they improved the infrastructure, people would come to Gadsden County.

Ms. Jeglie stated that would be a considerable capital investment and long-term plans for the commissioners as far as if they want to invest in that type of infrastructure.

Commissioner Holt said she asked the Director of Planning and Zoning to get that information to the Commissioners. The County provides water and sewer and electricity to those intersections

and this one should not be Neighborhood Commercial. She further stated the property owners should be approached again and look at it with an overlay to do a commercial intersection. This would cause no increase in taxes and that way they would not have to come before the Board because those steps would already be taken. Constitutional Officers, she said, need to sit down and start planning the County better.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

18. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Ordinance 2019-016 to adopt the 2434 Kemp Road Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment (SSPA 2019-01-3)

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of Ordinance 2019-016 to adopt Kemp Road Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map amendment.

Chairman Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in favor of or opposition of this item.

Elva Peppers, 221-4 Delta Court, Tallahassee, FL, appeared before the Board and gave a brief overview of the item. She stated all that was needed was Board approval and Planning Department approval for the Site Plan and there were no environmental issues.

Chairman Viegbesie said personally, he thought it to be a very wonderful endeavor and asked about the septic tank and if it would be upgraded without any environmental issues.

Ms. Peppers said yes and the improvements had been done. She had spoken to the Health Department and it was "set to go." The well, in addition, met the requirements of the Health Department.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the maximum number of students would be. Ms. Peppers answered 25. She further stated there was no proposal at this time to expand the facility.

Commissioner Holt said she felt it was a great idea and was time to approve.

Commissioner Morgan said this was a great endeavor and he had questions for Ms. Jeglie. He asked if traffic impact had been looked at. Ms. Jeglie said traffic impact was provided as part of their application and was minimal. They have sight vision and may have to do some improvements to the driveway. The 25 students were not anticipated to negatively impact service on that road.

Commissioner Morgan also asked if to the East, in the 100-acre parcel, if that was a hunting preserve. Ms. Jeglie said it was taxed as a clubhouse. She thought hunting was done there and State Statutory Regulations regarding directions they can shoot into, and the building being converted is on the Western portion of the property and it is existing now as a house next to that property. The property owners of the Clubhouse were noticed and they received no contact with any concern had been brought back.

Commissioner Morgan asked if that fact was discussed in Planning and Zoning.

Ms. Jeglie stated there was a table of uses and the Planning Commission was aware and the

vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Morgan stated the safety issue was bothering him being that far out and having children out there right next to a hunting preserve.

Commissioner Holt said there was discussion years ago regarding the hunting preserve. The Board informed the owners that the BOCC could not give them permission to shoot on anyone's property.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE WITH COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSING.

19. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Ordinance 2019-009 to adopt to update the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan (LSPA 2019-02)

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Ordinance 2019-009 to update the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in favor of or opposition of this item. There were none.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN STEPPED OUT AT 7:10 P.M.

Commissioner Holt asked that the strike-outs, from now on, be shown on a document by themselves, showing what was replaced.

Ms. Jeglie re-appeared before Board and stated they could do that.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN RETURNED AT 7:11 P.M.

Ms. Jeglie said typically, for an existing residential lot this would not have much impact. If you have an already existing lot, you are not going to impact Level of Service (LOS). If subdividing and creating many lots etc., it would be reviewed to look at traffic impacts. Parks and Recreation would do the same thing.

Commissioner Holt said a couple of communities that were done before they had swells. Instead of a holding pond, the ditch work is done in a certain way that it would hold more water coming off the development so there would not have to be a holding pond.

She further stated the County was looking at a certain level housing and when people start making more money, they are going to want a certain level house. Not everyone wants a playground/park in their development because everyone comes to the park and no one wants to monitor the other people who come into the neighborhood. She further stated the LDC Comprehensive Plan is where the BOCC could kill those items. If you don't want a park in those 20 houses, how does the Board adjust that plan for those houses.

Ms. Jeglie stated that was a very complicated question and she had worked with staff of 80 that could not answer that and her staff of 3 was doing all they could. Looking forward, the BOCC should support doing this through consultants or revising the maps and deciding where the

County wants to grow.

Commissioner Holt said the Commission needed to make plans as to what they wanted the County to look like with input from the community. She further stated at (Highway) 267, the County put the pipe in and could not convince the city to accept the larger pipe. There needed to be a plan.

Ms. Jeglie stated the 4600,000 Grant the County did at one point was to look at utility deficiencies throughout the county and opportunities.

Commissioner Holt stated things are getting moved but that was not the plan and they need to come up with a plan in order to get the money. This was why she was asking for a workshop.

Chairman Viegbesie said it was a monumental job to work on the Comprehensive Plan, but as Commissioners it was part of their responsibility, but if they want the County to grow, they must schedule workshops for the Comprehensive Plan. He stated in order for the County to move forward and grow, the BOCC must take time to address a Comprehensive Plan. He asked the Interim Administrator, Mr. Hall to make that one of the major workshops needed to work on as soon as possible.

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

20. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2020-001 for FY 2020

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2020-001 and for authorization for the Interim County Administrator, Finance Director and the Senior Management & Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to adjust the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Chairman Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there was any public input and there was none.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said it was already approved in the Budget for the Boys and Girls Club.

Chairman Viegbesie said he was told they were already approved and the BOCC was approving the actual movement of money.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board did not approve the Grant Writer. He stated that position was being outsourced and was being paid based on what he writes. He further stated a Grant Writer was needed but was not sure a position should be made for it.

Chairman Viegbesie stated upon the approval of the Grant Writer position and the funding of it, the position was advertised and applications are still being accepted. This item was to make sure that when the auditors come, they will know the money had been moved within the Budget period.

Commissioner Morgan said all doing was executing funding already agreed on and called the question.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN CALLED TO QUESTION WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED ALL IN FAVOR OF CALL OF QUESTION 5-0.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.

GENERAL BUSINESS

21. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Gadsden County and Communities Organization Active in Disaster, Inc. d/b/a Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies (BRACE) to provide two Americorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Gadsden County and Communities Organizations Active in Disaster, Inc. d/b/a Be Ready Alliance Coordinating for Emergencies (BRACE) to provide two Americorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) positions to Gadsden County for one year to assist in long-term recovery efforts.

Chairman Viegbesie stated this was general business.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Hall where the funding was coming from.

Jeff Price appeared before the Board to address the questions. He stated the funding was coming from the Planning and Zoning Department and estimated no more than \$20,000. Commissioner Morgan asked if it was already budgeted and Mr. Price said there was savings in that department that they would use for this. Commissioner Morgan asked if that Department was adequately funded at this time and Mr. Price answered yes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

22. Approval of Extension with Ausley McMullen for the Limited Purpose of Completing Negotiations Regarding the Hospital Lease

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an extension with Ausley McMullen for the limited purpose of completing negotiations regarding the Hospital lease. He said Mr. Glazer was willing to extend his current contract, but it would be limited to the purpose of completing negotiations regarding the Hospital Lease and related documents.

Chairman Viegbesie said the rate Mr. Glazer was charging was not the same rate as Mr. Weiss charged even though they are working under the office of the same legal service. Mr. Glazer would be paid \$295 per hour.

Commissioner Holt said she was not in favor of retaining the Attorney and felt they needed other ideas regarding the hospital contract.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the rate that Mr. Glazer was paid up until this time was \$295 and the

rate listed on the item agenda was \$275 and he asked for the correct amount. Mr. Hall answered \$295. Mr. Weiss stated it was \$275 and Chairman Viegbesie stated the contract should reflect \$275 per hour.

Commissioner Hinson said the current attorney was doing a great job but did not want to offend the new attorney and every lawyer goes to school. He stated he could not go along with this and did not want to insult the new firm.

Chairman Viegbesie said he was in support of this idea for transition purposes and there should be some kind of debriefing period between the two firms. He stated he was in support of one-month period of transition of information because the new attorney needed to have a good understanding of the hospital lease.

Commissioner Morgan said he could not agree more. He further stated it was critically important for the County to maintain relationship that we have between representation. He further this would protect the concerns of the Board and the citizens on extremely important issues.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE.

Commissioner Hinson said it made sense to go with Attorney Weiss because he had all the information and would depend on how long this would take. He further stated it may take 6 months and he did not want to get hit with a payment the County could not afford. He said this was a friendship thing here.

Commissioner Taylor said she had asked this be put on agenda. She stated this item was time sensitive and that was why the BOCC needed to move forward with the firm that was in place. She did not think it was an insult with incoming firm. She further stated, while Mr. Weiss was well versed, the County needed someone with total knowledge and she felt Mr. Glazer would get them to that mark, however, some of the concerns raised were real. She suggested a cap between now and the end of March. She said the BOCC had an opportunity to negotiate since the contract ended in February and a proposal had been presented to the County but was not countered. She was going along with option 1 with a cap.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Mr. Hall to take note that the contract would end February 21st and the County was entering into a contract extension so the amount could be negotiated during the contractual period and should be up to March 31st and within that month the new law firm should be able to have the debriefing and understanding needed to effectively and efficiently carry out the contractual agreement between CRMC and the Board.

Commissioner Holt said the Commissioners have come to meetings before and not been notified of updates on negotiations by the attorney of several things. She stated the money being raised from tax over years (\$700,000 for 20 years, \$18 Million) and still had no Hospital. She further stated changes needed to be made and she was not going to vote in favor of it.

Mr. Weiss wanted to point out the option on the table (Option 1) said there was no expectation there would be significant amount of time spent and said Mr. Glazer not communicating with them was not accurate at all. He further stated Mr. Glazer has sent multiple emails, communicated every

revision, sent revised drafts, sent memos and updates every time any kind of revision had been made.

Commissioner Taylor asked that when the motion was made it was tagged with a cap.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the contract end would March 31st.

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONERS HINSON AND HOLT OPPOSED.

CLERK OF COURT

23. Updates

Clerk Thomas wanted to mention funds that needed to be spent. The Boating Improvement Fund had \$120,397. Every year the State asked if the money was being spent and he thought at some point they might ask for it back. He stated the money could only be used for boating improvements, docks, etc.

Chairman Viegbesie said this was something the Clerk has reminded them of and asked the Interim County Administrator to work on spending the money to improve the County buildings and to work on this. The Clerk stated again it was for Boating, not Building.

Commissioner Hinson said there had been a lot of conversation in Richbay regarding the landing there on how to keep it clean. He asked if the County could use funds to beautify that area.

Commissioner Holt asked Clerk Thomas what the other item was.

Clerk Thomas said Fund 101, Dory Slosburg Fund, for driver improvement in the amount of \$66,567. It was not just public schools; it could be non-public or private schools.

Commissioner Holt said they needed to get the requirements of those funds so decisions could be made. She said the boating could generate revenue with canoeing.

Chairman Viegbesie suggested the ICA to reach out to the Commissioners individually to get ideas as to what they would like to see done with monies and put ideas together as an agendaed item and get common ideas and introduce them.

Commissioner Taylor said what was imperative, was they knew what they could and could not be done with the monies.

Clerk Thomas said he will forward information to the Board and the Interim Administrator.

Clerk Thomas said he knew they talked about the Emergency Repair Program and the Clerk's office wanted to go on record stating that they still believed that in reinstating this program, there should be an Ordinance to establish a public purpose, similar to the ordinance in the SHIP Program.

He further stated there had been lot of talk about the General Fund Balance and he was only talking about balance at the end of the fiscal year on September 30th. It changes up and down during the year but what mattered was September 30th. At the end of the year it was approximately \$4 Million, of course \$2.5 Million was spent October 1, at the draw down from investment accounts to get through the first few weeks of the fiscal year but it was put back as the property tax came in. He further stated some numbers on the revenue side were not that good. He said that was unaudited and the auditors were here for next month and just started looking at the numbers.

Clerk Thomas said he received a call from Department of Transportation about recent instability at the Public Works Department and they are concerned about awarding grants if the level of expertise was not there. The Clerk's Office has assured them they were willing to work with them. He felt this might need to be addressed.

Chair Viegbesie said he was a representative at CRPTA and was personally told of concerns of turnovers at Public Works and he was not saying something he had not heard.

Mr. Hall said they were addressing vacancies and they should be addressed within the next 30 days. Mr. Hall said they had applications and this was being addressed.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

24. Updates

Mr. Hall thanked Staff for all their hard work and thanked Suzanne Lex for her hard work.

Chair Viegbesie thanked Suzanne Lex for her expertise and knew they would still be working together but in a different capacity with her being with CRTPA now.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

25. Updates

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

26. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked Ms. Lex for her dedication.

He. promised Ms. Linda Barkley he would schedule a time they could meet.

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson also said February 29th that Alpha Phi Fraternity wanted to host another event at the Courthouse and asked their OK to do so.

Chair Viegbesie commented about use of Courthouse grounds. He thought they had developed a process they must follow for Courthouse grounds to be used regarding insurance. He said if something happened and someone was hurt on the Courthouse grounds, he wanted to make sure they were covered.

Commissioner Hinson said they host the Veterans every year and the attorney looked at all the information last year and Chair Viegbesie said the Veterans event was a County event that the County hosted.

Mr. Weiss said there was an existing policy on the use of the Courthouse grounds and as long as it was in accordance with the existing policy being followed, he didn't have problem with it.

Commissioner Holt said in 2002, she was going to walk on the sidewalk when she ran for office and was told could not walk and then decided it was public and could use the sidewalk.

Mr. Weiss said the Courthouse grounds was different from the sidewalk. Policy had to be followed and it was their policy.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION. THE VOTE WAS 4-0 ON CALL TO QUESTION.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone and some things they should consider was with mental health, homelessness and how they could generate revenue in the County. He said they also talked about infrastructure. He said they talk about jobs forever but without infrastructure in place, they were holding a grave conversation with the community.

He said to Commissioner Taylor he heard her event was one of greatest in the world and they need to look at the mental health facility in Orlando/Tampa area and model after that.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she received a great call about a young lady about keeping dogs out of her yard. She has called Animal Control but when they arrive, the dogs have left.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DR. WILLIE C. GREEN AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

She thanked the Manager and said was unusual that the Clerk brought the item up, she got information from employees from a totally different viewpoint on things they thought needed to be improved on regarding Road and Bridge.

She said there was a program at a university in Alabama, she thought Auburn, where the University builds up to 2-bedroom homes. She told them she would follow up after she left the workshop and they have since moved to Marianna. She told Jackson County she would mention this to Gadsden County. Chair Viegbesie asked the Interim Administrator to look into this.

She said the Clerk mentioned about the Emergency Ordinance and said he was correct. When there was an emergency such as the hurricane, they had to have something in place. The organizations they were dealing with that they were able to work with came in to help because they did not know what to do and the County did not have anything in place when the hurricane hit. They did have things in place for debris removal but not a contract or proposal in place to say what they were doing. She said also if there was another emergency like such, they needed to have weekly meetings and not wait two weeks to address come of the things that was coming up.

She said they needed to organize their Day at the Capitol and need palm cards that state what Gadsden County wanted.

She said they needed an Economic Development map what showed gas lines, where the commercial areas were, gas lines and water lines were, etc.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said at the last meeting, Chair Viegbesie mentioned the 5-day work week at Public Works and according to when Robert Presnell was there, they went to 4-day work week was (explained) She explained if they went with 5-day work week, they would lose time and she understood that was in motion.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the same concerns. From Chattahoochee to Concord would be a one-hour drive. He said it sounded good but they needed to look at it.

Commissioner Taylor said regarding the parking lot, she was on her way to work and received a phone call that there was a number of patrolled units sitting in the parking lot behind the County Building. She said she understood the concerns there but knowing for a fact they were limited at any time they would be sitting in a parking lot and not patrolling the County.

She said with the Boys and Girls Club, the Board told them to go and do whatever they wanted with the \$93,000 and the County had no right telling them what to do with the money and the majority of them voted for that and she did not. When they were spending taxpayers' money, they had a right to know what they were doing with it. She asked if they could get a synopsis of what they decided because there were three options on the book and they had no idea what they took.

She said she had a situation with a veteran and they may need to look at some type of funding pool. This gentleman had to be hospitalized and was unable to work and thus lost his utilities and was living in government housing but if utilities were off for a certain amount of time, that voucher was lost. She said she hoped to have some type of pool where they could help in certain situations as that.

She said tonight the Budget Analyst said found money in Planning and Zoning to take care of the Volunteer Program. She said they have been trying to figure out funding to take care of kids to go

to summer camp but everything was taken. Commissioner Hinson corrected her and said Summer Youth Employment. She said they could not find extra dollars but tonight they found an extra \$20,000. She said there was money all over the budget, it was just all in what the funding was for. She said she wanted to let the people know there was money in the budget, it was just on what the funding was being asked for.

Bill of Rights-

Chair Viegbesie wanted to interject about the Veterans. He said at the last meeting he made a recommendation as a way to help raise soft money was (selling) brick pavers on the Courthouse grounds where families could purchase bricks in recognition of family members and the money would go directly to the Veterans' Department as a source of revenue to them and for them to help veterans in those types of situations.

She commended Mr. Hall and said he had gotten quite few construction projects underway.

Commissioner Holt commented about Public Works working 5 days a week.

Commissioner Taylor left at 8:48 p.m.

She said with them working 5 days a week, there were several projects out there and people wanted them done. She said she was in favor of 5 days a week and other thing was the back-parking lot. There are complaints every weekend of what is found in the parking lot. The County is liable, that is their property and something needs to be done about it.

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

Chair Viegbesie said he would be brief. He asked for a motion for a Resolution from the Board.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR A RESOLUTION FOR JUSGE CURVEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie said they could work to reduce the duration of the meeting to no more than 1 ½ hour that would be a tremendous accomplishment.

Receipt and File

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 17, 2019-Regular Meeting

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 Commission**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 21,
2020 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
Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 6:04 p.m.
Commissioner Taylor gave the Invocation and led in Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY
COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

None were had.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY
COMMISSIONER HOLT.

Commissioner Morgan asked to pull Item 3 for a question.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, MINUS ITEM #3 FOR
DISCUSSION.

1. Ratification Memo
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. December 3, 2019-Special Meeting
- ~~3. Appointment of District 1 Planning Commission Member Replacement~~
Pulled for Discussion
4. Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien
5. Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Liens with the State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHOP) and the Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

3. Appointment of District 1 Planning Commission Member Replacement

Commissioner Morgan asked if Mr. Diekman still lived in District 1 if he had been contacted and was willing to serve. Commissioner Hinson answered Yes.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MR. DIEKMAN AS DISTRICT 1 PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Monica Smart-Ganious, 4620 Hosford Highway, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board, agreeing with Mr. Palmer. She said about a month ago her daughter was ill and she took her to the emergency room, they could not find anything wrong. She kept going back for a month and had there been a hospital, she felt they would have found out what was wrong with her sooner. Also had a nephew that was 27 years old and, in the end had to have a pacemaker. Had there been a hospital, they may could have found the problems sooner. She asked them to please re-open a hospital here.

Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board as President of NAACP. The NAACP had a meeting last month and concerns came up regarding the hospital. He stated he knew years ago the hospital failed and felt it was because of management. He was in the military with his rank being Chief Master Sargent. He dealt in management and if there was something to be done, you find a way to do it. In reference to the ½ cent tax, he said when citizens voted for it, he heard several excuses why there could not be a hospital, he asked for a copy of the ballot sample that was sent to the citizens. It said it was put forth to open the hospital, among other things. He stated the Emergency Room that the County has was not what they expected, voted for or got. He said everyone he spoke with wanted a hospital and the beds that go with it. He asked the Commission to reconsider and work for the citizens. He stated the Commissioners should have two top priorities, one was safety and the other healthcare. He is on the Hospital Board and said the lease agreement needed to be looked at again and felt it was one-sided. He had not heard one person that thought a 15-20-year agreement was a good idea and felt a short-term contract was much better. He was told by some of the people at a meeting that some of the equipment was not working and stated the County needed to keep things operational and working. He further stated some say a Hospital cannot be here was because of the distance and that was not true. He recommended the Commissioners should work with citizens and their wishes should be honored and respect them, if the citizens want a hospital, to find way to do it. They should look at the tax base and see what could be done.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2020-001, an Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, adopting Chapter 58, Article VI of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, pertaining to the posting of human trafficking public awareness signs at certain establishments pursuant to Section 787.29, Florida Statutes; providing for a title, applicability, definitions, requirements, and enforcements; 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 sought consideration of an ordinance adopting Chapter 58, Article VI of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, pertaining to the posting of human trafficking public awareness signs at certain establishments pursuant to section 787.29, Florida Statutes; providing for a title, applicability, definitions, requirements, and enforcement.

Chairman Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor or opposition.

Robin Hassler Thompson, Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board. She is the Executive Director of Survive and Drive Advocacy Center, which is an anti-trafficking agency in the area that serves six counties including Gadsden County. She said they assist survivors of sex and labor trafficking and work hard to build public awareness. She spoke in favor of the Ordinance and said this was the perfect time to have this provision, being it was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. She stated she trained law enforcement and others to build awareness on human trafficking.

Commissioner Hinson said he saw the word "slavery" and it should be "enslaved".

Chairman Viegbesie asked if there was anyone else that wished to speak in opposition to or in favor of and there was no-one.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Mr. Weiss had a chance to review the Ordinance and Mr. Weiss said Yes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

GENERAL BUSINESS

None

CLERK OF COURT

7. Updates

Clerk Thomas said he forwarded the information he was going over to the Commissioners. First, dealing with Housing, he wanted to confirm the amount of money on-hand currently of \$2,593,000; of that \$652,593 is in original SHIP Housing Fund and is approximately 2 years of funding in the original SHIP Housing Fund. They said they received \$201,500 of Disaster Award and \$201,500 was not spent. They also received \$1,739,000 of Hurricane Michael Recovery money in Fund 127. Clerk Thomas said those were in 3 different funds but was all SHIP Housing related money to run under the rules of the SHIP Housing. Total on-hand was \$2,593,094.53 and was still to be received in hurricane recovery money \$1,316,000 and that total will be \$3,909,000 available for housing.

Clerk Thomas also wanted to mention the ½ cent indigent tax. He stated when the tax first started in 2009, it collected approximately \$1.2 Million, the last 2-3 years it had increased significantly and in FY 19 the County collected and disbursed \$1,942,428.33. The break-down was as followed:

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting

Debt service	\$645,835.68
Gadsden County Health Department	\$437,517.06
Gadsden Health Council	\$ 81,120.00
CRMC	\$777,955.59

Commissioner Taylor said it sounded like an increase of almost \$600,000.

Clerk Thomas said since the inception in 2009. In 2019 the previous year's numbers were being worked with and had gone up about \$100,000 each of the last 3 years. As money goes up, the debt services were same amount, meaning the health department and CRMC were both getting more money. All money that came in was disbursed out.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards the to four figures given, were ones that did not change.

Clerk Thomas said there was two numbers that have been constant, the debt service, and the amount that has gone to the Health Council has been constant. As the revenue increased it meant the Health Department and CRMC received more money. He understood from discussion that this needed to be looked at again.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought there was a contractual agreement with CRMC with a set amount.

Clerk Thomas said no, the language, it said that it guaranteed CRMC a minimum of \$490,000 but they could get up to a maximum of up to 75% after debt service. There was less money coming in when capitalization was done. There was a formula set when the money was first distributed; 60% after debt service went to CRMC.

Commissioner Taylor stated that was information the BOCC needed to know with regards to the contractual agreement. When it came to numbers, the Clerk should have highlighted them because she did not realize it was set up that way. She thought there was a set amount. She agreed the percentage needed to be talked about.

Clerk Thomas stated that in the 2013 Agreement it stated there was a guarantee of a certain amount but only up to a maximum of 75%. At the time the contract was done it was bringing in less money and was written to get them the guaranteed amount but since then the money had increased significantly.

Commissioner Holt asked the Clerk if he had a total amount CRMC had received over the term of the contract.

Clerk Thomas said he would get the amount to them.

Commissioner Holt said she averaged the amount at \$500,000 and did one at \$600,000. \$600,000 at 30 years would have been \$18 Million for 30 years; \$500,000 would be \$15 Million for 30 years. She said was looking at it from side of taxpayer, not how it was disbursed. She further stated the County could build an Emergency room for that amount of money. She said she was meeting with a company tomorrow that managed hospitals. She further stated the numbers had to make sense. If the County decided to levy a 1 cent tax, what would make the citizens believe the BOCC would

do what they say when it was not done in 2008 when they said they were going to open the Hospital.

Clerk Thomas said he had not been privy to last conversations but at the last meeting with the Joint Hospital Board, they talked about taking some of the money going to CRMC and using it for a build out of the hospital.

Commissioner Holt stated that was something Mr. Glazer (County Attorney) suggested. It makes sense if they were going to build out but they had not agreed if the County built out, they would run it. They said they would equip it, not run it.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a New Year's Resolution to say as few words as possible in 2020. He wants to postpone Thursday's meeting for couple of months because of the new information to give them time to process it. The legal team should have given the BOCC more information so they would have had a better position and need to make sure they have all information. He stated he was fine with negotiating an Emergency Room. If a Hospital was going to be brought in, he was fine with CRMC, because they give good service at the Hospital, but this was an Emergency Room.

David Weiss said, for the record, he wanted to correct any misconception that his firm had not provided timely, accurate or complete information to the Board. There has been a lot of communication dating back to April 2018 regarding changes back and forth.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

8. Updates

Mr. Hall said February 28-March 4 is NACO conference in Washington and the Board was scheduled to have their meeting on March 3rd and he wanted them to keep that in mind and asked what action did the Board want to take in terms to the scheduled meeting.

Chairman Viegbesie said traditionally, he has gone, along with Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Hinson and thought they had opted to cancel that meeting. Commissioner Holt said she will not be going. Commissioner Hinson stated he would go.

Mr. Weiss said by the next meeting, people will know if they will be at the meeting in question and then the Board would know if the meeting will need to be cancelled.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE BOCC MEETING ON MARCH 3RD, WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO CANCEL SAID MEETING.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

9. Updates

Nothing

Commissioner Morgan handed in certified mail regarding a code enforcement issue he passed along to the County Administrator along with his \$100 contribution for United Way.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out 7:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

10. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said had campaign going on-trying to raise money for all high schools, middle schools and elementary schools in the area. He asked that they make a personal donation to a school of their choice.

He asked if they could make a commitment to one school to raise as much money as possible

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Emergency Management team for getting together yesterday while Governor was in town.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the dental chair was at the Havana Magnet school and Mr. Hall said he would check on it.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she had a 4:00 meeting earlier on Building Inspection and hoped the BOCC could set up a committee like one had with contractors, citizens and the building department. They looked at issues with building inspections and with certification and they served as a liaison between them and the Board.

She said the Emergency Room was never on the Ballot and the County should not be charging what they were not providing. If the Board can fix that and they could keep the designation and still have a hospital she would be in favor of that.

She stated Human Trafficking was a tough item. She stated there were a couple incidents here that were a problem.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked the Administrator and Clerk if there was a plan for the \$2.5 Million in housing.

Mr. Hall said money would not sit around like has in the past. He said with new attorneys, they have expertise to help people with heir property situation and will move dollars.

Commissioner Taylor said she knew there were applications and she knows some had property and that makes those applications difficult to process. Commissioner Taylor said felt they needed to educate the public on heir property as well.

Commissioner Taylor said the BOCC web page was ugly. She stated the thing on the web page looked like some organ on the inside of a body. She thought it was supposed to be a tobacco leaf and it was not easy to maneuver.

Commissioner Taylor further stated the meeting with the Building inspector pleased her with the progress with regards to the relationships.

Mr. Hall said it was still a work in progress but it will get there.

Concerning the CBOR, Commissioner Taylor said it was funny how it keeps getting buried. All she wanted to do was address the housing portion of it and see if the County could get more housing here.

Commissioner Taylor ended with the meeting with CRMC. She stated the County needed to have it, but was it realistic. The problem was the specialists. Patients already have primaries elsewhere and they are going there. The County would have to float the Hospital until the market got turned around. (3-5 years) The County could not afford it.

Commissioner Hinson said what he had been saying the last few years, get all information together. He thanked Mr. Thomas for providing information to them. \$1.9 Million was needed to have a conversation about and may make sense of. He was willing to stick with CRMC but would like to have conversation before having that move.

Commissioner Holt said the Governor said yesterday in the meeting, he talked to individuals at HUD and there should be more money coming for housing. The reason to hurry up on the Grants person was people, and they will need more help in that department.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 7:24 p.m.

Concerning the CBOR, Commissioner Holt would like to see commercial also.

She stated the Building Committee did look at history of contractors. She felt as though this could be a key committee and it was important to set up that committee again.

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

Chairman Viegbesie said the Governor came but he was unable to make it because he was out of town. He needed to thank the Sheriff and Major Wood for establishing the relationship the County has with the Governor’s Office. The County needed to come up with the uniform priority list of items. The Administrator used to meet regularly with the municipalities and should be immediate to get representative from municipalities on CRTPA. Right now, the County was losing votes on that Board.

He stated the CRTPA was a body that worked with FDOT to make road projects a priority. Right now, getting ideas from citizens for 2045. He asked in order to address road, bike, freight, CRTPA currently was getting ideas and need to complete the survey.

Commissioner Holt said if they could meet a little earlier legislative since the session already started?

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 23, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.-BOCC/CRMC/GHI Special Meeting

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:31 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH. D., Chairman
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020 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
Deborah Mennis, Assistant County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Bill Proctor gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

There were none.

CONSENT

Commissioner Morgan made a motion for approval of the consent agenda and asked to pull Item 4 and Commissioner Holt asked to pull Item 5.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. Ratification Memo
2. Resolution in Support for the US 90 Sidewalk Project
3. Approval to Accept the FY 2020 1st Quarter Report
4. ~~Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. T1710 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and GCBGCC~~
Pulled for Discussion
5. ~~Agreement with Logan Roofing for the Preventative Maintenance Program for the W.A. Woodham Building~~
6. RAM Construction Change Order for the W.A. Woodham Roof Replacement

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. T1710 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and GCBOCC

Commissioner Morgan asked about the 50/50 match for the project.

Allan Meeks appeared before the Board to address the question. Mr. Meeks said the match money was budgeted in 2018 for \$200,000 and was already bid out.

Commissioner Holt asked how they were bid out.

Mr. Meeks stated they were advertised and Dewberry and Peavy & Son were awarded the low bid at previous meeting this fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

5. Agreement with Logan Roofing for the Preventative Maintenance Program for the W.A. Woodham Building

Commissioner Holt stated she understood this was a low-cost item and asked what it was bid out at.

Allan Meeks, Facility Manager, appeared before the Board to explained Logan Roofing put the roof on through Ram Construction. That was brought to the Board for approval and he stated this was an agreement for them to do a 6-month inspection for the warranty that needed to be maintained on the roof.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Albert Beddy, 7281 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board to speak about unregistered junk cars at 7185 Sycamore Road. He spoke on the junk cars on the property and had a Petroleum Hydrocarbon Assessment Oil and Grease Report he presented to the Commission. He stated it was affecting his property and he pays taxes for 10 acres and cannot use his property, raise his animals or use his well. Mr. Beddy was advised to contact the County Administrator's Office to arrange an appointment.

Sarah Battles, 18 Martin Street, hospital contract, deferred her time to Bishop Green.

Dr. Willie C. Green, Bishop, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board regarding the hospital contract. He acknowledged that the current contract looked better than the previous contract. He said some concerns the citizens of Gadsden County and the BOCC should have were, according to the referendum the citizens voted and approved, the ½ sales tax that was levied upon the citizens for 30 years, was designed to accomplish several things and

along were a primary care, preventative care, funding for healthcare programs to provide healthcare services to eligible indigents and more importantly, in-patient care. facility. He asked why the 4 beds at the hospital had not been upgraded to active status and why the 4 beds could not be turned into active, in-patient care beds. Bishop Green questioned the BOCC saying, after 10 years, why had there been no progress made to activate the 4 beds and turn them into in-care and then improve the facility to accommodate the remaining 10-16 potential beds. He stated the new proposed contract had language that did not obligate the Company to do anything with the 4 beds and there was no language to have them at least try to turn the facility into an in-care patient facility and that was what the citizens voted for. He further stated the County should live up to the promises made to the citizens to provide a hospital that could give patient in-care beds. He asked the Board to think long and hard before signing the contract. He further stated the current contract looked better than the one signed in 2010 and asked what it would cost to transition the beds into in-care beds and what problem(s) stand in the way.

Chairman Viegbesie assured him the BOCC would take the comments into consideration when going into contract negotiations.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for coming out to speak about the hospital. She said there were other healthcare providers.....

Commissioner Morgan called for point of order.

Chairman Viegbesie said there have been series of workshops going on, and there were still developments going on and a workshop again and the BOCC's thoughts and ideas need to be interjected during those meetings and workshops.

Bishop Green re-appeared before the Board and thank the BOCC for considering the idea. Looking at the two side by side, there was a big difference. He stated they were close and should be able to get something in terms of in-care beds, and that would make a big difference.

Angril Bozeman, POB 2403 Havana, FL, deferred to Bishop Green

Shara Williams, PO Box 97, Quincy, FL, yielded time to Bishop Green

Jo Ann Williams, 136 Atwater Rd. appeared before the Board regarding the Hospital. She hoped this would be brought back to the citizens. She stated rural residents did not all have the opportunity or the transportation to get back and forth to Tallahassee without undo stress. When the hospital was in operation it was good and she wants it to be made possible to have the Hospital brought back to the Gadsden County Citizens.

Shirley Moore, 885 Newberry Rd, yielded her time to Bishop Green.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. FDOT Grant Application Cycles

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and stated it was submitted to the Board for approval to submit grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation under the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP); Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP); County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP) and Small County Outreach Program-Bridge Repair (B-SCOP).

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

8. Approval of Contract for Legal Services

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of the legal services contract with the Pittman Law Group.

Commissioner Hinson said he had briefly talked with some members of the Pittman Law Firm and wanted to disclose that. He stated they had not talked about the contract, had just spoken in general.

Commissioner Taylor said the group also provided community support after they were selected but had nothing to do with the contract.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

9. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Updates

Mr. Hall thanked everyone that was involved with the SHIP house on Attapulugus Highway that was turned over to the citizen. He stated there was a nice turn-out, it was heartwarming and made a difference.

Chairman Viegbesie said there was lot of rehab houses that were using State and Federal Grants to do. He further stated it did not matter which district the key presentation was in, he encouraged as many Commissioners that could to share in the joy with the citizens.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not know if the "ribbon cutting" would be something the County would start doing, she did not recall it happening in the past. She said she was happy for the family that received it and thought it should happen for each family and not be an isolated situation.

Mr. Hall stated it was not an isolated situation and he thought it was a great idea and plans on moving forward with marketing, and letting people know the things the County was doing to

make a difference in the community. He further stated the ribbon cutting would happen each and every time.

Commissioner Hinson apologized, he stated he was not sure when he received a phone call for the key presentation, but almost everyone in Midway and Havana knows when he receives a phone call, he would be there. He did not understand what it was until later.

Chairman Viegbesie stated there was no need for Mr. Hall to apologize, it was an initiative that was introduced by Mr. Hall as a way of getting the citizens to understand that their Government was actually doing things as opposed to doing things and nobody knowing what was going on. It was a last-minute thing and Chairman Viegbesie thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Hall stated he would make sure the notice gets out in advance from this point on.

Commissioner Hinson stated as long as houses keep getting done, he was fine with it.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

11. Updates

Ms. Minnis stated there was nothing to report.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the BOCC approved a contract for the Interim Administrator.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the contract had been previously approved at an earlier meeting, she may have been absent at that meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said the Board approved the Interim Agreement for the Administrator and that Commissioner Hinson had asked the County Administrator position be brought back in February for the search for the County Administrator position.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would love to entertain it, but not tonight.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

12. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:42 pm.

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for having a very productive meeting and the citizens that came out to express their concerns.

He further stated they needed to be careful in how they spoke and in giving direction to other Board Members, because everyone was human and they needed to make sure they did not raise their voices and dictate to people.

Commissioner Hinson said concerning Gibson Sawmill Road, he had a gentleman that had concerns that a lot of people were driving on Highway 27 and a lot of major accidents on the curve in the road. He said concerning the Hospital, it was very serious, even critical. He wanted to hear more input from the citizens.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for coming out on the hospital issue. She stated what was going to have to be done was look at other providers to see what was sufficient for a contract. She further stated the contract was better than what the County had before but not what the citizens voted for, they voted for a Community Hospital. She encouraged the citizens to put pressure on the Commissioners.

Chairman Viegbesie called for point of order and asked the citizens to keep comments and feedback and if they had anything to say in regards to the Commissioners comments, to raise their hand and he would recognize them when she was finished speaking.

Commissioner Holt continued and stated the citizens could call the Manager's office with questions and suggestions, because this item was going to come before the Board. There should be a line out the door for this meeting and input was strongly encouraged. She added that healthcare was too important and she was willing to "jump on the sword" for this one.

She told the Commissioners they did have a Legislative Agenda and Commissioner Taylor brought this up. She wanted to make sure the Commissioners were all on the same page. When she was asked what was the Agenda, she said it was the same thing the BOCC had last year because requests remained the same.

Commissioner Holt stated the key presentation was a good idea. She asked for an update on repairs on the two bridges that went down.

Lisa Robinson, Interim Public Works Director, appeared before the Board. She stated Juniper Creek was scheduled to be completed by May 2020, and Hutchinson Ferry plans have been completed and was put out for bid.

Commissioner Holt also said the County was in the running for HGTV, hopefully with other cities. HGTV wants to do overhauls of towns they think are economically distressed.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she was waiting for the Citizens Bill of Rights to come back on the Agenda.

Mr. Hall said he would get it on the agenda as soon as possible.

She further said some of the paving money was taken to fix Hutchinson Ferry Road and asked if another funding source has been found. Mr. Hall said, no, there had not been another funding source found.

She also said she would not be present on the 18th, and would be appearing by phone.

With regards to the hospital, she wants to see a full-service hospital here. The reason she was supporting what the BOCC had done was because it is impossible for a County of our size to support a full-service, operating hospital. Different doctors and specialists would have to go into hospital and set up shop and add revenue to keep doors open at the levels needed, and that

would be difficult. To get four beds, you need to get a kitchen, get specialists 24 hours a day, equipment, and other things the County could not afford. At the last meeting with CRMC, the Board said, if it could not be done now, then they would need to come up with a plan, showing the County where it would develop as the years come instead of saying it would never happen. She stated she supports a hospital but they needed to be realistic as to what the County could afford at this time.

Commissioner Holt said she had two calls on the private roads workshop and there were complaints still in the Building Inspection Department. She asked for these items to be researched.

Commissioner Taylor said the BOCC hired Mr. Lawson as lobbying firm and asked if they were on the ground and if they would come give a report to the Board before the sessions were over. She asked Mr. Hall to get a lobbying firm here.

Commissioner Hinson said someone came to him and had heard the agenda for the lobbyist changed overnight. He stated he was shocked. He further stated the BOCC needed to make sure to stay focused.

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

Chairman Viegbesie said with regard to the legislative Agenda, there were Appropriation forms that should be completed for items and the BOCC did not have anyone to complete the forms to track the process. The County needs a lobbyist that has time to complete the appropriation papers. The bills the BOCC had requested could then be followed. He further stated the only thing that concerned him was what was good for the County and the citizens.

Commissioner Holt said she did not want to put the lobbyist name out, other counties filled the forms out, and Gadsden is the only county out of 9 that did not. The deadline is over and she stated it was not the lobbyist's fault.

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 7:17 P.M.

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH. D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FERUARY 18, 2020 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-appeared by phone
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 6:03 p.m. Rev. Matthew Bryant, St. John AME Church, gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Morgan arrived at 6:04

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hall said he would like to add Item 9a under Consent-Approval to award RFP No. 19-19 Rebid to Provide Professional Emergency Management Contractual Services on a Continuing Service Contract.

Mr. Weiss asked to pull Item 6 for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Java Medical Group

Mr. Hall said the group was not able to make the meeting for the presentation.

(They then went to Item 10 and Commissioner Morgan pointed out Citizens Requesting to be Heard)

CONSENT

2. Ratification Memo

3. Resolution in Support of the St. Hebron Road Sidewalk Project

4. Approval of Resolution No. 2020-005 Amending the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan for FY (s) 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023

5. Old Federal Road SCOP-Bid Award

6. ~~Old Federal Road SCOP-CEI Task Order~~
Pulled for Discussion
7. **Fairbanks Ferry Road SCOP-Professional Services**
8. **Approval of the E911 Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance**
9. **ESO Electronic Patient Health Record Software License Agreement and Business Associates Addendum**
- 9a. **Approval to ward RFP No. 19-19 Rebid to Provide Professional Emergency Management Contractual Services on a Continuing Service Contract**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

6. **Old Federal Road SCOP-CEI Task Order**

Mr. Weiss said he had concerns and raised his concerns with the Public Works Director and Administrator. Currently there is a prohibition against using the same engineer for CEI services that also designs the project. Dewberry designed the project and the task order is for them to provide CEI services. He said his understanding and the response to his concern was at the time this particular SCOP agreement was entered into, there was no prohibition and the engineer could provide both design services and CEI services. But because there was currently that prohibition and that particular contract does incorporate existing provisions of law, he had concerns about potentials for jeopardizing funding for the project. He said he has been told by the Administrator, Public Works, and engineer that what DOT has told them was it was OK because they were operating under the old rules. He said to get something in writing from the District Secretary saying such and they have not been able to get that. He said that was his concern and they could proceed as they saw fit but he wanted to caution them against doing that because he did not want to jeopardize funding for the project.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought they needed to listen to their legal counsel and his legal opinion on some of the things they were doing.

Commissioner Morgan thanked him. He asked if there would be an issue if they tabled the item for clarification and waited to receive the written letter per his suggestion. Mr. Weiss said he would have to defer to the Administrator, Public Works Director or engineer on that. Commissioner Morgan said if not an issue tabling, he recommended they do that. Chair Viegbesie pointed out that the next meeting would be the second meeting in March.

Justin Ford, Dewberry, appeared before the Board. He said he did not believe there would be any impact, the contractor was ready and willing to get started. He said the rule has changed three different times and the way DOT has always operated, when the grant was awarded, they operated under the rules it was awarded at that time. If they want to get additional clarification, he would be glad to coordinate with DOT and would be no problem.

Commissioner Morgan said based on that information, he made a motion to approve option 1.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1.

Commissioner Holt wanted to offer another motion if this did not pass.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID IF NO SECOND, MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 CONTINGENT ON LETTER FROM DOT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

Mr. Weiss said he felt it was his job to point this out the concerns and did not want to delay this job.

Commissioner Holt said Item 7 was also the same road and project and asked if there were any concerns and Mr. Weiss said there were no issues with that item.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the Agenda had been approved, it was said they approved the pulled and added item.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Viegbesie announced the Speaker Request Forms were for an Agenda Item (Hospital) with the exception of one for economic development.

Alan Keese, 6598 Lake Pisgah Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32309

Angril (Shane) Bozeman, POB 2403, Havana, FL

Dr. Christopher Tidwell, 300 S. Duval St., Tallahassee, FL

Pastor Charles Colston, 7095 Bainbridge Highway, Quincy, FL 32352, appeared before the Board concerning economic development. He was concerned with the fact there were too many young people to counsel because of the lack of opportunity. He asked if a training school could be developed to get the young people off the street to give them an opportunity at life.

Commissioner Hinson said this was some of the same sentiments he had.

Chair Viegbesie suggested the Pastor schedule a meeting with the Administrator and then individually with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt said they needed to schedule a workshop with the School Board, CareerSource, the County, the Cities and Armory to look at a 5-year plan to sit down together and work on this.

Shelanda Shaw

Nivas Pandit, MD, hospital

Lisa Tzanakis, 405 E. Carolina Street, Tallahassee, FL, CRMC lease

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

10. Lease between Gadsden County and Capital Regional Medical Center and Related Agreements

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it sought decisions regarding an Amended Lease between GCBOCC and CRMC with the existing hospital. A decision was also sought regarding the proposed Indigent Care Payment Agreement and Transportation Service Agreement.

Chair Viegbesie said they would recognize all the speakers and this item would be voted up or down tonight.

Pastor Colston re-appeared before the Board. He said he had heard too many times if this hospital had not been here, people would not have made it and having this hospital was important.

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board. He said several of his concerns had been addressed. He applauded the Committee and the Commission for the outstanding job they had done from the first proposal that was on the table. He said however, he asked if they had met the requirements of the Referendum the citizens requested. He asked why the four beds were still on non-operational status, the same as they were on the original contract. What would it bring to bring them into operational status? He asked with the 35-mile rule in place, could there ever be a hospital in place. If not, have the citizens been defrauded.

Angril (Shane) Bozeman, POB 2403, Havana, FL-she yielded her time to Bishop Green.

Lisa Tzanakis, 405 E. Carolina St., Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board on behalf of the hospital. She said the access that the ER provided for their constituents was something they have heard has saved lives and some were in the room.

Dr. Christopher Tidwell, 300 S. Duval St., Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of the hospital. He said he was the Medical Director for the ER Capital, for Gadsden and for Southwood and when they open the new facility at Lake Jackson. He said he was happy and proud to be here.

Nivas Pandit, M.D., Cardiology, appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of the Hospital. He said he loves what he does and is passionate about his job.

Darlene Price, 3211 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL, Clinical Manager at Gadsden ER, appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of the hospital. She asked that the Commissioners sign the contract on behalf of her and her staff, who would like to have consistency and would like to know they had a job come tomorrow.

Alan Keesee, 6598 Lake Pisgah Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32309 appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of the Hospital. He said they have been proud to serve Gadsden County and wanted to look forward to a partnership for another 15 years and wanted nothing more than to benefit. He said they were proud of the quality and of what they have provided.

Chair Viegbesie said there were no more speaker forms and the floor was now opened to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor said she hoped she could be heard clearly as she was appearing by phone. She said the new lease agreement was to have language in that was to have segway for the 4 beds for some time in the future. She said she had used the facility several times and walked away with good treatment.

Commissioner Hinson said he had questions and asked the Administrator if he was able to research questions Bishop Green asked. Mr. Hall said he had looked into the questions but did not have any conclusions at this point.

Mike Glazer, Assistant County Attorney, appeared before the Board to address questions. He said he believed the lease did comply with the language in the ballot amendment from 2008. He also said that since the last joint meeting they have added additional language into the lease that strengthened the lease.

Commissioner Hinson asked how it complied and Mr. Glazer addressed that. Mr. Glazer said they added specific requirement for independent report they will pay for.

Commissioner Holt said on the referendum it said “included but not limited” that meant they must open the hospital; it did not mean they could do other things and substitute in there for opening the hospital.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:01 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said she was not a linguist but Dr. Green was and it said “include” and that meant you “must include what it said on the ballot and means you must open the hospital”. She said that included primary care, preventative care and in-patient care. She showed a book and said it was one used in '08 for the ballot.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:02 p.m.

She said it had nothing to do with CRMC, the Commission changed and they decided not to do this. If going to put this in the contract, they need a way to see step by step how it is going to work. Citizens want to see exactly what they voted for; they voted for beds and did not get beds. She asked Mr. Glazer to step back up to the mike. She said some people had the impression that without the Critical Care designation the hospital could never open and asked if it was stated in the recent meeting. Mr. Glazer said that was not the case. She said they went to several Courts and got the rural designation back for the hospital. She said she called ACHA today, first thing she asked about was the swing bed part. The 10 swing beds would pay for the other 15. She said this item needed to be tabled because this board has never done what they were told to do. She said they had not had one workshop when they were looking at healthcare. She felt it should be tabled until the Board came up with a plan. She said they have been paying into this for 11 years and should have had a plan in 11 years.

Commissioner Morgan said he was going to take a different approach from Commissioner Holt.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:15 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan continued and said this would make an impact to citizens. They have spent many hours to get to the point they were at this evening. He said he wished they could have 25 beds but the fact was the current market would not support it. He said if people came to Chattahoochee where he lived, you could have the best fried seafood without having to drive to the coast, fried chicken, could go to WD's, Northside, Rutabaga's Café and wished they could have an Outback Steakhouse and he said he liked Cracker barrel and Red Lobster and a lot of other restaurants but the fact was there was not a market in Chattahoochee or in Quincy that would support that type of restaurant. He said he used that as an analogy because one of the most important things they could do regarding healthcare was to offer a sustainable, working solution and that was what they had currently. It offered quality care.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:16 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan said they may have the best hospital for one year, but it would not last. He said they needed to have something that offered them an option for growth and they had that and to Bishop Green's point, they needed to meet the legal obligations that were set forth in what they were subjected to from the Referendum. He said he has asked multiple attorneys and all have said they have met their legal obligations. He added he hoped in the days ahead, they were allowed to add a 25-bed hospital, if the market allowed for it. He said their responsibility was to provide something that provided quality care that was sustainable and affordable and he has been a patient there and they did a great job. He said at the appropriate time he thought Commissioner Taylor wanted to make a motion and he would make the second.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed they kept referring to this as a hospital and it scared him because it was an emergency room. He said he had a cousin that died there. He did not want to play politics. He said no-one ever eluded to fact it was an emergency room, if so, he would resign from the BOCC.

Commissioner Taylor called the question.

Chair Viegbesie said he could not call while a Commissioner was speaking.

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for patience, would feel better, personally, if they did 5 years and that would show they were 100% behind them and everything was fine with the whole contract.

Commissioner Holt said there was no plan to continue on to achieve what the ballot said. If there was a plan in the document, she said she would have found it and said they could not reach the goal of putting in what the citizens voted for in this document, it was not there. She said she was in no hurry to vote on this tonight. She asked Mr. Glazer to address that.

Mr. Glazer reappeared before the Board to address Commissioner Holt's questions. He said there are plans for reports that are specified in the contract.

Commissioner Holt said this was political cannibalism; if they were to look at it and look logically; she asked when the contract ended. Mr. Glazer said June 2020; if no action is taken, it rolled over for 5 years. She said she could not support this. She said it was very difficult to bring companies here when they have no hospital.

Chair Viegbesie said he spoke with Java and his discussion with them was part of the analysis of his position. He read below aloud to be entered for the record.

FACTS:

1. The amount collected thus far since the inception of the ½ cent indigent sale tax? = \$15.4M -\$6.8M (DEBT SERVICES) = \$8.82M
2. The estimated cost for procuring the initial equipment and facilities preparedness required to establish a full 4 active beds capacity Rural Healthcare Facility? = \$5M-\$7M with the barest basic minimum amenities
3. The annual revenues collected from the ½ cent sales tax? =\$.88M (After Debt Services)
4. The estimated bare minimum annual cost for operating a small rural 4active beds hospital= \$750,000 per month =\$9M annually
5. Was a thorough cost/benefit analysis conducted to ascertain the estimated cost of establishing and operating a 4-25 beds full services hospital versus the projected revenues that will be generated when the language of the initiative was been developed and promoted for the ½ cent sales tax initiative before the ballot referendum? I DO NOT KNOW. I WAS NOT HERE AT THAT TIME.
6. As an economist, I am not sure if the possibilities of viably operating the advertised sized hospital facility promised was compared with the projected revenues generated from the ½ cent tax before it was communicated to the citizens?

I am sure that the intent of the drafter of the ballot initiative May have drafted the language in the ballot initiative promised a lofty, great-hearted, ambitious and magnanimous goal. Please know that the drafter of the ballot initiative were humans and ALL humans do make mistakes; unless you are a narcissist.

We MUST think of the possibilities that, just maybe, the humans that drafted and developed the ballot initiative for the 1/2 cent sales tax, which was overwhelmingly approved by the voters, may have promised a service that cannot be provided under the fiscal conditions considered.

Commissioners, I think that we owe the citizens of this County the morally human as well as the elected public official constitutional obligation to do what is for the best interest of the citizens.

There is no one on this Commission that do want a fully operating hospital in Gadsden County.

In my honest opinion, the best interest of our citizens, right now, is ensuring that they have access to the best possible healthcare services that we can afford and provide with the limited resources we currently have.

The citizens of this county have ALL rights to demand what they were promised and that was full-service hospital.

Now that we know better, it is our responsibility to accept our errors in judgements when those promises were made and let's work on what will make the citizens close to whole until we can make them whole by establishing a self-sustaining Hospital.

This ballot initiative was drafted prior to the enactment of the Affordable Healthcare Act, Physician Owned Healthcare Operations were possible and after the passage of the Affordable Healthcare Physician Owned Healthcare Operations are no longer permitted in this nation.

The operation of a hospital includes the provision of ALL aspects of operations:

- * Pharmacy
- * Specialists (Doctors, Nurses, Custodial Service Providers, Security, dietary/kitchen, etc, etc
- * Emergency Service
- * Medical Surgical Services
- * Diagnostic Equipment for CT Scans, MRI, X-Rays etc
- * Lab work Facilities and specialists
- * Therapists: Physical, Respiratory, clinical and so on

This the way I see it right now,

There is no doubt that every Commissioners here sincerely desire a hospital established here in Gadsden County.

I am going to strongly suggest that we take a path that will enable us provide the citizens of this county access to some healthcare services rather than that which will give them none at all.

We are making progress and I am sure that one day in the not too far future this County will be able to be in a fiscal position that will sustain a hospital. Just think about this, the contract with CRMC contract have has been revised and modified about seven times, in favor of the citizens, in the short time I have become a member of the County Commission. There are two hospitals in Tallahassee and people still die in Tallahassee.

I am taking the position of continuing to work with CRMC to gradually improve the healthcare services provided to the citizens of this County until we can get to that pace where this County can re-establish and self-sustaining operation of a full fledge hospital. We must not put the citizens of this county back to those days of a dry spell in which there were no access to any kind of healthcare services.

He added for them to do what was good by the citizens of the County and provide them access to health service while working towards getting to a point where they were healthy enough financially to run a hospital themselves. He said his position was he was going to vote for the contract as long as they hold CRMC accountable for continuously improving their services to the citizens of the County.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said he never said his first cousin died and it was CRMC's fault. He said it was their first responsibility to take the safety and welfare of their County. He said for them to look at the Agenda Item where it states "hospital". He said they needed to change the narrative a little, they were still "echoing" it was a hospital. He said not to put everything on God or Jesus, sometimes man creates things as well.

Chair Viegbesie called for Order and said Commissioner Hinson was out of order. (The Bailiff and Security stepped forward.) Commissioner Hinson said he was going nowhere; he was a County Commissioner and by law he could not end his conversation. Chair Viegbesie said "God takes lives, I never brought God in here. Commissioner Hinson, we are going to stop this." Commissioner Morgan moved the question.

Chair Viegbesie said "Now, (inaudible) on record, 2022 I'm up for re-election. If I decide to run, you all don't vote for me (Commissioner Hinson is still talking) if this is the reason why, ok? So let us go ahead and carry this vote."

Commissioner Hinson said "...I am a Constitutional Officer. As long as I don't do nothing to violate somebody else, you can't do anything with me, ok? I haven't done anything but just hold a conversation for my citizens. That's all I'm doing."

The Bailiff told him they would maintain order and he stated he was not finished.

Commissioner Taylor asked they please call the question.

Chair Viegbesie said (while Commissioner Hinson was talking) "Please Commissioner Hinson, please..."

Commissioner Taylor "He can be removed Sir" (all the while Commissioner Hinson is talking).

Chair Viegbesie "I know he can" (Commissioner Hinson is still talking).

Commissioner Taylor "He can, he can, Mr. Chair, call the roll, please" (Commissioner Hinson is still talking.)

Commissioner Hinson "I'm just asking a simple question Mr. Chairman that, is that, I don't mind voting for this..."

Commissioner Taylor said "Please call the question."

Chair Viegbesie said "Commissioner Hinson, you have been present in every workshop that we have had. You should have raised that issue and let that revision be made before it come to this point. Let's not grandstand at this point of the meeting. Deputy Clerk, will you please..."

Commissioner Holt said she had a question.

Commissioner Taylor said “She could call the roll; she could call the roll.”

Commissioner Hinson is still talking (inaudible and the Bailiff approached him) “I’m in order. I raised this question. I can go look at the minutes and the minutes clearly said that I asked the question Mr. Chairman. All I did was ask the question when he first showed up, I said can we change the it got the saying ‘hospital’ on there can we change from hospital to something else. I’m not going against this here. I’m just saying got to change some of the language so the people won’t think it is a hospital Mr. Chair. That’s all I’m just saying. That’s all I’m just saying, just change it so we can make sure that people don’t make mistakes going to Quincy or when they live in St. Hebron, they think it’s a hospital. They know it’s not a hospital, they not gonna go to Quincy, they gonna go straight to Tallahassee or they having a heart attack. You can’t take these people’s lives for granted. That’s all I’m just saying. I apologize for representing my constituents.”

Chair Viegbesie said “Thank you very much, your comment is very well taken and in future development, that will be taken into consideration when this contract is up for revision. OK, Commissioner Morgan?”

Commissioner Morgan moved the question.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a call to question and asked for a second.

Commissioner Taylor asked why he was able to call the question and she had been calling the question the whole night. She made the second to calling the question.

Commissioner Holt asked for an amendment to the motion to consider swing beds and put language in later.

Commissioner Taylor said to call the question.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that was a motion and Commissioner Holt said yes and he asked for a second. Commissioner Hinson made the second.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A VOICE VOTE ON THAT MOTION THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 AND MOTION FAILED. COMMISSIONERS MORGAN, TAYLOR AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE OPPOSED.

Chair Viegbesie said they would now carry the vote.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-2

Mr. Glazer reappeared before the Board and asked about the other contracts. It was pointed out that all three contracts were covered in Option 1 and adopted.

CLERK OF COURT

11. Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

12 Updates

Mr. Hall said the next meeting scheduled for March 3rd was cancelled and the next meeting would be March 17th.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

13. Updates

Mr. Weiss said this was his last regular meeting but he would be here for the workshop scheduled on Thursday, February 20th.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

14. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the attorney for his services to the County and the Board. He said on the 29th there will be a Black History Parade and the County was sponsoring it along with the Alpha Alpha Fraternity, African-American History Committee and the City of Quincy also had jumped in on it.

Commissioner Taylor ended her phone appearance and called back to make sure the hospital vote went through.

He said on the 28th the MLK Foundation of Florida would be hosting a Black History Gala at Havana Northside Highschool at 6:00 p.m. and Ben Crump would be the keynote speaker.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said the hospital contract would have rolled over and she was asking for another month on that item. She said she wanted the attorney for the hospital contract to be placed on the agenda.

She said she heard \$2 Million that they should be getting for the bridges and there were still other items they were looking at and hoped they could get that funding along with other funding.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a situation in Midway on MLK Blvd, the road has serious issues. He was told it was a County road and then recently told was a City road. Mr. Hall said Pam Revels was looking into it.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

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

Chair Viegbesie said on February 14th, there was a Leadership Visionary Meeting with Chairs of municipalities and School Board to brainstorm the future of the County. There were serious conversations going on and he would be getting input from the Board as to where they want to move the County to.

He said progress was on its way and some projects are shovel-ready. He wants the Board to seriously consider retro-fitting the hospital should the need be if a hurricane or bad weather comes this way for special needs.

He suggested this body create a transportation safety committee to help explore and review the transportation and safety needs of the County. He felt it was something they needed to look into doing this to take the County into the right direction.

Commissioner Holt asked if he spoke with Congressman Lawson concerning the Stevens School project. He said he had not spoken with him.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 20, 2020-4:00 p.m.-Private Road Workshop
March 3, 2020-6:00 p.m.-Regular Meeting CANCELLED

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VEIGBESIE 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 WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 10, 2020 AT 4:00 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-absent
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5-absent
 Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome

Chair Viegbesie called the workshop to order at 4:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Discussion of the CBOR – (ALL)

Chair Viegbesie said since this was a Workshop, he invited the public to speak on the proposed revisions.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 4:05 p.m.

- a) Proposed Revisions to the CBOR (Super Majority included based on previous Board recommendations)
- b) Chronology of Meeting since CBOR Adoption
- c) Table of Proposed Revisions since April 12, 2018
- d) Adopted Section 7001.0, Citizen’s Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights
- e) 1000 Friends of Florida Citizen’s Bill of Rights
- f) Board and Planning Commission Minutes and Agenda Requests since April 12, 2018

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Don Stewart, 102 Timber Run, Havana, FL appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of the CBOR and argued to keep the CBOR. He asked the Commission to look at the proposed changes and what they would be fixing or, as some have proposed in the past and wanted to repeal it altogether, he asked they explain what problems it was correcting. He said he and his Wife moved over to Gadsden County in 2005 because they wanted a rural, quality experience and has been his observation that friends he has made and people he’s met, that was what they were after in Gadsden County as well, a healthy, rural experience. He added to him and his wife, that meant a right to participate in the planning process from the beginning and with

CBOR, especially within ½ mile from their home and because of the required notification, it allowed the to participate beyond that ½ mile if they chose to support friends and neighbors and insure “smart development”. He added they also supported the Super Majority vote on major decisions including amendments to the Comprehensive Plan that directly affect the County’s uniqueness and the relatively unspoiled rural natural beauty and health of the County. He said the CBOR was one of twelve Ordinances in Counties and Municipalities throughout Florida and except for the City of South Miami, this CBOR either offers the most comprehensive protections or the most restrictive rules, depending on the point of view.

Comments on Proposed Changes:

Proposal to Remove Comprehensive Plan Amendments from Citizen Notification part and the Super Majority. He said it made sense to remove it from the beginning but certainly did not think they should remove the Comprehensive Plan from the Super Majority. He said he viewed the Comprehensive Plan like the Constitution and the Board was more like the Senate rather than the House of Representatives because they were disproportionately representing the citizens that live in the County because the districts did not have an equal amount of people in them. He further stated even if the voters were equally distributed, he felt the Super Majority was still advised because that would ensure the rights of most of the County were protected and it would continue to take four Commissioners to put something in a District that a Commissioner might not want in his or her district. He said the other argument for keeping the Super Majority was the citizens only were able to vote for or against ONE of the Commissioners whereas all of them could vote for or against all of the citizens.

Major site plans:

While it was true none of the other Super Majority governments include major site plans, one of his associates inquired of Jane West of 1000 Friends of Florida, who is also the Chair of St. Augustine Beach, of why they should keep that and her response was it was true none of the others had that but she wished they had it in St. Augustine Beach because one of the most egregious hotels was approved as a special exception there.

Variances:

He said he was on the fence on that and would like to hear more on that subject. He said it was being discussed in the Planning Meetings he attended, it reached the point where people were too tired, the meeting ended and they did not get anywhere on it. He said he attended a CBOR meeting with a communications tower recently and no-one else showed up and he was able to talk with the attorney representing Verizon. He informed Mr. Stewart they were there asking for a variance asking for the tower to be closer to the property line and to the road than what the Code said. He said if that was the case where he lived, he would want to know about it.

Notice Requirements:

He said he wanted to keep that. He said he went to the CBOR meeting on Bainbridge Highway concerning the Dollar General store and more than one attendant complained that the notice had a return address of Lynn Haven because the former Director, Allara Gutcher, did consulting for them and it was mailed from there and they almost threw it away, not knowing what it was. He said he liked the sign idea but was unsure if 2 x 2 was big enough.

Chair Viegbesie said before recognizing the next speaker, he said he received two emails and would forward same to the Deputy Clerk for the record so their position could be entered into the record.

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with Mr. Sherman and he got one view and once he told him what was going on, they shared the same thing and not reflected in his writing because it was based on someone else's opinion. Chair Viegbesie pointed out their email specifically asked their view be put on record.

Commissioner Holt said for him to give it to the Manager and it would go on file.

Lori Bouie, 4237 High Bridge Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and said she has served on the Planning Commission since November, 2015 and has tried the past year to get a complete copy of the Citizens Bill of Rights. In April they voted to acknowledge certain portions of the CBOR. She said she voted against the super majority and felt this County was disproportionately and could not, in her opinion, mathematically achieve the goal of Super Majority. She said that was designed by legislative bodies to ensure that when there were certain unfair circumstances that created a deficit in one position or another, they would use the Super Majority to be able to feel as though they were being fair to everyone that was affected. She added that in a small County with a small consideration of a Commissioner Board, she did not feel it necessary to have a Super Majority. She further stated the State of Florida provides that citizens have the right to voice their opinions when there are changes that affect property use or affect their property and certain rights that they try to establish in Gadsden County are already established in the State of Florida and for the United States government. She said she was concerned that they hired the only public organization in the State of Florida body that actually sued the State of Florida to draft the CBOR. She stated she had a problem with having a document that would take a legal-wise property attorney to understand. She felt if they were ever challenged about this, they would be challenged on the State and Federal level. She asked them to start from ground zero and draft a simple document that a lay-person could understand.

Dr. Steward re-appeared before the Board. He said when he goes to the Planning Meetings, he really listens to her because she struck him as someone that really cared about the County and the people of the County. One thing Ms. Bouie brought up about heir property, he looked into that and have talked extensively with Dale Summerford regarding that. He said CBOR was not the problem and was not why people lost their property after someone died. They lost their property after someone died because they did not go through Probate and establish ownership and that way, they could apply for dividing of the property. He added that an established owner could divide their property now under the Comprehensive Plan. That Plan was what stated how the property could be divided with the Family Exception. He said doing away with CBOR would not solve the problem of heirs not being able to (inaudible) on how the property would be divided up going through probate.

He said he also spoke with David Gardner with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce and was told there was no hardened data that suggested the CBOR had hampered economic development in the County.

Lori Bouie re-appeared before the Board. She asked they put a document before them that was inter-relational.

Commissioner Holt said this was not a law to help Gadsden County, it was a property grab by certain citizens of the County. She said the scenario behind the CBOR was if you contained growth, the blacks and poor whites would not be able to afford their property and their property would be able to be gotten cheap.

She said they give the Chamber \$80,000 and do not receive reports. The County is a very expensive member of the Chamber. They set up a company for economic development and should have kept funding it. She said she encouraged different groups to sue the County because this was not what they wanted.

Chair Viegbesie said as for him personally, he strongly believed the CBOR needed to be revised and was a good thing to have but the Super Majority was one thing that needed to be taken away. He further stated if anyone would come and say "We need Super Majority because of representation" if simple majority, 3 Commissioners would be the ones to determine what the Board does for everything. He added if it took Super Majority on everything, then nothing would be done in the County because four people would not agree on the same thing at every point.

He added you could not say you were for economic growth when and you were for Super Majority when that would stand as an impediment to anyone even considering them. He added they needed to keep some of the elements of the CBOR. His position was there were elements that were very good, but one part was scaring away investors. Most of the things in CBOR were already in the Land Development Code.

Commissioner Holt asked if the document was being vetted to come back to the Board. Chair Viegbesie said he thought Commissioner Taylor was the one that asked for the workshop.

Jill Jeglie, Interim Planning Director appeared before the Board. She said there had been a lot of discussion by the Planning Commission and there was also discussion that they felt very strongly they had looked at this before, had made recommendations and asked Ms. Bouie to correct if necessary, but said there had been discussions pro and con over the Super Majority but overall, there was deep dissatisfaction that it come back to them.

Commissioner Holt said she was very interested in taking out the Super Majority, the Planning had already voted on taking it out. She said there was three things they could do; they could vote it out, be sued and take it to Court or they could change the Board and the new Board could vote it out.

Chair Viegbesie said having heard what he just heard, what they needed to do was, if Planning has prepared a document that they have voted on and approved, that document was what needed to come before the Board to be voted up or down.

Ms. Bouie re-appeared before the Board. She said the document came back to them and in Spring 2018 they voted to remove the Super Majority language and the version she had in

Spring 2018 was not so complicated. She stated she was notified in Fall 2018 that changes had to be made and in January 2019 they voted again that the Super Majority should be removed. She said after that, they did not have a quorum because persons that had served their full terms were asked to be removed prematurely only portions of document was brought before them. Between Directors they had, felt like they were being played with as far as how it was presented to them. The third time it was brought to them, she suggested they not vote on it because it was not a complete document. Her recommendation was to have the document put in laymen's friendly terminology, take out the super majority and vote on it.

Mr. Knowles said he had concerns, understood where citizens and Commissioners were coming from with wanting it in more layman's terms, but the issue they may encounter in doing that may not hold up in Court.

Ms. Bouie stated she found only one other CBOR published and was in South Florida and was in layman's terms and was protective and only, in essence, outlined what the State provided for citizens anyway. She said she did not mind doing a layman's term version and he could add the legalese to it.

Commissioner Holt said her only issue, the Board decided the Planning Commissioners needed to live in their district and that was crazy because intelligence was not bound by district lines. She added the issue of it being done at that particular time after the vote to remove it was very strategic in keeping it in place because you removed the Commissioner that had done all the research in order to let everyone know what was going on with the CBOR. She said she could not figure it out because they had the best attendance. Ms. Bouie confirmed the ones removed were the best two commissioners. Commissioner Holt said the kicker behind it was, they have to figure out a way, in order to say this is what was done. She said they should not be selective.

Commissioner Hinson said if the Board changed, that could have been why. Ms. Bouie said the Board did change, however, there was a lot of misinterpretation in the process as well. That person spent a lot of money achieving, before it got to the Board, that person had spent well over \$100,000 over a ten-year span only to miss the grant and not be able to put the business in place. She added what they put on their books does affect the citizens.

Chair Viegbesie said they should not marginalize documents that were prepared. It should be placed on the Agenda and vote it up or down.

Commissioner Hinson said he echoed everything the Chair just said. He asked if they wanted change or fact. He said they had to start doing what was right for the County. He added he was sick and tired of foolishness.


Commissioner Holt said her point was on the literature itself was the imbalance. She added she was not discussing whether the CBOR was good, bad or ugly. She was saying when the Planning Commission made a recommendation, it should not be debated.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
March 10, 2020-Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights Workshop

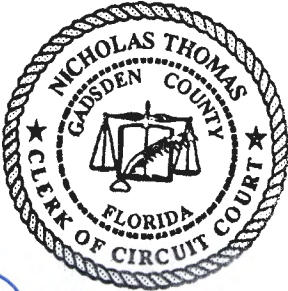
MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FUTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:25 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13,
2020 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
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

1. Welcome

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the Emergency Meeting and called the meeting to Order.

2. Adoption of Resolution 2020-012

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for the adoption of Resolution 2020-012 declaring a State of Emergency for Gadsden County.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

3. Discussion on Staffing and Essential Services Preparedness for any COVID-19 Emergency Crisis

Mr. Hall introduced the above item.

Chair Viegbesie said this was for discussion for preparedness and this was to discuss to get staff in place if needed.

Commissioner Holt said from the news media and some people from the Chattahoochee area, she heard there was already one case in the area. Major Shawn Wood was in the audience and shook his head no.

Dr. Adriane Cooksey, Gadsden County Health Department, appeared before the Board and said there were no cases in Gadsden County at this point. Commissioner Holt said the information she was bringing was from that area and was from the hospital, but she was not saying there was a case. Since they were not testing everyone, they had no idea who may be positive. She asked if someone had symptoms, where could they go to get tested.

Dr. Cooksey said all residents were encouraged to go to their provider, if they have been close to someone and present with symptoms and have ruled out other symptoms, they will decide next steps.

Commissioner Holt said there was no way some would know if they have come in contact with some that have had symptoms and if they have come in contact, people here would not know.

Dr. Cooksey said with regards to the testing kits, she wanted to make sure people knew the kits were in labs-LabCorp and LabQuest and there were plenty of kits. If a person was asymptomatic, not expressing fever or shortness of breath, they most likely are doing well, probably have a good chance of going on with their life they doing what they do every day if will infect someone, that is not known.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were a place people could call and Dr. Cooksey said yes, the information was on the County's website and the number was 1-866-779-6121 and they could also call the Gadsden County Health Department at 850-875-7200 *1.

Chair Viegbesie said the Health Department did not do the testing but collected specimens and Dr. Cooksey said that was correct.

Chair Viegbesie said they were doing the best they could to mitigate, no-one knew where this thing was going. Confusion as to where they were going with this disease was nationwide.

He said also discussed with the Administrator was the staff schedule and working with the school system in case there was a break-out and the need to quarantine and the need to feed them. Have been working and going to make sure have staff in place and location ready in case need to quarantine.

Audrey Lewis appeared before the Board. She said she has been talking with the Superintendent and they are ready and willing to assist with facility to quarantine and did know school will be out next week and may be out the next week. She said they want to work hand in hand with the County and was glad to work with them.

Commissioner Hinson spoke on behalf of parents and that should be a last resort. He said there was the space in the hospital and the other buildings in the County that could be used, not sure if the parents would like it; they have Havana Northside; the Neighborhood Health, along with others and did not need to burden the School Board.

Pastor Charles Morris appeared before the Board. He asked Dr. Cooksey because the Government imposed hand to mouth epidemic what was the difference between an epidemic and pandemic.

Dr. Cooksey said a pandemic is where you look at the number of cases in the world and see if there is a significant increase. They have not made the declaration in Florida and an epidemic would be an increase over an amount of time She said there had been no declaration in Florida or the United States that has put them at any of those levels.

Pastor Morris said their Church had already stopped hugs and started fist pumping and led the leadership team to develop basic standards and protocols for the Church, including stations for sanitation gels and wipes and felt since there were so many churches in the County, it would be good to start at that level. He added the NBA, NCAA already shut down, the Governor said no crowds over 500, now over 250 and if he kept lowering the standard, would be at zero and he

had concerns. He added it would always will hit the poorer people faster than the richer people. If schools close here, who would feed the homeless kids' breakfast and lunch. He said if there was any escalation at all, nothing may happen but we will be ready in case it does.

Commissioner Hinson said Gretna Elementary School could be an option.

Jack McLean, Quincy City Manager, appeared before Board and they just finished their meeting and they were doing what the County was doing. He explained what the City was doing to combat this. He said they have a whole hospital with space, have the Recreation Center. He asked what they would do if people needed food; they have a small amount of cash.

Commissioner Holt said some things have been discussed and wanted to make sure the County's webpage was updated, if not it was false information. She said there were a lot of people in the healthcare industry and they do not have an inventory of those people and they need that. She added If they have to triage, someone has to be there, make sure people were going to the right location.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a serious situation, it has been going on for 3 weeks, 3 months, and was his humble opinion they need to let staff and Major Wood get together and meet tomorrow or Sunday and come back with a plan. He said they need results now; this has been going on for a while. They need to make sure they have a plan of action. He said they have a bunch of geniuses here and can get together, and they need to do it now.

Commissioner Holt said many of these things could be put into place now.

Commissioner Hinson said the City Manager read from script what they had in place and we did not have anything in place.

Mr. Hall said they have an action plan in place, they were working on that now.

Commissioner Hinson said the School Board also has a Crisis Team, Ms. Lewis said they had Crisis Intervention. Commissioner Hinson said to figure out who that person was.

Commissioner Holt said he was correct; she and Manager has talked about it and somethings were automatic. She asked everything be sent to them automatically.

Dr. Cooksey wanted to run over things that was happening:

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:24 p.m.

- 1) Weekly Conference calls already set up by sector;
- 2) Call with schools;
- 3) Call with Medical Providers;
- 4) Meeting with Transportation on Tuesday morning and the Senior Citizen Centers;
- 5) Anticipate calls with Faith-based organizations and as Mr. McLean noted, the information was changing minute by minute.

She added they have been working well with Major Wood and Chief Maddox.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:26 p.m.

She said their Preparedness Staff had worked with several organizations in the County.

She said she did agree with some of the comments and wanted to ask Mr. Hall if they could have some sort of workshop soon. At some point there will be a case and wanted to make sure they were prepared and on the same page.

Chair Viegbesie said he would make sure the Administrator organizes one no later than Monday. He volunteered Pastor Morris.

Mr. McLean said they put in the crowd limitation and it took place tonight and he asked the County to enforce that tonight. Chair Viegbesie said it ALSO had a limit of 250 people in the crowd of public spaces.

Pastor Morris said there was so much bad information and asked that correct information be put out. He suggested they make information he had generic like that, put out the symptoms of the virus that people knew to look for would be good start. He said CDC has great information and it was their job as leaders to put the information together.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to give credit to the Superintendent for reminding everyone every morning and afternoon about washing their hands.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to hear from Major Woods.

Chair Viegbesie asked to recognize Angela Sapp first.

Angela Sapp, Quincy City Commissioner, appeared. She said we took Hurricane Michael lightly and glad to know not taking this lightly and making strides. She said Commissioner Holt mentioned people in rural areas not having internet, cable and that could be a crisis. She added she was glad she came and glad they were having this meeting.

Major Shawn Wood appeared. He said Dr. Cooksey has been running a tight ship. He said things will escalate as this thing escalates. He said they were aware of a case in Chattahoochee and it turned out not to be the Corona virus. He said the best thing to do was stay on script and know what they were going to do.

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone for showing up, said it was one of the best meetings they had had in a long time. He said there was no sense of rush, they just needed to get it done.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE
DECLARED THE EMERGENCY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:47 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 MARCH 17,
2020, 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
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and asked Pastor Charles Colston, Calvary Primitive Baptist Church, Quincy to give the Invocation, then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH AMENDMENTS WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE TO APPROVE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Dr. Adrian Cooksey gave an update on the Corona Virus. She introduced the Board to the COVID-19 Dashboard that will give current information. She noted that the dashboard would have Counties that had cases and would be updated twice a day. She stated mitigation strategies were primarily to protect individuals 65 and older as well as the healthcare system to be able to respond. She stated she was feeling safe at the time but needed an emergency response plan in place. She further stated people need to be keeping a safe social distance as well as washing hands and disinfecting surfaces as well as getting medication to last 30-90 days, anything to keep the at-risk population home and safe.

She gave screening criteria saying it was widening to a broader base and some expansions were specific to travel advisories. Other criteria were based on close contact with a person with Covid-19, having been hospitalized with acute lower respiratory illness, over 65 years old or immune compromised. LabCorp and LabQuest were on board and have testing kits. Each County has been required to incorporate something into the community for testing. She stated the Health Department would be working to make sure Gadsden County would have a similar site for testing and every health care provider in Gadsden County was prepared, if you are symptomatic, to be able to screen.

The Call Center number is 1-866-779-6121 available 24/7, email COVID-19@FLhealth.gov or call 850-875-7200 option 1. Citizens may want to be aware to call health providers ahead of time.

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Commissioner Taylor asked about monitoring the site that shows cases, or where cases were developing and wondered if there would be someone that can contact the Administrator's Office to alert them in the event cases arrive in the County.

Dr. Cooksey said she called the County Administrator this morning and currently have updates that come from the Department of Health at 10:00 and 4:00. She stated the intention was, as the cases come in, they push them out through emails daily and stated a call was easy for her to do as well.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought about supplies and materials and wanted to make sure healthcare providers have ample equipment to protect themselves in event of an eruption. She asked if there were ample supplies on hand or was Dr. Cooksey comfortable where they were.

Chairman Viegbesie excused himself at 6:31 for Canvassing Board and gave the gavel to Vice Chair Holt.

Dr. Cooksey said they had enough tests but the concern would be asymptomatic people, and have asked out for more PPE moving forward.

Commissioner Taylor asked if she had been speaking with CRMC and was pretty sure they were well stocked with items.

Dr. Cooksey said there had been 3-4 conference calls with healthcare providers and they were all on board and knew to call with any questions. The goal was not to turn a client around if they were symptomatic and a specimen needed to be collected at that time.

Commissioner Taylor stated she was concerned with screening and not being able to adequately provide testing.

Dr. Cooksey said with the people who had symptoms, they had what was needed.

Commissioner Taylor stated at the last meeting there was talk about what would happen if there were so many positive, what would be used as an overflow.

Dr. Cooksey stated that was a running question and she knew what the current capacity was for CRMC in Gadsden County and would be contending with Leon County and what their current capacity was. One strategy was to slow the positive cases down as to not over burden the healthcare system with positive cases.

Commissioner Taylor stated in the past, during emergencies, surrounding counties were not available to Gadsden County because they were experiencing the same difficulties. She stated she would not rely on having to go to Tallahassee because the population was far greater and if Gadsden County had a large impact, they would have the same affect in their area and that probably would not be an option. She asked Dr. Cooksey to look into locations like the Gadsden Senior Citizens location and the part of the Hospital that was not being used.

Dr. Cooksey stated there was a need for a Special Needs Shelter in Gadsden County. If tomorrow something happened and there was a need for ventilators, they were located in Tallahassee but she was looking for alternatives within Gadsden County.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Dr. Cooksey for coming. He said the County was prepared, will respond and will adapt as necessary. It was important to understand this will be for a few weeks, perhaps longer and will be an inconvenience. Everyone will have to change the way we approach our daily lives. He stated this has been around for almost 6 months and it was important to be proactive. He stated he liked the Dashboard and it would be a good resource to use. He further asked if it would follow ones that recover.

Dr. Cooksey stated yes, she would find out where that information was listed and she also thought it was important to share that information as well. She further stated that 95% of positive cases would recover.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Dr. Cooksey. He asked what the turn-around time for testing results was.

Dr. Cooksey stated it was taking about 3 days to get tests back.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was on the crisis team for the school board years ago when 9/11 occurred. He asked if there was anyone representing the school board present.

Dr. Cooksey said yes, they had been at the table, they worked with the Chair and the Superintendent. The Staff for the school health clinic are Department of Health Clinic staff and know what was going on with COVID-19. There were weekly conference calls with different people in different places to make sure the system felt secure and the kids would go back to school after Spring Break to a clean environment. She further stated a lot of screening was happening at long term care facilities so nothing was brought in from outside the facilities.

Commissioner Taylor asked about food sites for students.

Dr. Cooksey said Major Wood may have an answer for that. She knew there were locations set up and ways to deliver to the students as well.

Major Wood appeared before the Board and said all public schools were now closed until April 15th at the earliest. The school board was doing the USDA Food Replacement Program and were looking for volunteers to take it out into the community. He further stated there was a possibility that school may be closed down the rest of year. Restaurants were encouraged to lower to 50% and bars to close for 30 days. Communication between leaders would be important. There are a lot of critical moves that the Board, as policy makers, will need to address.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there were any states that looked like they may come out without too much impact and Major Wood replied, no. He further stated we need to figure out what we can do to help ourselves.

Vice-Chair Holt said she had questions, not necessarily to answer, but things that needed to be addressed looking forward. If the County did a quarantine, we would need equipment like beds, oxygen, etc.

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Major Wood said there was a lot of concern and the rumor mill was that people would be taken to quarantine and they have that fear but he was explaining that quarantine would be self-imposed.

Vice-Chair Holt said you would not have to take people anywhere because they would be willing to get well. She stated she would like to attach to the website, a map of Georgia and Alabama. People who did not have a healthcare provider would not go to the doctor and she stated that needed to be looked at and some places would not have internet connection. She said essential services for government, like parking tickets or speeding tickets and the offices were closed, Vice-Chair Holt told them to call the Clerk and he could let people know what his plan was. She thought drive-by testing would be a good idea if you had symptoms. She stated she listened to the Governor of Ohio and they were opening hospitals that had been closed. She stated she had called Congressman Lawson and spoke with his Aide, Mr. Tolar, she called Senator Scott's office and mentioned to them that Gadsden County had a facility sitting here, except the Emergency Room, and we could get funding for that. She called the Governor's office and spoke with his Aide. They are getting funding for these hospitals from the Federal Government to get them up and running, so this may Gadsden County's opportunity that does not have to come out of the County Budget and help citizens at the same time.

Dr. Cooksey said if residents did not have a provider or Insurance, call the Health Department. 850-875-7200 option 1 and they would coordinate care for them.

Commissioner Hinson said when there is crisis there is also opportunities for other things. He said the County needed to create another plan. Have a conversation on how to create a focus group among the community on how to address needs, how to generate revenue to off-set costs. The citizens want protection. He asked how the kids were all doing their assignments at home and that was a serious issue in Gadsden County.

Vice Chair Holt said when the children go back to school, some schools have a nurse on certain days and certain days they do not, they may need more staff to monitor the kids at least for a certain number of weeks to see if there are symptoms or reactions.

Commissioner Taylor said there were still a lot of unanswered questions, she was still feeling it was "just a matter of time" kind of situation because COVID-19 had not yet been contained and people were still going in and out of the County. She asked if there will be a follow-up meeting. She wanted to get more comfortable with supplies on hand and things the County would need. She wanted to get more comfortable with different triage centers in event there is over-flow and also food sites. Most Counties are opening the schools for this but they are located strategically in the community. She did not like the idea of people having to go door to door and she stated there were a lot of unanswered questions.

Mr. Hall said there would be follow-up meetings and will probably have a meeting Thursday afternoon or Friday morning to answer questions.

Commissioner Taylor stated she was not trying to rush Mr. Hall and wanted him to take his time and get something together to get put out to the community that would have an impact.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought Commissioner Taylor was on to something, BOCC needed to have frequent meetings so citizens could be abreast of what was going on. He stated

he did not mind meeting every 2 days until this was figured out, or 2-3 times a week and more information would get out to the community.

Mr. Hall said he wanted to make sure, when have a meeting, there were updates and information to get to the public so they felt safe.

Commissioner Hinson said the BOCC did not have to meet in Commission Chambers since no voting was going to happen. He stated there could be a conference call. Just like today, there was a conference call with Florida Association of Counties at 5 p.m.

Attorney Knowles spoke up about sunshine. He stated they were elected officials and with more than one of them in the same room, they may have a sunshine problem if it was not open to public.

Commissioner Hinson said it could be open to public, he was saying maybe a conference call where they appear by phone. At a workshop, they do not have to meet anyway, just takes one person to come to the workshop and you can still hold a meeting.

Mr. Knowles reminded the Board every seven days, they had to reaffirm the (emergency) Resolution and they did not necessarily need to meet for that, the Resolution allows the Chair or who he designates within the commission to re-up that. But he thought if the BOCC was going to have discussions, it needed to be in a public forum. If citizens wanted to call in that was okay.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to ask about that, it may need to be addressed with the Governor if it got too intense about how could they meet.

Mr. Knowles said the Governor's Executive Order waives all formal requirements typically of Sunshine and even possibly quorums, if it were a true emergency, the steps could be taken to deal with that. If it got really bad, BOCC may have to have one or two here and rest phone in and the public could participate on Facebook. He further stated they should not take up massive County business that way.

CONSENT

Mr. Hall asked to pull Item 16.

Commissioner Morgan asked where they were adding the Business Crawl and Expo Item. Mr. Hall stated it would be Item 7A. Commissioner Morgan asked to pull Items 3, 4, 5, and 7a to discuss.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH ITEMS PULLED WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Gulf Power Easement, North Florida Resiliency Connection**
- 3. ~~Approval to Accept the Special Warranty Deed for the W.A. Woodham Justice Center~~
Pulled for Discussion**

- ~~4. Training Funding Request National Conference on Preventing Crime~~
- ~~5. Training Funding Request Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy Law Enforcement Basic Recruit Program~~
Pulled for Discussion
6. Approval of 2020 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Amendment with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
7. Approval of Resolution 2020-007; Supporting the Designation of Rural Area of Opportunity
- ~~7a. 2nd Annual Business Crawl and Expo~~
Pulled for Discussion
8. Approval of Minutes
 - a. August 27, 2019-Joint Special Meeting
 - b. October 29, 2019-Joint Meeting
 - c. August 15, 2019-Special Budget Meeting
 - d. January 20, 2020-Private Roadways Workshop
 - e. January 23, 2020-Special Meeting

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ALL MEETING MINUTES AS LISTED WITH A SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

3. **Approval to Accept the Special Warranty Deed for the W.A. Woodham Justice Center**
Commissioner Morgan posed a question regarding the building stating it was going to continue to expose the County to a potentially great cost in regard to up-keep and things of that nature and he encouraged the Board to not approve this. He understands the reason TCC would like the Board to accept and they had been very good to our County but from a taxpayers' standpoint, it did not make sense to assume ownership of one of the most inefficient buildings due to its size. The utility bill consistently runs \$15-16,000 per month and \$400,000 was just invested in a new roof and there could be other major concerns like plumbing or anything else.

Vice-Chair Holt asked if Commissioner Morgan was interested in continuing to lease the building and he said the County had a \$1.00/year lease and it continues for a while (through 2049); He encouraged the Board to carefully consider what they were talking about doing.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2. (DO NOT APPROVE)

Commissioner Hinson said he had talked with Dr. Murdaugh over the years and Eugene Lamb, and one thing he had heartburn with, even when leasing was \$400,000 had to be put into it for certain things and Commissioner Hinson thought it made more sense to own it if those investments are going to be made.

Commissioner Taylor said at one point the County was looking to build a facility for the Sheriff Department near the Jail. Obviously, the County was not in shape to do so, this building they are now in needs upgrades and she said she was in a position that the County was too far in the middle to go back. She stated if the County could get a building that was effective and efficient for less than \$1 Million versus \$5 Million, she was willing to go that route. Her position was staying where the County was, at some point the County can sell and she was willing to move forward where they are with it being offered to purchase and come up with a better direction at a later date. She thought the Board should go with Option 1.

Commissioner Taylor called for the vote.

Vice-Chair Holt stated Commissioner Morgan was not interested in purchasing, Commissioner Hinson was in favor, Commissioner Taylor was also in favor and stated she herself was in favor of building a building but that ship sailed a long time ago when the Federal government was going to pay for it. If the County was going to lease it and fix it up, Vice-Chair Holt explained that the County was fixing it up for TCC and not for the County. She said \$400,000 was already spent on it and she thought the County would be able to get that much out of it and then be able to do something with it after that.

Commissioner Morgan said he would consider the situation from TCC's point if it was a valued asset, why would they not want ownership of it and consider selling it. He stated about the Sherriff's building that the BOCC changed course on it at the direction of the Sheriff. This was a long-term liability the County was about to under-take.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

4. Training Funding Request National Conference on Preventing Crime

Commissioner Morgan asked of Items 4 and 5, he had no problem but wondered if the items were still scheduled with the current environment we are in right now.

Major Woods appeared before the Board and said it was scheduled so far ahead, one was an out of town travel they had looked at today and they will be looking at it. Commissioner Morgan asked if it would be money the County could get back if it was canceled. Major Woods said yes, if it was canceled.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

5. Training Funding Request Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy Law Enforcement Basic Recruit Program

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7a. 2nd Annual Business Crawl and Expo

Commissioner Morgan said he had no issues. Commissioner Hinson mentioned this and it was mentioned before this virus. Commissioner Morgan stated he would not recommend the BOCC approving any activity at this point. His position was option 2. (Do Not Approve) just due to the current risk.

Commissioner Hinson said to approve it and look at it in 30 days. People understand it may get canceled.

Vice-Chair Holt said she had no problem in approving but would like it to come back.

Commissioner Hinson said with marketing, and getting the word out was the issue last year and he wanted to approve it now.

Commissioner Holt said her concern was the County would market an event and the Governor, President, everyone said they could not. She would not want the public to start making arrangements to come.

Commissioner Morgan encouraged them to put this back to the folks hosting the event. Right now was not using good judgement to approve something and send mixed messages.

Commissioner Hinson said people had to have faith also. He felt giving them the ok was not putting things in harm's way.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to approve but the comments made were true. The County cannot have gatherings of more than 50 people. They probably shouldn't have approved the participation of the two County representatives as well as from the Sheriff's Department. She agreed with Vice-Chair Holt, she would support it when she knows she has the support of the Governor. She stated she wanted to support it, but she did not want to do things when the Governor clearly has stated 30 days' notice and 50 people. She would have to err on the side of caution.

VICE-CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 2. (DO NOT APPROVE)

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Amy McBride, 917 Schwall Road, Havana, FL/Cemetery

She said a solution to COVID-19, no-one mentioned prayer and why not have focus prayer groups or a call line for prayer.

Ms. McBride stated she belonged to the Chandler Family. Years ago, there was a Chandler Cemetery in Jamison Florida, owned by the Chandler family. One family member sold it. When they sold it, she stated the family had problems getting back there. They had to call the Sheriff because there were guns pulled on them by the people who bought it. She stated there is Florida Statute that governs cemeteries and access and easements to cemeteries for property when people have bought it out of the family. They had a controlled burn and should not have.

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Once you find a cemetery or graves, there should be notification and everything should stop and that did not happen. According to rules and regulations, that could be a 2nd degree felony charge. Statute says, Counties or Municipalities have been given authorization to maintain and secure abandoned cemeteries or one that had not been maintained for more than 6 months.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 7:35 p.m.

Ms. McBride further explained that private funds may be solicited and spent on such maintenance and such efforts are exempt from civil liabilities or penalties connected with damage to the property being maintained. County or municipality may sue the owner of the property to recover such costs.

She said when they went with the Sheriff the other day, there was a man there and he said he was the manager of the property and he had spoken with someone on the BOCC and a controlled burn should never had happened. She was asking for the County Commissioners to do what they were supposed to do for the cemetery. She stated she wants all bodies recognized; the area surrounding maintained; easement given to the family members; graves upkeep.

Vice-Chair Holt asked her to speak to the County Manager because they cannot address items unless agendaed. Commissioner Hinson stated he was not spoken to about this either.

Mr. Hall asked her for the address of the cemetery and she said there was no set address, it was at the end of Jamison Road. There was a locked fence with surveillance cameras and they have a controlled license deer game camera. The Cemetery was on 40 acres of land. The man she was having trouble with says his part was owned by a company called (inaudible) House out of Georgia.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 7:38 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out 7:38 p.m.

Juanita Baker-Sailor appeared before the Board. She stated she bought a house 8 years ago and it looked nice to her and it was in her budget. She did not know at the time her husband had congestive heart failure. The bathroom floor was now gone. Her daughter and her granddaughter moved out because of it. She heard about the SHIP Program; she stated Ms. Burns told her she was approved and told her to catch up on her taxes. Jack McLean referred her to Ms. Burns because her roof needed to be done and he told her a roof was not going to help and that she needed the whole foundation. She stated Ms. Burns told her to take everything out of her home. She did that and had been sleeping on a mattress on the floor ever since. (3 months) She stated she asked Ms. Burns when her house would be fixed and claimed Ms. Burns told her she would not get her house fixed if she came to the office again.

Commissioner Morgan returned 7:39 p.m.

Ms. Baker spoke but was inaudible telling her story.

Vice Chair Holt interrupted and said it was sad what she was saying but this item was not agendaed; they could not solve it today.

Mr. Knowles said it was on the Agenda and she said not under "Citizens Requesting to be Heard", it did not have a number. She asked her to wait and they had to have both sides.

Ms. Baker spoke but it was inaudible.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. PUBLIC HEARING-APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2020-008 FOR FY 2020 Budget Amendments

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for Resolution 2020-008 and authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director and Sr. Management & Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to adjust the fiscal year 2020 BOCC budget.

Commissioner Morgan said from his reading of the item, all three were on Board for approving the amendment.

Mr. Hall answered yes.

Vice-Chair Holt asked if anyone wished to speak from the audience and there was no one.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

GENERAL BUSINESS

10. Generators for Radio Towers and Green Shade VFD

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval to purchase 5 generators and to upgrade the fuel tanks capacity. The County has 4 tower sites and Green Shade VFD and are in need of generators for power redundancy if power was lost. Generators were budgeted to be financed initially through Motorola and could have been purchased from FL Sheriff Assn. with cost savings. All tower sites & facilities are critical in providing life safety for citizens of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Taylor said she was hearing 2 things, reading one, when build-out of Green Shade was said, was that strictly generators or towers, or generators, towers and build-out all in one.

Allan Meeks appeared before the Board to address this question. HE stated there will be 4 tower sites and the fire station and 2 EMS staff at site at all times. Fire Code states it needs a generator.

Commissioner Taylor said again, she was hearing three things, cell towers, generators and build-out of fire department.

Mr. Meeks said generators was all that was being purchased to be utilized at cell towers and fire station.

Commissioner Taylor asked where the money was coming from.

Mr. Meeks said some coming from Fire Tax and a while back the BOCC did the 74-1 Resolution and budgeted money to do the dispatch center and some of that money was budgeted but could not use would go towards that and explained why.

Mr. Hall said it was coming from the EMS fund not from the General Fund.

Commissioner Taylor said it was soft money and could have been used anywhere.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the questions and had conversations regarding funding and appreciated Clerk's Office pointing out the County could use those funds and he had no issues with that. He stated it appeared to be an opportunity to save money and he would move approval.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.

Vice-Chair Holt asked if the County had applied for money through FEMA for generators for the towers and Mr. Hall answered no.

Mr. Meeks said there was one generator that they had time to do for Butler Building and would not have them in time to get these projects going through the FEMA process.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. Ratification of Payment to SynergyPACT for FEMA Public Assistance Consultation Services to Manage Hurricane Michael Documentation to Ensure Proper Reimbursement

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was to ratify payment to SynergyPACT for FEMA Public Assistance Consultation Services for managing Hurricane Michael documentation to ensure proper reimbursement with FEMA, also Staff requesting approval of a Professional Services Contract and ratification of the contract and for the ratification of payments to SynergyPACT starting in mid-February until completion.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there were any guarantees and Mr. Hall answered no. Commissioner Taylor asked if there was any history on being able to collect or success rate they have. Mr. Hall said they were experts and have done this many number of times. She asked what percentage of applications submitted to FEMA have they gotten approved. Mr. Hall said he could not give a percentage but he can call them and can give her exact numbers. He further stated they were highly recommended. Commissioner Taylor said it was subjective and she was not comfortable at this time not knowing the facts. Mr. Hall said he would get her the facts.

Commissioner Morgan said it appeared from the Agenda Item that there were businesses promoted through the Florida League of Cities but shared some of the same concerns that Commissioner Taylor brought up. He thought there would be plenty of information the BOCC could look at and could talk with Pat Thomas and Associates and they might be able to provide

more information. Unless the BOCC was under the gun to approve, he asked this be brought back following the gathering of information.

Mr. Hall Stated he could bring it back to the Board along with the details the Board was looking for.

Commissioner Holt said she also spoke with Apalachee Regional Planning Counsel, they had 2 recommendations. One was Synergy and another was working to the west of us in the Panhandle. She stated both had good pedigrees as far as success rates. They suggested another company that had dealt with disasters and go after funding that had the history of getting money, and they did not move on it at that time.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL NEXT MEETING WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

12. SHIP Housing Rehabilitation-Bid Recommendation and Award

Mr. Hall introduced the above item.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to disclose he had a conversation with Auburn Ford, Ford Construction, and Mr. Ford had some reservations about some things but it was just general conversation.

Sonya Burns, Housing Administrator, appeared before the Board and said they had the bid process and had 12 homes to bid out. Even though the lowest bidder for construction was not selected because of unsatisfactory references and evaluations with workmanship, fact sheet and photos were provided. It listed each one of the homes that Mr. Ford conducted work for the County under the program. She gave the addresses and read the evaluations. She explained Gadsden County will lose approximately \$340,000 in funding from DEO because of repeated failed inspections, unsatisfactory workmanship and non-compliance of change orders.

Andy Easton, Andy Easton and Associates, CDBG Administrator over Grants, appeared before the Board and said he provides guidance to County as what rules and regulations were as far as how the Grant was administered. One key requirement of the program was that the City or County will pick the contractors that have shown good jobs in past and it was up to the County how they want to pick the contractors and past performance was a key indicator. What was presented was important issues to consider.

Auburn Ford, 249 Peters Rd. Midway, FL, appeared before the Board. He said Ms. Burns came prepared because she knew he was coming. He said it started when Ms. Lex was here and he was given bad contracts and bad information, bad dates and he was not responsible for that, staff was responsible for that. The evaluation was done before he was finished with Ms. Robinson's house and he questioned that. He states he was not at the meeting to bash anybody. He came before the Board and complained about being discriminated against and since then, he thought he had been targeted. He did not know what had happened with current staff now and did not care. His point was when he was told he did not get something done and he does not get paid. He said last week he turned invoices and stuff in on time and was told he might get paid Friday but if not, then Monday. He was almost finished building a

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house out of his pocket and could not even get phone call from staff to let him know he was not getting paid. He knew the Administrator was busy with COVID-19 going around but Mr. Hall depends on Staff to take care of business, Mr. Ford was Administrator in Midway and had Staff and thinks Mr. Hall expects same from his staff. But he could not even get a phone call. He stated that he had been jumping through hoops trying to get paid. He was never told his invoices were not on time. The complaint was always that the Clerk's Office has a problem with you giving supporting documentation. (No pictures, Receipts) He said he was low bidder on half of the projects, all new houses, one contractor was \$40,000 different from his and not fair. He stated if he was not going to be picked then at least #2 should of, but number 5 was awarded. He further states that this leads to corruption.

Mr. Hall said he had 100% confidence in his staff, they do everything by the book, no discrimination, no improprieties at all, but when losing \$340,000 because projects are not being completed in timely matter, that was very alarming. Mr. Hall said he was very supportive of staff and proud of them and try to make sure the County does not lose funding because it was critical with the number of houses that need to be repaired, the County needed every dime it could get.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not know where to begin with so many red flags and to hear the Manager's final statement with regards to total confidence. She stated she did not know if there was a \$40,000 difference in the bid, but if there was any validity to the statement that the award went to the highest, there was a problem

Vice-Chair Holt stepped out at 8:15 and passed the gavel to Commissioner Morgan.

with that, coupled with the item, it should have been before them weeks earlier. Commissioner Taylor said she did not know why the discussion with the calamity with the contractor and was not part of an agenda item. Hearing total confidence concerned her. She stated the Clerk sent out a memo with over \$1 Million for Housing and the money was still sitting there and to hear total confidence, the Manager lost her and she did not understand. She further stated they are too complacent where they are. Too many people are living in poor conditions because they have total confidence.

Vice-Chair Holt returned at 8:16 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor stated Seniors and people with disabilities could not do any better. She stated she was lost at the comment the Manager made and wished the item had been before them longer and it could have been approved longer and may have gotten services. She stated she did not know what going on and stated not to indulge her into day-to-day, but to hear of people going through conditions they did not have to and could have a conversation with the citizens, but he has total confidence. There are millions of dollars sitting there and contractors were ready to go to work and she was only hearing the bashing of contractors and people not getting services, but the Manager has total confidence, so she was a little off. As soon as she can, she wants to move approval on these that have been vetted through process so the people can get work done and relief in their homes.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to hear from Staff on that one.

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Commissioner Hinson said everyone knew how he felt about senior citizens and disabled people and he hated to get into it and hear of delays, if that was the case. He stated he had some issues. He said not one house on the list was from Havana or Midway and he asked why the fifth highest person got the bid.

Mr. Hall said he would have to bring up Ms. Burns to explain because he was not involved in that process.

Ms. Burns appeared again before the Board to explain. She said that in the agenda request, the item was completed for the February 18th 2020 meeting and was submitted timely. At that meeting the hospital discussion was also on the agenda and the Chairman decided not to place this on that agenda because he thought it would be a very lengthy meeting. Then the March 3rd meeting was canceled and that was why it was coming back to the Board. It was prepared on-time. She further stated there were community meetings at the Midway Fire Station and she sends letters out to each municipality/manager for a meeting stating if they could not attend to please send representation, and no-one from Midway attended any of the meetings. She stated she set up shop with her personal printer. The times were 9am-2pm and 3pm-7pm to make sure they could reach the people who were working the first round and even went to people's homes to help them complete applications, all this while in the process of hiring additional staff and a Rehab specialist.

Commissioner Hinson asked anytime anything was going on in Midway or Havana and they could not reach people, call him because he can reach people and can make sure they have a full house.

Ms. Burns said she even pulled in the Code Enforcement Officer to take applications to people, left them the applications and referred them to Legal Services, and the County Attorney was working with them and the Deed restrictions some of the people had. She stated she was working with the citizens of Havana.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not trying to take her job, he said they would have a full house and he would make sure the people were there if Ms. Burns let him know.

Commissioner Taylor asked Ms. Burns and Mr. Hall, when an item was prepared for the Agenda, how far in advance must they get the item for it to go on the Agenda and Mr. Hall answered 2 weeks. Commissioner Taylor asked Ms. Burns if her item was prepared 2 weeks in advance and Ms. Burns answered yes, it was submitted February 4th and the meeting was the 18th. Commissioner Taylor asked if they knew the amount budgeted, why could they not tell Ms. Baker. Ms. Burns said in the preliminary application, each home owner was told that the maximum amount for SHIP was \$80,000. If your home is beyond the \$80,000 approved amount, you would be placed on a waiting list. She stated she does not tell until the item and amount is approved by the Board and she did not want to give any information to a homeowner before it was approved. She further explained if the applicant had been approved for SHIP assistance, they are told at the walk-through, pack up all the things you are not using, not move out, pack up things you are not using so once it was all approved by the BOCC and the contractors were ready to start, they do not have to wait for the homeowner to pack all their stuff. Be ready.

Commissioner Taylor told Ms. Burns she gave a ballpark amount and some exceeded \$80,000. In a County like this, simple conversation and explanation to Ms. Baker, "We cannot give you an amount until it is Board approved." would have helped. She stated she did not know if maybe staff needed customer service training.

Vice Chair Holt interrupted and said that Ms. Burns was Mr. Hall's employee and the Board cannot say what she needs.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not call out anyone specifically, but when constituents come before the Board with concerns, they as a Board, need to do something. "It is insane to expect change if you let everything remain the same." Commissioner Taylor stated a conversation should have been had. She asked once approved, to give Ms. Baker the amount approved for her house and give a timeline if possible, as well as the other 10 or so names on the list.

Mr. Hall said that he would do that.

Vice-Chair Holt said to Ms. Burns that they were discussing two different items. A bid process and a complaint about the bid process and they should not be combined. In the bid process, it was delayed because this Board delayed it. It was no one's fault it was delayed but this Board. Ms. Burns was not given the opportunity to say what had happened in that situation.

Ms. Burns said she had communicated with Ms. Baker as had Marvin Tribue, the rehab specialist. Every time Ms. Baker came and when the February meeting was canceled, that was discussed with her several times and each time she would give a different phone number and recently, there was no correct phone number for her so the rehab specialist was sent to her home to let her know where they were in the process.

Vice-Chair Holt said she was not willing to lose \$340,000 and possible CDBG money because the County needed that in order to do more houses. CDBG was how the houses were done. She stated she would vote in favor of keeping the money. She further stated it would damage the County's approval rating in the future.

Commissioner Hinson said local participation was needed to make sure to have local participation. He stated even with the contractors, the money should stay in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Morgan said Ms. Burns had a tough job and he appreciated her consistently providing the Board complete, accurate information, and her efforts to follow the guidelines that keep the County in a positive light with the SHIP funds. He remembered Phyllis always saying she was going to do what was right. And he believed in Ms. Burns' efforts. If the Board needed to have conversation, go by Ms. Burns office, the dais is not always the right place to have that discussion. He stated the Board needed to adhere to the agenda item which was to approve the recommendation.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVAL OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor said one thing she wanted to do and wanted to ask to the Board. She wanted to make sure to have transparency and treat the public right. She wanted to make sure

problems were being addressed and they would be resolved at some point. She stated she was ready to carry the vote.

Vice-Chair Holt said this was an item that could be workshopped, along with anything in Housing.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

13. Professional Services Task Order with Dewberry Engineering (Jail Tower Site)

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Task Order with Dewberry Engineers.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR HOLT.

Commissioner Hinson had a disclosure. He stated a month ago he talked with someone from Dewberry but not about this particular item.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

14. Cochran Road SCRAP Agreement

Mr. Hall introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL WITH A SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR HOLT WITH A QUESTION.

Vice-Chair Holt said when the Board agreed to move funding for bridges, they agreed if we pulled out of a district, we would look at replacing it, not sure how it would be done, but agreed to that.

Mr. Hall said he would be working on that and was with her 100% on that.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15. Hurricane Michael State Recovery Grant Program

Mr. Hall introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor said if they received this money, they would get monies back in their coffers. Mr. Hall stated that was correct. Commissioner Taylor said not Commissioner Morgan. Commissioner Hinson asked when, and Mr. Hall said he was working it out.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there had been any work done on the Hutchinson Ferry Bridge to date and Mr. Hall answered no actual work. Commissioner Taylor stated that the money should not have been moved then. It could have been moved on the ledger but not physically moved because there were no expenses or invoices.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

16. Approval of Federal Funding Action Plan for Gadsden County and Congressional Partner
Item Pulled

17. Hutchinson Ferry Road Repairs-Bid Award

Mr. Hall introduced the above item.

VICE-CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson said the Chair cannot make a motion. Mr. Knowles said based on Roberts' Rules, she cannot. Vice-Chair Holt said they have always done it.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

18. Updates

Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court had updates dealing with Indigent Tax & the hospital. He stated he forwarded information to the Board from the former Hospital Attorney last month and a couple of things were resolved. One was the effective date of the new agreement was March 1st, 2020 and also confirming that CRMC was entitled to indigent Tax money collected through February.

Chairman Viegbesie returned at 8:50 p.m.

He further stated the money was distributed approximately two months after that. He stated the issue was, in the agreement, they now give CRMC \$200,000 for indigent hospital care and that leaves approximately \$600,000. He stated the BOCC did not have that \$600,000 yet because CRMC is entitled to money collected through February. The Clerk said it raised a question of what the BOCC was going to do with that money and the issue was it could only be used for indigent care. The attorney mentioned during the course of the meetings, Craig McMillian mentioned the possibility of the Board considering accelerating the debt service. That was looked into briefly and the Bond holders do not really want to accelerate it, there is a 1% penalty, but even with that, they could still save hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr. Glazer also mentioned in an email, a proposed agreement that during the course of negotiations, CRMC had at one point agreed to, but backed away from, and then the deal was closed with a 15-year contract with two 5-year extensions. That deal potentially included a build-out of unfinished area, according to Mr. Glazer, he thought that was potentially still on the table, which included 6 Emergency Room Bays and potentially 10 rooms. In light of the current situation he thought this may want to be considered. He stated this proposal could not help with the current situation but it could potentially help in the future. This did not change the model; it was all about being potentially prepared for Emergency events or a change one day in the model. Mr. Glazer also talked about potentially, if you were going to use the money for anything else for indigent care, the potential to take a look at the ordinance and the health plan and maybe consider reformulating it at this time. The Clerk's Office was under the impression, and language in Statute that Legislature put in, and he sees language in this

statute that he had seen before and deemed it to mean "This money is to be used for your office, but really it is our money." They declared it was State money, which means they can call it back. The Clerk stated the BOCC may want to give it to the new attorney to look at. He stated the BOCC had to be careful where that money was spent and it could not just be spent anywhere.

Commissioner Holt felt all three were good options. She asked how long it could sit until the Board workshopped it or looked at it to figure out some good options.

Clerk Thomas said the BOCC did not have the money yet and it could be May, based on the current distribution. You cannot sit on the money indefinitely.

Commissioner Holt stated with the current Emergency right now, she thought it was very important that it was looked at.

Commissioner Taylor said when the Board was having the discussions with the Hospital and GHI, she thought it was understood, by the Clerk's office especially, she understood \$200,000 rent from CRMC would be used for the build-out because those dollars were not restricted. She stated the Clerk was correct on what was collected was going straight to Indigent Care. As far as the rent, she understood it was going to be used for the build-out that the County needs to look at and pursue. That is what she liked about the contract.

Clerk Thomas said the \$200,000 for rent would go into the General Fund and that did mean they could use the rent for what they wanted. The real issue was the Indigent Tax money. There was discussion about the agreement and there was an email that eluded to the fact that they agreed to that, but seemed they backed away from that in the final product. Mr. Glazer confirms in his email, in his last bullet point, that both parties have interest in finishing out portions of the building that are within the area that is leased by CRMC but currently unfinished space. Someone from the County would have to be assigned to work through the details and the appropriate documentation developed if the Board wanted to pursue. It could have been made a part of the agreement but was not.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed that CRMC should get the money due to them up until the contract was signed. She was not following the Clerk on the \$600,000. She stated it sounded like there was a pot of money and \$600,000 and what it can and cannot be used for or who did and did not have access to it.

Clerk Thomas explained in the final year, the revenues went up and by the distribution that was in place, CRMC will receive approximately \$800,000 and now under the new contract, they will only receive \$200,000 which leaves a difference of \$600,00 going forward from collection from March forward. \$600,000 will not be disbursed until the Board decided how they wanted it disbursed.

Commissioner Taylor said the Clerk also sent other memos and asked if he was going to address them. He stated he would if they wanted him to.

Commissioner Taylor stated according to one of the memos, there were 3 projects that were online, but documentation, competition and all else are behind which was causing concern with reimbursement.

Clerk explained they were public works projects. Livestock pavilion was waiting to receive FEMA money and he asked if that was received. Clerk Thomas stated in terms of the project at the livestock pavilion, he said the Board was using the money first that was appropriated by the State because there was a deadline and that \$1.2 Million was being used first and after that the loans would be used and it was financed by USDA after that was completed. There may be an issue with a match that was needing to be looked into that may not have been addressed and he told the Commissioners he would get back with them on that.

Hurricane Michael Reimbursement was coming in totaling \$65,000, but \$35,000 was due to the School Board and the rest of that was spent on some buildings, including the Livestock Pavilion and some work at Pat Thomas Park.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

19. Updates

COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. Updates

Mr. Knowles said he was trying to get in the swing of things and was going to give everyone his cell number when the meeting was over.

Summer break spot was coming up and it enabled students who get their lunches at the school to get them at designated spots and he did not think any were set up yet for Gadsden County.

By Friday the Board will need to re-up the COVID-19 Resolution as it was good for a week.

He said Comcast had offered free internet to low-income houses and have opened up all the Xfinity Wi-Fi hot spots for next 60 days, and Spectrum Communications was doing the same thing.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

21. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

He thanked the Board for coming together last Friday regarding the Corona Virus and for the Attorney's first day. He said Mr. Knowles did a great job. He also thanked the Health Department for their approach as well towards this serious issue. He hoped a lot of folks can take Vitamin D3, B12, Fish Oil & One-a-Day (consult your Dr. first) to strengthen their immune system.

He also thanked the BOCC for their support on February 29th. There was a 40th anniversary with the Black History Parade and Festivities. Partnered along with Alpha-Alpha Fraternity as well as the Gadsden County Black History Cultural Organization along with the city of Quincy, as they sponsored some of the events as well. There were almost 2000 people in attendance. He stated a lot of local vendors made a lot of money.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

No items

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she was not willing to move one penny in Housing, very difficult to get CDBG to come back. She did research and calling and need to look at how they get approved. She said they knew after the hurricane they needed more people in Housing. She said they have to do the work and abide by FEMA and CDBG.

She spoke with Senator Lawson today, Scott's aide and the aide in the Governor's office to see if they could get funding to see about getting money to open the hospital.

She said she also asked about critical access designation.

Commissioner Hinson said he would like to see \$600,000, maybe this could be a start, got \$600,000 maybe could place that money there. Interest rate at an all-time low, need special need shelters. The more we meet, the more we get things done.

Commissioner Holt said if they drop interest rate, there would be bonds

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

She said regarding the County Administrator's job, she thought it was time to start advertising and asked what was the intent. Either look for someone or offer this job to this young man. (Mr. Hall) She thought at some time, she would like to have it agendaed.

Chairman Viegbesie said it will be agendaed as soon as possible.

Commissioner Taylor said something happened while the Chair was gone and she asked for his undivided attention for a half a minute so she could share with him. She shared the story Ms. Junita Baker shared with the Board earlier in the meeting and told the Chair that he pulled the item 5 weeks ago because there was a heavy agenda with the hospital.

Commissioner Morgan left meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor explained the item was pulled and there were 12 families that were impacted because of such. She asked in the future, the BOCC think about some of the items that get pulled and how they impact people.

Mr. Hall explained it was when the hospital item was on the Agenda and because it was so contentious, they moved it to the first March meeting but that meeting was cancelled.

Chairman Viegbesie said if he had known it was such a pressing item, he should have been told and it would have not been cancelled.

Mr. Hall said he did not know it was so pressing either.

Commissioner Taylor said in the event, given the sensitivity, she would have put that item before the hospital bill and got it moved through so the families did not have to wait the extra time.

Commissioner Taylor said they found money tonight, out of nowhere for generators, \$157,000 that they did not know they had, but when it comes to the Summer programs, they could not find the money. She prays they find the same soft money from somewhere for the program. She said she did not want to put any more money into Housing until it gets better. She stated it needed improvement. She was not sure if they set themselves up for a lawsuit tonight, the way one contractor was exploited, and it was not even an agendaed item. There were facts but stated she did not know if this was the forum to discuss the deficiencies from this particular contractor.

She stated the Manager needed to find out about the food sites.

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

Chairman Viegbesie said hearing what he heard about the Housing, Commissioner Taylor interrupted and informed him it was discussed and approved tonight.

He asked for an approval of a motion for Resolution of Accommodation for Odell’s. He said he was there and was pleased how Odell’s was ran and how much opportunity he had given to those that would not have been given an opportunity to work.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MOVED FOR A RESOLUTION OF ACCOMMODATION AND CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE OWNER OF ODELL’S WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON.

Commissioner Holt said she was not willing to move one penny in Housing because it was very difficult to get CDBG to come back because what happened before was, as they told the County, was a mis-use of funds. You cannot do that with Federal government. She said she did research and calling, she wants to look at how the County gets approved. If the Federal Government allow us to put stipulations in it for qualifications, let’s do it. She further stated the BOCC knew that after the hurricane, we needed more people in Housing and only have 1 extra and that was 2 years ago. They told us we would need up to maybe 10 people to bring us back to where we were. They are not there and we did not put them there. Stressing out 1-2 people does not work. She stated the BOCC needed to look at Synergy and see about getting FEMA money and if the County can use part of the money to look at staff, then we need to do that, even if it was temporary. When the Federal Government says we may lose \$340,000, they were serious. Once you go on that list, she stated, it was like a poor credit rating. Everyone needs to do what they need to do to keep this funding.

She stated again that she spoke with Congressmen, Governor and Senator’s Aides about the hospital and trying to get funding to re-open the hospital.

Commissioner Hinson stated Dr. Cooksey said something about a special needs shelter and the County has \$600,000 and that may be something the County could place that money into. The interest rate was at an all-time low.

Chairman Viegbesie said to wait until you see the trickle down to the commercial banks and they lower their rates as well. Commissioner Hinson stated the BOCC could be meeting and planning so they are ready.

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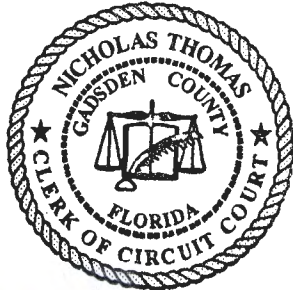
Commissioner Holt stated the \$600,00 could only be used for indigent care. If the interest rate is dropped, the County has bonds that may be able to be refinanced knocking off several hundred thousand.

Receipt and File

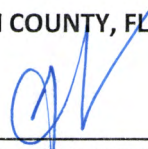
UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE HAD, CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE CALLED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 27, 2020 AT
10:00 A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4-arrived late
 Eric Hinson, District 2-appeared by phone
 Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared by phone
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the Emergency Meeting and called the meeting to Order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Adoption of Resolution 2020-014

Mr. Hall introduced the above agenda item to the Board.

Commissioner Holt appeared at 10:07 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud for the sake of Commissioner Hinson (because the microphones were not on).

Commissioner Hinson said there was a major event the past weekend, there were some parties that were going on and asked if this included Churches.

Chair Viegbesie said a draft of the Resolution was made available to the Commissioners yesterday to review.

Commissioner Hinson said a lot of people were listening to this now and they need to be specific so they would know what was going on.

Chair Viegbesie said there will be a press conference immediately following this meeting. He also suggested fir Commissioner Hinson to text or email his questions to the County Administrator and he would be willing to address those to assist the community on Facebook Live to they would know some of the aspects.

Mr. Knowles said for them to check page 4 of the Resolution and directed him to the Section that said they were allowed to hold services as long as they abide by the CDC guideline maintain less than 10 people and the same for funerals. He said it was addressed in the Resolution.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION AND
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD APPROVED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED
THE EMERGENCY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:14 A.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 APRIL 7, 2020 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
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 6:04 p.m. and explained under the emergency situation, they were handling the meeting under a different approach.

He asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hall asked to pull Item 12 from the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED TO PULL ITEM 7 FOR DISCUSSION AND MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

Board approved 5-0

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval to Renew the Standard Contract between the State of Florida, Department of Revenue and the Gadsden County BOCC**
- 3. Approval of the Services Contract with Deer Oaks EAP**

4. **Approval of Mandatory Direct Deposit of Salary Wages**
5. **Approval of a Letter Authorizing Tallahassee Big Bend Crime Stoppers, Inc. to Act as Gadsden County's Agent for the Purpose of Applying for and Recovering Monies from the Crime Stopper's Trust Fund**
6. **Approval of Proposal for a Web Based Human Resource Platform**
7. **Approval of Federal Funding Action Plan for Gadsden County and Congressional Partners**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

8.
 - a. **November 5, 2019-Special Workshop**
 - b. **October 15, 2019-Special Meeting**
 - c. **December 17, 2019-Regular Meeting**
 - d. **August 29, 2019-Budget Meeting**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

7. **Approval of Federal Funding Action Plan for Gadsden County and Congressional Partners**

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem but with the current environment and was sure they were very successful in gaining grant dollars, but what would make him have less heartburn was if they could pay a percentage of the amount they could bring to the County and not spend that type of money right now.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not know how this was under the Consent Agenda when it concerns spending money and impacted the budget. She said she concurred with Commissioner Morgan and wanted to be more studious and learn more about the company.

Commissioner Holt asked for clarification from the Interim County Administrator.

He said he advertised twice for a Grant writer and received no applications and he thought this might be good alternative to a grant writer.

Commissioner Holt said they were in desperate need of a grant writer. Monies are out there they are not going to get because of not having a grant writer.

Commissioner Taylor said in what the Manager said, he was unsuccessful in finding a potential employee to do this, how was he successful in finding this group. Also why was this under the Consent Agenda when there was a fiscal impact to the budget.

Chair Viegbesie said with regards to Congressional Partners, it was a group he met in Washington, DC during a legislative conference, they had booth and he talked with them. They

are like an outsourced grant writer for Federal and State grants. He brought this before the commission two years ago and they are willing to make a presentation.

Commissioner Morgan said it might be a better fit if they considered a percentage rather than a contract that laid out funds upfront and also to bring this back and have a presentation.

Commissioner Holt asked where the group was located and Chair Viegbesie said in Washington, DC. She asked amount of money and it is \$4,000 per month. She said they were not getting funding because they were not applying.

Chair Viegbesie said this was for a 6-month trial period.

Commissioner Taylor said there was a consensus somewhere to bring this back for a presentation and she was in agreement with that. She said maybe the base was not adequate; someone mentioned adding on a percentage of what was awarded should be a part of the salary and she would go back out with that. She continued and said when you have this type of firm that writes for several Counties, they may not give their 100%. She said she was in favor to give him a chance to add onto the salary.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to add they needed to be careful before moving forward with that recommendation, they needed to consider the fact that the Interim County Administrator just accepted a position at Escambia County and they need to be careful before listening to his recommendations.

Commissioner Morgan said there was a different skill there for federal grants versus local and state funding but think from what he was hearing from Commissioner Taylor about a percentage or if it is an amount on a six month agreement that any funds not gotten short of that are (inaudible) might be a way to talk with that company and entertain that. He said at this point, what he thought he was hearing from Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Hinson, was to table this and bring back for further discussion at a later date.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND BRING BACK AT A LATER DATE AND COMMISSIONER TAYOR MADE THE SECOND.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-0

Mr. Hall asked for clarity; they were looking at bringing this back at another time but were they also looking at the grant writer position and looking at a certain salary plus a percentage of what was brought to the table?

Commissioner Taylor said that was what she meant but she was not sure of the will of the Board.

Clerk Thomas appeared before the Board and cautioned them that every grant did not provide for administrative money in the grants and money may come from the County coffers.

Commissioner Morgan said they could table this and bring these issues back.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. EMS Protocol Application Agreement (Acid Remap LLC)

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a subscription agreement between Acid Remap LLC and Gadsden County EMS for a paramedic protocol mobile application service.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:32 p.m.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NO RESPONSE
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	HAD STEPPED AWAY
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 AND MOTION PASSED.

10. Ratification of Payment to SynergyPACT for FEMA Public Assistance Consultation Services

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said was to ratify payment to SynergyPact for FEMA Public Assistance Consultation Services for managing Hurricane Michael documentation to endure proper reimbursement with FEMA. Also, Staff is requesting approval of a Professional Services Contract and ratification of the contract and for the ratification of payments to SynergyPACT starting in mid-February until completion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	HAD STEPPED AWAY
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

THE MOTION PASSED 4-0

11. Approval to Confirm Appointment of Public Works Director

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for confirmation of the appointment of Lisa Robinson as the new Public Works Director.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	STEPPED AWAY
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

THE MOTION PASSED 4-0

12. SHIP Program Discussion

ITEM PULLED

14. Discussion of the FY20 Summer Youth Program

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion. He said at the December 17, 2019 Board meeting, the Summer Youth Program was approved for \$50,000 for 45 youth. He further explained COVID-19 has impacted a lot of services and programs in the County and the Summer Youth program was one of them.

Chair Viegbesie explained this was a discussion item and was glad the Clerk was present for questions and to give an understanding as to what they were able to do as a Board. He said should they decide to not provide the program this year, would it be possible to carry the line item over to the next year with the current pandemic and add that amount to the next fiscal year to increase the number of potential students for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Thomas appeared before the Board and stated that would have to be addressed during the budget process and they could carry it forward into the next budget.

Chair Viegbesie said that would be his suggestion so they would not lose and with the circumstances of COVID-19 that they would not be able to use that amount of money this year, if they carried it forward to next year, it would give them the chance to actually get a lot more (students) the following year. He stated this was not for a vote but was his contribution to the discussion.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:40 p.m.

Hinson said that was a great idea but maybe they could move with the times, the kids could work, kids could do a lot of computer stuff, make phone calls, etc.

Chair Viegbesie explained this was not an action item, it was a discussion item only.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the discussion and the number one thing to keep in mind about the program, he wanted to see them put that money back in the Fund Balance and

address things like unmet needs with Code Enforcement and address specific needs with Roads and Bridges and infrastructure issues.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they were trying to move funding and Chair Viegbesie explained everything to her.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought they could do something similar to what the IRS was doing and look at 2018 grades. She felt taking the money and putting it towards bridges and whatever was doing an undue justice to the children and she preferred they wait and give themselves more time and bring this item back.

Chair Viegbesie said he would be in support of suspending this program this year entirely and play by ear until May and if the State of Emergency has lifted by the President and the Governor and then eventually by the County at a reasonable time, they could see how this pandemic goes.

Commissioner Holt stated she did not have a problem with it staying where it was and looking at the last grades, her concern was if they were put back on any site and any contamination at those sites would be a problem as far as the virus goes whether the President said we could go back to work or not. She continued to talk but was inaudible.

Commissioner Hinson said grades will be available, staff was still working.

Chair Viegbesie asked that this be placed on the Agenda for the first meeting in May.

CLERK OF COURT

15. Updates

Mr. Thomas stated he had no report but was available for questions.

Commissioner Taylor said there were “bumps in the road” with regards to the contract with CRMC and the County. She asked how we paid them going forward with regards to the date of the signed agreement for the next 10 years and if they would be paid back and if all necessities were taken care of with regards to the components of the contract. Mr. Thomas said it was all agreed on; they will be paid on collections through the month of February. Beginning the month of March the new contract will go into effect and they will be paying the Board the \$200,000, 1/12th per month, and in return, they are giving them 1/12th of \$200,000 from the Indigent Tax. He said everything was understood from all parties.

Commissioner Holt said she could hear some of what the Clerk was saying and asked if he could send them an email regarding that.

The Clerk agreed he would send an email regarding that matter.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

16. Updates

Mr. Hall said he received information regarding funding allocations from Senator Lawson’s office with funding allocations contained in the fiscal year 2020/2021 General Appropriation Acts of

Funding Initiatives for Gadsden County. He asked for them to look at it and he met with Teresa Fredericks but because of the virus and the situation, there was a chance the numbers may change.

Chair Viegbesie said he had in hand a Letter of Resignation tendered by the Interim County Administrator and read the letter into the record. He said he would then entertain a motion to accept or reject to take action on the letter he just read.

Commissioner Morgan said they have previously approved the agenda and did not know if they could vote on this since was not on the Agenda; maybe they should address this at a later date.

Mr. Knowles said they could amend the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were amending the Agenda for this item only and Chair Viegbesie stated yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked if he had this at the start of the meeting, why did he wait and Chair Viegbesie said he forgot about the letter at the time.

CHAIR VEIGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION WAS APPROVED 5-0

Commissioner Taylor said she had a few words to say to the Interim Administrator. She said she did not intend for him to leave; her intent was to get his attention. He said she did get his attention. She said she respected his work; he was a great guy and apologized to him. She said that was why she was quitting, why she was getting from up there, but he was good one and wanted to publicly tell him that. She said she did ask that they speak with someone from the Health Department with regard to the virus in the County. She said she knew what had been reported and what had been rumored. She wanted to ask about Stevens School but with what just heard, figured he said "to heck" with Stevens School. She said the deal with the hospital, now that it was underway, that needed to get done. She publicly apologized to him, felt he would have done a great job for the County and hated to see him go.

Chair Viegbesie said whatever action they need to take with regards to a replacement will have to be agendaed for the next meeting for an action item.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Mr. Hall for his service and commended him on his efforts to improve the County.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

17. Updates

Mr. Knowles said he had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had couple of comments.

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a surge of COVID-19 in our area and a possibility of not enough beds to meet the need. He stated it was brought to his attention they could use the hospital in Gadsden County to issue beds to prep (inaudible) to save lives and thought that was good conversation and was not sure how they felt about it.

Chair Viegbesie interjected and said at 1:00 this afternoon there was a conference call with Senator Montford and hospitals were part of conference calls. He said they provided a plan in case there was an outbreak and how the affected citizens would be taken care of. Hospitals was one they talked about along with schools and was being seriously worked on by the medical community at the moment.

Commissioner Hinson said they also need to have discussions with great people like Mr. Hall. He said the problem he had was, they were the largest agency in Gadsden County, the largest City and had City managers making more than the County Manager and they need to look at that. He said they need to see how they could attract better leaders.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan thanked the IT staff on offering them a new way to move forward as they need to.

He also thanked Mr. Hall for his help the last few months and congratulated him on his new job.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

She said to Mr. Hall she was going to put in a motion for him to be permanent Manager and he blew that away and she was disappointed and thanked him for what he has done.

She said there were still problems in the Building Inspection Office, not doing things on time; having to wait for hours to get a CO. She said she received a letter from one person that said they did not want them back on her property again. She said they were also showing up for audits unannounced and staff going to lunch at the same time.

Chair Viegbesie said they could schedule this for a discussion.

Commissioner Hinson said he experienced the same thing last Thursday. He spoke with a lady approximately for 1 ½ hours and she stated she was waiting for someone from the Building Department to return from lunch, was unsure if it was the same case or not. He also experienced in the Lake Yvette area, someone said someone just walked in their house unannounced and said he had the authority to do so. He also spoke with another lady trying to build homes for teachers and was getting roadblocks.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said he was going to be bearer of good news. He has received a check in the amount of \$2,2 Million with regard to the bridges that needed to be repaired and can now start taking care of them.

He said he had a press release from the Gadsden County Branch of NAACP and they are opposing the Governor moving any inmates to Florida State Hospital and read it for the record.

Commissioner Holt said she forgot to mention she had received calls from one of the local companies, there was a walk-out at that company because they heard there were 2 reported positive cases there and she advised them to call Dr. Cooksey and the Health Department and talk with her. She said people need to know they could call 875-7200 option 1 and someone was there to answer the phone 24 hours a day.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney what they should do with regard to NAACP and regards to the safety. Mr. Knowles said they need to ascertain validity of the information first.

Commissioner Holt said her concern was not about that; the public needed to know where to call.

Chair Viegbesie said they would come up with a way to get the word out to the public.

Chair Viegbesie commended the effort of Staff for being innovative for the way of having their meeting during this pandemic.

Commissioner Hinson said also wanted to add if they could, get literature published about testing and if it could be mailed to every household.

Chair Viegbesie said that number changes every day and by the time they mail something, they would be “way late” and would not be effective. He suggested the Administrator could compile the updates and email them to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson said he mainly wanted to send out the CDC guidelines that were in place along with available testing sites and where they were located.

Commissioner Holt said in the past Talquin Electric has sent things out when they sent out utility bills.

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Commissioner Hinson said Talquin did not serve him, he was with the City of Havana and this needed to be taken seriously.

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 7:44 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17,
2020 AT 10:00 A.M. THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Gene Morgan, District 3
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

This meeting was had over audio/conference call during the COVID-19 shutdown.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 10:13 a.m. He asked for a moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard

Chairman Viegbesie said due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this difficult time of uncertainty.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Resolution Update

Chairman Viegbesie said the Resolution had been updated and before them was Resolution 2020-017. He stated there were some changes to the Resolution from 2020-016. The most noticeable changes were the closure of vacation rentals. Vacation rentals in Gadsden County should now be closed. The curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. was still in effect and in addition, a mandatory facemask usage for Gadsden County. (Item Q in the new Resolution) Chairman Viegbesie read aloud Item Q.

Chairman Viegbesie also informed the public there were currently 44 cases in Gadsden County with 2 being out of state.

Commissioner Holt agreed with approving the Resolution and asked for another public reading on Facebook or the media with a PR person.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Mr. Hall to take note of what Commissioner Holt asked and make it happen and Mr. Hall said he would.

Commissioner Holt stated she moved approval if there was a quorum and Chairman Viegbesie stated there was.

Commissioner Taylor stated it was brought to her attention by one of the Registered Nurses that reside in Gadsden County, that the BOCC should look at having customers wear some kind of facial gear. She stated she did hear in the new Resolution that all employees at various businesses were asked to wear a face covering. She was asking customers that visit those businesses wear face coverings as well.

Mr. Knowles asked Commissioner Taylor if she wanted to add, what provision specifically, and asked if it was for people to wear a mask going into stores and Commissioner Taylor said yes. She said she was being told a lot of the patients were coming from people who work in Tallahassee and come to Gadsden County but she did not know that for sure.

Chairman Viegbesie read the mandate for face mask usage again and Commissioner Taylor stated she thought it was for employees only but what she heard from the Chairman was perfect.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON- Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- Y
COMMISSIONER HOLT- Y
CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE- Y**

MOTION PASSED 5-0

2. County Administrator Position

Mr. Hall introduced the next item.

Chairman Viegbesie gave an update of what the Board had attempted to do before this Emergency Meeting and the HR Manager would give an update. Chairman Viegbesie stated the BOCC reached out to Ms. Montgomery, who was previously interviewed, to see if she was still interested and available.

Lonyell Butler, Director of Human Resources, said she reached out to Ms. Montgomery, the top applicant when they were recruiting, to see if she was still interested in the County Administrator position and she advised Ms. Butler she was not interested.

Chairman Viegbesie said he reached out to the immediate past Administrator and had a conversation with her. His first question to her was if there was a lawsuit and she said there was no lawsuit, there was an intent, but never a lawsuit. His other question was if the opportunity came, would she be willing to repay the overtime she was paid and her answer was yes, she

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would be willing to put into her contract a repayment plan for the amount she was paid, which was led to her being ousted. Chairman Viegbesie said that was one option and it was in the hands of the Commission now. He further stated having a County Administrator was a serious emergency since the time for Mr. Hall leaving was coming up quickly.

Commissioner Holt said she was interested in former Commissioner, Ed Dixon. She stated he had more experience than anyone on the Board. She further stated he was a Political Science Major. Another choice was Linwood Herron in Midway, she stated he was a Certified Planner, Grant Writer and former Interim Manager for the County. Commissioner Holt stated normally, when counties were in this position, the Association of Counties would help with their Range Rider program, helping counties when they had a vacancy for a Manager until the County could go back and advertise. She stated a temporary position was probably the better way to go if the position was temporary, until the County could advertise.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Commissioner Morgan, Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Hinson if they had any comments.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Holt to reach out to Florida Association of Counties and he also had a call into them. He stated there was a 2-week window to make the decision. He stated he thought this meeting should just be discussion and next week meet again and move forward with the process. Commissioner Morgan stated one name brought to his attention was Derrick Elias, he was a local citizen who was well versed with County knowledge. He stated the BOCC needed to consider again, how to move forward.

Commissioner Taylor said she had not reached out to anyone and she wanted to keep the present Interim in place since she was the one at fault. She said some of the candidates mentioned were doable and she agreed with Commissioner Morgan saying it should be brought back to discuss further. She wanted names of people that were willing to come and give the County 3-6 months as an Interim. She further stated if she came up with a name, she would send it to the Administrative office or to the Interim County Administrator to be vetted.

Commissioner Hinson dittoed everything said previously by Commissioner Taylor. He wanted to mention Dr. Henry Grant as Interim, he stated Dr. Grant had worked with the County for 30-40 years and had a wealth of knowledge as Interim. Two other people he would entertain, they also had a wealth of experience, were Antonio Jefferson and Robert Presnell. They would understand the community and could help navigate through the pandemic. Out of the names he mentioned he thought Dr. Grant would be the right person until a permanent Administrator was hired.

Chairman Viegbesie said with all names, in his personal position, he was leaning towards using the assistance from FAC to get help to bring someone in immediately. Ms. Montgomery specifically said no because of the cantankerous relationship and turmoil with which the Commission behaves. Chairman Viegbesie further stated the BOCC was a team. He was leaning towards going to FAC and using that program and while there was a temporary Interim County Administrator from FAC appointed, then the job could be advertised to those who met the minimum requirement and who desired to work. The person needed to be living in the County.

Commissioner Hinson said since this was a Regular Meeting, he wanted to give the name Dr. Henry Grant. *(Note: this was an Emergency Meeting)*

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE DR. GRANT AS INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Commissioner Morgan recommended to reach out to FAC to see if they could help put someone in place for Interim and to have another Emergency meeting next Friday. He stated the BOCC needed to know if they could meet the County's time frame for an Interim Manager. He further stated the notice should be written so the applicant knew they would be needed for three months at the most. He had no problem with Dr. Grant for that three-month window but he would like to see the BOCC reach out for more information to FAC that could be discussed next week and the Board could make a decision Friday.

Chairman Viegbesie said there was a meeting next Tuesday and if someone could reach out to FAC before then and have information, this item could be added Tuesday for BOCC discussion, otherwise it would have to wait until the Emergency Meeting Next Friday.

Commissioner Holt said when the County got into an emergency situation for an Administrator, she called FAC the next day and spoke with a couple of people. They told her COVID-19 had them tied up, but they would look to see if they could still provide someone. Also, she thought Tuesday, this item should be an action item in case the Board needed to vote.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR THE POSITION TO BE ADVERTISED TO GET QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AND THE BOCC MEET WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK TO LOOK AT AN INTERIM AND MAKE THIS AN ACTION ITEM WITH A SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER MORGAN.

Commissioner Holt questioned attaching a 3-4-month period to hiring a manager because if someone was found sooner, the County would be paying two people to do the same job?

Commissioner Taylor said all her motion was, was to advertise.

Commissioner Holt said when the position was advertised, a certain length of time was needed to be given in the advertisement as well as the terms of the work.

Commissioner Taylor said to move the question.

Chair Viegbesie stated everyone agreed that the position needed to be advertised immediately.

Commissioner Holt questioned what timeline was going in the advertisement.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Ms. Butler the minimum length of time a position of that category must be advertised for.

Ms. Butler said a regular position 14 days but for the County Administrator position she had always advertised for 30 days.

Chairman Viegbesie asked when would the new person start.

Ms. Butler Lonyell said the process should not take more than 3 months.

Mr. Knowles mentioned the position could be listed as being available "until filled".

Commissioner Holt said if a person was going to leave their job, they need to know what timeframe they would be looking at and the Board was going to be paying for 2 positions.

Commissioner Hinson- Y
Commissioner Taylor- Y
Commissioner Morgan- Y
Commissioner Holt- Y
Chairman Viegbesie- Y

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Chairman Viegbesie asked the Interim Administrator and the HR Manager to get ready a position to be advertised as soon as possible.

Chairman Viegbesie said he understood the County would reach out to FAC and would come back, maybe Tuesday, and at the next emergency meeting Friday.

Commissioner Hinson had a question about the Corona virus. He said his concerns were testing sites, was there anything in place to start identifying sites and if citizens had no health insurance or funding to pay for the test, could Indigent Funds pay for those.

Chairman Viegbesie read information about testing sites that the PIO had on the County website. "The following providers in Gadsden County actively screening for Corona Virus; Persons who are experiencing symptoms, and upon a medical providers discretion, will be offered the screening. I am not aware of any sites offering screening to persons without symptoms. Gadsden County Residents are required to seek their medical providers guidance prior to testing." Asymptomatic individuals were not being tested at the time. Testing Sites are Capital Regional Medical Center, 409 Howard Street, Chattahoochee, 850-663-6463; Capital Regional Medical Center Gadsden Emergency ER Campus, 23186 Blue Star Hwy. Quincy; Dr. Holloman, 223 East Washington Street, Quincy, 850-875-1146; Dr. Newberry, 602 East 5th Ave. Havana; Florida Department of Health, 278 Lasalle Leffall Drive, Quincy, 850-875-7200; Jessie Furlow Medical Center, 1249 Strong road, Quincy, 850-875-9500; Neighborhood Medical Center, 604 5th Ave. East, Havana, 850-539-9800; There was a flyer that said citizens can call 850-743-6070 for Q&A on Corona Virus in Gadsden County, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm." This information was entered into the County Website. Chairman Viegbesie suggested the County Administrator send the sites and information in regards to the guidance as to who and how people were eligible for testing to the Commissioners so they could pass the information on.

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Chairman Viegbesie for that information and said the County Attorney had sent him information. He further stated the issue was the County had an influx of people that did not have a medical provider and asked what could be done regarding that. The County had funded Indigent Care that could help offset costs from people that were not insured. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was possible the money the County had for Indigent Care could go towards paying for all citizens to get tested. He stated there were a couple of restaurants in Havana that was exposed to the Corona Virus. In his opinion, everyone that went to that restaurant needed to be tested because they were exposed. He said the BOCC needed to be proactive. People that went to that restaurant could be at risk and tested along with everyone at SuperValu. He thought the BOCC needed to have meetings every 2-3 days, if not, every week.

Chairman Viegbesie said a request had been made for community wide testing of asymptomatic individuals, and the only response was the Governor, last week, was thinking about approving asymptomatic testing for people in Auburn Counties, starting with Duval and those in the Villages in Central Florida. He said the request was, we are a rural county and we also needed county-wide testing. This is something the FDOH had also been requesting. It was a top order and this will continue to be requested. After all of the testing Gadsden County cases would most likely get higher.

Commissioner Holt said she was going to make the same comments. She stated the Corona Virus impact itself needed to be discussed and whether the impact was on the Agenda or not, the topics were discussed and it was very appropriate. She further stated, 2-3 weeks ago she received call from SuperValu and the first thing she did was called Dr. Cooksey and Dr. Cooksey went out there and spoke with HR. Commissioner Holt stated that Gadsden County needed a Liaison so one statement was going out to the public. Commissioner Holt stated she went to each facility that was named by Chair Viegbesie and asked what the test count was and how many tests they had left and each place shared that information with her. The Health Department was taking those who did not have a Physician, but if you did not have symptoms you still had to go to Tallahassee. The problem was not the opportunity for testing, it was who was going to test a person and getting to Tallahassee for the test. When she called CRMC in Quincy, she asked what the testing policy was and they said you had to be admitted in order to get tested. She further stated that was almost unheard of. She told the Commissioners that needed to be looked at. She stated it was the organization the County had been paying, and their policy for testing was something that needed to be addressed between the County and the Administration at CRMC. She said the County was not being represented well if they had to send the citizens to Tallahassee just to get tested if they were not admitted, at a location that had already received funding for Indigent Care for patients. The people at SuperValu and Chattahoochee Hospital, along with others, want to know if the County was going to support them. She further stated the issue was much more than just having a Resolution. She stated this was a serious situation.

Commissioner Morgan said everyone was concerned with the health and wellbeing of the community. He stated he was going to make a couple of cautionary comments and stated he did not think it was appropriate for the BOCC to start driving someone else's bus, particularly, our health care facilities. He thought they had done a tremendous job in response. The BOCC had clear communication from Dr. Cooksey and her staff. Daily updates were provided. He further stated, one thing to keep in mind when talking about testing, the costs of testing and those types of things, He said he was unaware of anyone who would be turned away from being tested because of cost, from the information he had been given. In addition, he said, to make sure it was understood, there was screening, CRMC was not going to test someone without going through a screening process. As time goes on things will change and testing will change. He said he did not think the BOCC needed to create controversy that were not there. He ended saying he had another meeting and needed to leave.

Chairman Viegbesie agreed and stated the BOCC should not be creating atmosphere of fear based on what they feel. He said he was in conversation with the Senator and Governor and he directly sent them requests the BOCC wanted done, what Florida State Hospital and Gadsden County Prison, and was in contact with Department of Children and Families, as well as Robert

Debose, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse for DCF. He further stated not to create an environment that would generate more fear and divisiveness among the citizens, but work together talking with one voice.

Commissioner Holt said this was a pandemic, not a social issue. She stated there were five people on the BOCC who failed to act when people were calling in every day, and when things got too hot in the room, they jumped up and go home. She said this was not controversy, it was people's lives. She talked with Dr. Cooksey every day and had called every Representative and Senator Scott's office and put those numbers on Facebook. She further stated that the Indigent Care money was put into CRMC for people to be serviced, not to be turned away. She stated the citizens and herself would like to see some representation from the BOCC. Three people from SuperValu called her this morning. They had a walk out because they were afraid that they were going to get contaminated. Community testing could be requested from the BOCC for this area. She stated the BOCC needed to take action and people who were paying the ½ cent tax and could not get the test from an organization right here in this County. She further stated she did not care if the County did not get another road, another bridge, or another nothing because if the people were dying, what sense did it make. She ended saying she needed some action!

Commissioner Hinson thanked Commissioner Holt for her passionate words. He said people have called him from all over, Chattahoochee to Georgia. He was asked if the employers checked temperatures of employees and they would know what was going on, that was one option. Also, he was asked if the County Commissioner could declare a quarantine to give Gadsden County residents paid leave.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Commissioner Hinson to slow down and make his statement clearer. He said the Family First Bill, unless local Government declares quarantine, was the only way people could get paid leave.

Chairman Viegbesie asked him to forward that to the County Attorney and County Administrator so they could further explore it. He said he would.

Commissioner Hinson further stated he had paid for masks individually to be distributed throughout the community. He suggested to the BOCC that they meet again on Monday and get more dialog to convey to the constituents. If there was a meeting Monday, Wednesday and Friday there could be more updates put out there.

Chairman Viegbesie said each Commissioner had their own approach to issues and he did not think a single commissioner was not concerned about safety and health of citizens in this County. He stated he had written many letters to many Constitutional Officers with concern to this pandemic. He asked the Commissioners to work together to make sure they were upholding the oath of office they had all taken. He stated he had met with the County Administrator and the County Attorney almost daily to discuss what needed to be done in regards to getting the upper level government to respond to our County. We need to respect our home rule when it comes to what the Board did.

Commissioner Holt wanted to talk about supplies and masks. She stated If the County had a liaison, they could get the information out. Concerning Commissioner Hinson's statement, she said she was also contacted, and the person said that their employer told them that they would have to be in quarantine in order for them to receive any sick pay, even though the employer was telling them to go home.

Chairman Viegbesie said to let the County Attorney investigate and the County Administrator would do the appropriate thing in regards to that. He further stated in regards to masks, when looking into imposing the mandate, Dr. Cooksey explored ways to distribute masks to the citizens of Gadsden County and our website may need a demonstration on how to use a regular t-shirt or something to make their own.

Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker stated a bandana could be used if they did not have access to make a mask.

Mr. Knowles wanted to clarify some of the uncertainties and stated facemasks were to be worn in public. He would encourage people to go to their local law enforcement with any questions about the Resolution. He further stated the CDC Guidelines were added to the Website and he would look up the Family First Bill.

Commissioner Hinson said he was trying to be proactive and save lives at the same time. He stated the BOCC needed to be positive and stay on track. One thing he was thinking about was to get in touch with the Sheriff's Department because they had a lot of folks in large crowds and thought maybe the County could get emergency funding to hire people to patrol an area and their job would be to call the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Viegbesie stated when it came to enforcement, the Sheriff was on-board and was using guardians and volunteers to enforce the Resolution. He stated the BOCC, as citizens, should have their own individual responsibilities for the City. They knew the disease had no respect for people and therefore he did not go to anyone's church knowing the virus could harm him. He further stated the Sheriff was doing the best he could and was using resources to enforce the restrictions that the CDC had for the safety of all citizens. He asked that every concern was passed to the County Administrator because the Commissioners could not call each other in order to stay in the "Sunshine Rules."

COUNTY ATTORNEY

3. UPDATES

MOTION TO ADJOURN

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE CALLED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:50 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, Ph.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 21, 2020 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
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 6:04 p.m. and explained under the emergency situation, they were handling the meeting under a different approach.

He asked everyone to bow their heads and the Invocation was given by Rev. Jeffery Jackson, First Baptist Church, Quincy, FL. The Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

At this time, Commissioner Taylor attempted to phone in by calling the Deputy Clerk’s cell phone, the call was missed and the call was returned to her. She stated the log-in to ZOOM was not working for her and she was on her way in.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hall said the next item was Amendments and Approval of the Agenda and he would like to add Item 10a Appointment to the Governor’s “Re-Open Florida Task Force”.

Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:17 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

THE AGENDA WAS APPROVED WITH A 5-0 VOTE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

There were none.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

BOARD APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA 5-0

1. Ratification Memo
2. CR 161 Point Milligan Road-Design Services Bid Award
3. CR 161 Point Milligan Road-Design Services Task Order
4. Pat Thomas Pier-Bid Award
5. CR 65 Attapulugus Highway Design Service-Bid Award
6. CR 65 Attapulugus Highway-Design Service Task Order
7. Cooks Landing Road SCOP-Bid Award
8. Tolar White Road SCOP-Bid Award

8a.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hall said the next item was Approval of the Minutes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND THE SECOND WAS MADE BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

9.
 - a. January 7, 2020-Regular Meeting
 - b. November 19, 2019-Building Department Workshop
 - c. December 3, 2019-Legal Applicants Interview of BOCC

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Viegbesie said due to Corona Virus COVID19 and the efforts of BOCC to continue practice of social distancing, Commissioners still want to continue to hear from citizens under Citizens Requesting to be Heard Section on the Agenda and ask they email to the County at CitizenstobeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and they wish to thank everyone for patience and flexibility during this time of uncertainty.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

10. Appointments to the Tourist Development Council

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it sought to appoint one citizen to serve a four-year term on the Tourist Development Council. He further stated this item was before the Board at the June 18, 2019 Board meeting and the Board tabled this item and the TDC was requesting to move forward with the appointment of John Garcia to one of the vacant Bed Tax positions.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VVIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

10a. Appointment to the Governor’s “Re-open Florida Task Force”

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to select Commissioner Gene Morgan as the Representative from Gadsden County to serve on the Re-Open Florida Task Force. He stated Florida Governor Ron DeSantis appointed nearly two dozen lawmakers and business leaders to form a task force to work on re-opening the state’s economy. This task force would create a short, medium and long-term recommendations for reopening the state after weeks of shutdown due to the coronavirus outbreak. There will also be subcommittees that would report to the executive committee. He added there was no fiscal impact.

Chair Viegbesie said before they discuss, he gave a background as to how this came to be and said he had a Speaker Form that was requested be read into record. He added this was not a done deal and was contingent upon the Governor’s approval. He added when the motion is made, the contingency should be added. He said he was having a conversation with Staff at the Governor’s office and conversation came up with regards to the opening of Florida and the Governor forming a task force and the Chair said he wanted Gadsden County to be at the table, at least on one of the committees or subcommittee or on the task force itself. In conversation it was asked who and he mentioned Commissioner Morgan.

He then said he had a Speaker Request Form from Sam Palmer, President of Gadsden County NAACP and Chair V read following statement into record.

- “On behalf of the NAACP, we oppose the appointment of Commissioner Morgan to the Task Force;
- Not political;
- Not personal;
- Want the safety, health and welfare of the citizens to be the primary concern;
- His comments that he agrees with the Administrator of Florida State Hospital of their action;
- His claim that misinformation was being put out which was false;
- Recommend that the Board select someone that best represent our values;
- We realize that the final decision will be Governor DeSantis.”

Chair Viegbesie said that was Mr. Palmer’s comment of opposition of appointment that he read into record.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the opportunity to be nominated to that Committee but based on information he just read there was obviously those that were not comfortable with his appointment; he withdrew his name from consideration.

Commissioner Holt nominated Dr. Viegbesie. Chair Viegbesie thanked her for her vote of confidence but felt he “had too many pots and not enough burners to put them on”.

Commissioner Taylor said in light of comments that have been made, felt they got the cart before horse and asked where they were? She said there had been no dialogue about it. Is representation there to uphold Reopen Florida? Would they be representing the Board and the County? Chair Viegbesie said this was not the conversation he was there to converse on, but felt Gadsden County needed to have representation there and was why he was bringing this before Board and that was the name that came to him for appointment. Commissioner Taylor said her comment was not to approve, but more of what would they have power to do; they need to go with voice of what Board and County want them to say.

Chair Viegbesie said there were three options, to approve him, not approve; or direction of the Board and that meant if the Board wanted to approve someone from the community, that was the direction of the Board. Now it was in the hands of this Board.

Commissioner Holt said the Governor appointed to lot of Boards throughout the State. She said Florida was going to open sooner or later and it was better to be at the table than on the table. This board has an opportunity to get with that person, whoever that individual was, and give them ideas and suggestions either through the Manager or at a meeting, but this committee would take place and it would be better to have representation there. She said if they were fortunate enough to be selected, then that means they would have input and they definitely need a person on there.

COMMISSIONER HOLT NOMINATED COMMISSIONER HINSON. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID THEY SHOULD DISCUSS AND VET THIS TOGETHER. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Morgan said they may be premature in what they were trying to accomplish, maybe they should table this item.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION TO TABLE PASSED 5-0

CLERK OF COURT

11. Updates

Mr. Thomas stated he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Taylor asked about his email concerning raises, when were they given. Mr. Thomas said his office received notice of them on Friday and he forwarded that to them for their information.

Commissioner Holt asked the Manager if the security people were being paid to the end of the meeting or when everyone had left the building and they were able to lock up and leave. Mr. Hall stated they were being paid to the end of the meeting plus 30 minutes to clear the building. Commissioner Holt said she was told there was problems with them being paid.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

12. Updates

Mr. Hall thanked each Board member for the opportunity to serve, it was a humbling and rewarding opportunity to serve and thanked Staff for their support. He gave a humble thank you and said it had been a wonderful experience.

Chair Viegbesie commended him for his dedication and service to the people of the County. He wished him success in all he does.

Commissioner Taylor said she liked him a long time ago. With regard to the raises; two were elevated to new permanent positions. She had a fiscal question, being she was responsible for the fiscal status of the County. She said "know a couple of them must have received at least 3-4 raises within the last year and half. At the beginning of this fiscal year, we all cried that there were constraints in place and that we needed to honor those constraints and obviously when you have constraints in place, you don't do raises. People begin to multi-task and get the job

done until we can get to a level because there were a number of programs that was cut under the premises that there were budget constraints. Because we've given out, my God, over a \$1 Million in raises from my understanding. So, your position on that, there were at least 20 people, 15-20 people that received raises?"

Mr. Hall asked from him, over \$1 Million?

Commissioner Taylor said "No, no, no, not from you, No Sir. I'm saying maybe, probably over the last 2 ½ - 3 years that money has gone through our coffers. You may attest. I think that number came out, but it was pretty close because it was some significant raises given during certain period. Were we losing people, were we giving double work, the one I want to hear, did we get a, what is it, a landfall, or, what is that thing called?"

Chair Viegbesie said a windfall.

Commissioner Taylor said "A windfall, where there was ample money came in so we could do some other things, I mean...I'm trying to figure this out. I hope I haven't put you on the spot."

Mr. Hall said they had a very prudent year, cut back on a lot of spending and a lot of people did a lot of jobs, doubled up on jobs and many of those people that had raises and felt it would boost morale. He said he always felt if you appreciated the job someone did, show it. He felt fiscally, they were in a much better position than they were a year ago and he took the opportunity to simply reward some people for a job well done. She said she could appreciate that and would not go any further and hoped they could continue to support the budget. She then asked if they were close to getting the bridges fixed that the Governor gave them funding for and he said yes, they should be starting construction in next few weeks. She asked about Stevens School. Mr. Hall said he had talked with Mr. Meeks and it was a priority for him; they have set a target for June but has been moved because of certain things that have gone on-hopefully by the Fall. They have the kitchen to do, the ceiling and floor. Chair Viegbesie said at the last meeting, he delivered the check to the Clerk from the Governor for the bridges.

Clerk Thomas appeared before the Board and said the check was for \$2.2 Million and was deposited, when they awarded the contract for Hutchinson Ferry, it was for \$1.6 Million and he has not seen costs estimates for Little River and assumed it would be just as much. He added he knew they expected money back for the paving and wanted to caution them until they knew what the costs were, if money for Little River runs more, there may be no money to give back. Mr. Hall said Little River should run much less; it should run somewhere around \$600,000-\$800,000. He added the issue with Hutchinson Ferry was with piling where the water ran through. The Clerk restated he had not seen figures for Little River and wanted to make sure that was covered.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator to share with everyone the collaboration with the municipalities with regard to the masks.

Mr. Hall said regarding masks, he got with Captain Collins and found where they could order at a cost of approximately \$1.25 per mask and they were ordering several thousand and the cost would be \$5900.00. He said an email was sent to each of the municipalities to inquire the

number they would like and an order will be placed tomorrow and Captain Collins will get the target date of when they could expect them.

Chair Viegbesie said the amount of money that was mentioned was not all from the County, each municipality has contributed to that total and was a collaborative effort.

Commissioner Taylor said when they came up with the rule regarding masks when entering the stores; how do they implement that other than saying it in their meetings. Do they meet with law enforcement, send a courtesy letter to vendors or let it go the way it's going? She walked in one store and saw where a deputy wasn't wearing a mask and was concerned and said to the individual it was a mandate from the Board and he went into the biblical sense of I, God has the last word and why He put a brain between our ears so we choose right from wrong. She said she heard from the Health Coordinator, Dr. Cooksey, indicate that supplies and equipment would be far and few between because the County being a rural area and we may be on lower end of receiving. If we don't curb this virus, we aren't going to have equipment for it either so her question was, what were we doing as a Board, with regard to law enforcement agencies, to get the message to the vendor, friendly and not forceful, to enforce this.

Mr. Hall said he was getting a conference call together with all the municipalities and will see the best approach to make sure it was enforced without embarrassing or causing undue hardship.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad they were having this discussion. In the early 2000's the Board set up the Health Council. Dr. Cooksey and other health care providers are on the council. This was things that needs to get to them.

Chair Viegbesie gave an update-CRMC is a for-profit hospital that the County has a contract with. He said he was made to understand they will not test anyone unless that person was admitted. He got in touch with Alan Keese at CRMC and they were working on making testing available to the citizens to be tested without being admitted. There will be drive-through testing for asymptomatic individuals using the canopy at the hospital. The Chair said he suggested having service in Quincy, Chattahoochee and Havana and was told they did not have the capability in Havana and Chattahoochee to do the testing because of the lack of a fax lines and ways of transferring the specimens.

Commissioner Taylor wanted clarity; was that something they were working towards? Chair Viegbesie said it would be no later than next week at the Quincy campus.

Commissioner Holt asked if was to be done by the Health Department and he said by CRMC. She said she also received a call they may have a drive through facility in Tallahassee. Commissioner Holt asked if a person was asked to be self-quarantined, would they be required to use their paid time off, i.e., sick leave or any of that. Holt told them she was unsure if they worked for a private company, was up to their company's policy. Mr. Hall said that was an HR question and he will inquire tomorrow.

She said she also received a call about the Chamber's assistance with \$250 for persons that were laid off. She said with supplies, contact the Health Council and let them know and maybe they could help fill in as well.

Commissioner Hinson said he posed a question last week about declaring Gadsden County as a quarantine county. Mr. Knowles said there was other criteria necessary for that that did not qualify here.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

13. Updates

Mr. Knowles said he had nothing to report unless there were questions for him.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were going to meet on Friday to extend the State of Emergency Resolution? Chair Viegbesie said they agreed to have a public meeting on Friday to discuss the County Administrator position on Friday. He said the advertisement was already out. Commissioner Morgan said they were having the meeting Friday to extend the State of Emergency Resolution. Chair Viegbesie asked what he meant and Mr. Knowles stated it was the one that was renewed every seven days. Chair Viegbesie said they could meet and discuss depending on what the Governor's Executive Orders were between then and Friday. Commissioner Morgan said he thought they had already planned on having that along with discussing the County Administrator position, was that what they were planning to do? Commissioner Morgan stated maybe he was jumping the gun. He said his comment would be regarding changes they made last Friday regarding the mandate for the masks. He said he had received several calls and asked the attorney to comment on same. He thought maybe they should "strongly recommend" the mask wearing.

Mr. Knowles said every week they review all the Governor's Executive Orders and if there is something they want to alter or amend, it was at the pleasure of the Board, they could address that. His recollection about the meeting on Friday was that it was specifically going to address the County Administrator position but he was at the mercy of the Board. He said he had received several inquiries about the mask requirement and thought he could clarify that a little more on Friday. He said the main question he has been getting is where they are required, as far as the Resolution is concerned, more concerned with specific public spaces and specific restaurants, pharmacies and grocery stores, the businesses that see a lot of individuals in and subject to the community-based spread. The question was asked why some are not wearing masks here and some of the reason was because people cannot hear them talking and they were maintaining the social distancing that they promulgated to make sure they abided by their own rules. We not involved with enforcement of Resolution, we left up to local law enforcement agencies and municipalities and BOCC does not have necessary authority to tell them how to do it, it is a second-degree misdemeanor, up to \$500 fine, up to 6 months in jail. He added they were not involved in the enforcement but preferred. The mandate was for anytime you were outside of your house in public spaces where members of the public may congregate that may also be subject to community based (Inaudible). He said that was a lot of the questions he had been getting and in the long run, the goal was to ensure the health and safety of the citizens of the County.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the attorney for his comments. He asked if the Board had the power and authority to enforce.

Mr. Knowles said the Governor issued two specific Orders that specifically dealt with what municipalities and Counties could and could not do and as long as they did not do anything that the Governor said they could not do, we have the authority pursuant to Florida Statutes to do what needs to be done to protect the health and safety of the County up to and including mandating wearing masks; establishing a curfew and any other reasonably necessary health measures that might tend to slow the spread and keep people safe. He said as they move forward, they will have to address concerns. He added he did not think they were running afoul of the Governors Orders. He did not think they were in a position where they could speculate and say this did not run afoul and this does, this does not run afoul.

Commissioner Taylor said the only comments she heard in the community was they mandated it, for them to help them get masks and the quality of masks. People want to be safe and they needed to lead by example.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

14. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked Mr. Hall for his time here in the County. He had questions that was asked by citizens.

Regarding the Corona Virus Relief Act, how many residents in Gadsden County that own small business have received stimulus relief payments from Capital City Bank or any other bank and if possible, share the amount of loans. Mr. Hall said they would have to do research. Commissioner Hinson said the issue was a citizen had almost \$1 Million in one of the banks in the County and had a hard time getting in contact with the bank and had to go to another bank to get assistance.

He asked the timeline in repairing the bridge in Midway. Mr. Hall said he will get timeline from the Director and get with him tomorrow.

He asked the timeline for refurbishing the road between Midway and Quincy. The Board approved that approximately a year ago, High Bridge Road. Mr. Hall said he would get an answer tomorrow on that as well.

He said there was a concern about someone that purchased a vehicle and cannot change the title for the vehicle. He said the husband cannot work now because they cannot get the title changed. Chair Viegbesie said that was something he was dealing with himself and the dealership could not apply for tag either, could not even get a temporary tag.

He said he also wanted to petition to add all non-profits and churches to purchase masks. Pastor Gregory James and Pastor Morris were also helping.

He commended the Board for talking about this. He asked they continue speaking positive, people did not need to see them speaking negative.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan had no comments.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt thanked Mr. Hall, thought he was the second best they have had; he had a calming personality and came up with innovative ideas. She thanked the community for doing a good job.

She wanted to make sure they take advantage of the Health Council.

She reminded the Board there still were concerns in the Building Department. After the recession, they still need to close out projects.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said people were asking about the bridge on Hutchinson Ferry Road. Mr. Hall said they should see movement in 2-3 weeks. She said people were asking about the railroad crossing on Shady Rest Road and asked for a timeline. She said there was a comment about a young lady that was making masks for senior citizens. She asked to confirm the time of the meeting Friday and was told 10:00 am. She also asked for "layman's terms" for the language for the masks.

Mr. Knowles said he will try to make language clearer and will send an email out.

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

Chair Viegbesie said to stay safe, stay healthy, maintain social distance and keep Gadsden County safe.

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 7:50 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 24, 2020 AT
10:00 A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Gene Morgan, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 10:02; asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadscdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Resolution Update

Mr. Knowles stated there has been no new additional Executive Orders from the Governor. He said as was discussed Tuesday night, they can keep the mask mandate as is, revert back to Resolution 20-16 language or make clearer and make it less restrictive.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought where they were now and with no new Executive Orders from the Governor, all they would do was update the Resolution for another seven days and have been concerns of mandatory wearing of face masks, it has been suggested to make it voluntary. He asked the Commission if they wanted to recommend, they make it voluntary instead of mandatory. He also said as of today, there are 62 positive cases in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Morgan said the simplest way to do this was to strongly recommend in Section Q to replace the word “mandate” with the words “strongly recommend”.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE WORD IN SECTION Q FROM MANDATE TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTLY STATED AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

She said she did not think the Board should flip-flop; it was obvious the community was looking to them for guidance. She thought there was directions given to the attorney to come back with language so citizens could better understand the intent of the Board. She said she did not know if they needed to have a meeting to give him particular language. She added she did not want to take away the mandatory language but wanted citizens to understand better the importance.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the request of the Board was to have some talking points that simplified the legal language on the Resolution so they could better convey to the citizens and thought the attorney was still working on that. He added he thought he was going to give them bullet points that they can be given to citizens so they may better understand the intent.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE STATED THE MOTION WAS TO KEEP THE RESOLUTION THE SAME AND CALLED FOR THE VOTE. VOTE WAS TAKEN BY ROLL CALL.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Chair Viegbesie wanted to update the Commission on a plan they were working on as a County. He stated they were working with CRMC to provide drive-thru testing to both symptomatic and asymptomatic as well as those that have doctor notices for residents of the County. He stated he had a letter drafted working with Dr. Cooksey from the Health Department and all interested partners and it will go to Secretary Chad Poppell, Secretary of Department of Children and Family, the Governor's Office, Senator Ramon Alexander, and the Assistant Secretary of Drug Abuse and Mental Health, who was the Secretary on the grounds in Gadsden County working with them. He said they were asking them for preliminary 1,500 test kits and a possible increase as they have the need for more and the primary operational period will be between May 1 – May 30 for three days a week for 4 hours a day.

Commissioner Morgan said he was in support and asked if the letter would be on behalf of the Board or from him. He said it would be from the Board. Commissioner Morgan asked if, in the future he was going to send something out on behalf of the entire Board, he would like the opportunity to review and have input before letters go out.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood, but in the state of emergency, what they needed to do...

Commissioner Morgan stated he could send out an email ahead of time and it was agreed.

Commissioner Hinson said he had questions from the community.

Could a base testing process be created to minimize the different groups at testing facilities at one time-like seniors at one time, first responders, essential workers on different days.

Could a command center be created in each community? He added he would love to add Midway to that group.

Chair Viegbesie said they were requesting drive-through or walk-up testing. He said initially they requested one in Chattahoochee and Havana and was told because the other places did not have the equipment to transfer the specimens, such as fax machines, etc. the only place available was the canopy at the hospital. He said also, in answer to his first question, any group that wanted to come in, first responders, County emergency personnel and did not think to specify a certain day for certain groups would be effective.

Commissioner Hinson said he valued what constituents asked and relayed the information back to the Board because he valued what they said. He said if they met as a Board, talked about it as a Board other than one person, they might could come up with better ideas.

He asked if at-risk groups, seniors, people with compromised immune systems, etc., be provided masks and gloves. He knew they purchased masks and was unsure how they would be distributed but they need to take care of the seniors.

Chair Viegbesie said when it came to distribution of masks, Commissioner Taylor had also brought that up. He asked Mr. Hall what plan he had in place with regards to the distribution.

Mr. Hall said 300 masks will go to each district/Commissioner for distribution to the citizens and the rest would be available thru Dr. Cooksey and at the Health Department for distribution.

Chair Viegbesie said 3,000 have been ordered; 300 to each Commissioner and 1,500 would be available at the Department of Health and understand municipalities have ordered their own in addition to the County.

Commissioner Hinson said also stores that were open for business needed to clean their carts after each use. Chair Viegbesie responded that was the CDC recommendation and the County has been wiping down doors, etc. on a regular basis.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to the Resolution, she thought they were looking at things county-wide as opposed to just the Governmental office. She said whether Walmart, Winn-Dixie etc. was wiping down buggies on a routine basis. She said she knew when going into one of the local grocery stores, they were out of the sanitizer to do the buggies. She said she did not know if the Board had the whether all to place some language in place to various vendors that the items that were being commonly used by the customers are being sanitized in between use. She was told they were being sprayed down and was not sure how effective that was as opposed to the wipes that was in place initially. She wondered if they could put some language in place to strongly encourage vendors to do so.

Mr. Knowles asked if that was something that they did want to add. He said some grocery stores were doing this already.

Commissioner Taylor said commonly used areas, such as doors where soft drinks are housed, etc., should be wiped down often.

Mr. Knowles said he was a little confused as to **WHO** they were asking to do such. There may be a retail store with little foot traffic; there may be confusion or concern among citizens about a specific subset.

Commissioner Taylor said if someone had foot traffic in their door, it did not matter. They needed to have a way to wipe down after someone was there.

Chair Viegbesie said they may have to come back today to re-approve the Ordinance or Resolution.

Commissioner Holt said she thought they could give businesses the opportunity to do this without it being in a Resolution; they could strongly encourage them to get this done. She said she understood, this was private businesses and wanted to help them.

Commissioner Hinson said that concluded his questions.

Chair Viegbesie said he had heard directions he has sought in direction as Chair. During this state of Emergency, the BOCC empowered the Chair with the following powers and one was to take action on behalf of BOCC as long as it relates to the emergency the County was in. He said it was not something he made up or something he was doing because he was Chair, it was pursuant to Chapter 2, Article 2, Division 2, Section 2-42(f) of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances. He stated they were acting in accordance with the Code they passed.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated his efforts he had put forth during this challenging time, but his simple point was, anything sent out on behalf of the Board, there was no reason why it could not come to them prior to it going out.

Commissioner Holt said she had been in his situation three different times and could understand both sides of the issue. She said he could send things out to them early, and then no-one could say they did not know. She said the reason she brought it up about the Health Council the other night, they were doing these things, you're doing those things, the Health Council is doing other things, Dr. Cooksey is doing things; that was why she said they needed to get together. She said Chair Viegbesie was doing what needed to be done.

Chair Viegbesie said everything has been sent out through the Administrator's office.

2. County Administrator Position

Chair Viegbesie said they all know where they are with the current Administrator and his last day is May 4th. After that they will no longer have a "quarterback".

Chair Viegbesie announced the HR Manager has advertised the position and the search was on. He said with Commissioner Holt being the longest serving Commissioner and the one that has had the longest relationship with FAC, asked her to work with FAC to find a temporary interim.

Commissioner Holt said she called FAC and they contacted the Administrative Association, which was a subsidiary of FAC and they were negotiating then with Vince Long, the County Manager in Leon County, to come work with Gadsden temporarily. She has not talked with him herself.

Chair Viegbesie said other alternatives they could consider as long they do not step away from criteria needed to be in that position.

He asked if they wanted to explore what they have heard from FAC or wanted to begin to discuss different options on what path to take with regards to getting a temporary Interim.

Commissioner Holt said they all had ideas as to who they thought would make a good interim. Even if they advertise, she thought it would require more money for the salary.

Mr. Knowles said Ms. Butler had an update.

Ms. Butler said she spoke with the FAC representative directly this morning and received an email. She indicated in the email conversation there had been conversation made with Vince Long and no feedback back had been received; they were also reaching out to retired County Managers to see if anyone was interested in assisting on the interim basis. There has not been any feedback received on that either. They did indicate they would call this morning at 11:00 but had yet to hear back from her.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 10:56 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said they were aggressively exploring. He asked in the meanwhile, did they want to wait until FAC had their meeting today?

Ms. Butler also mentioned FAC has assisted in the past of a County Administrator and she has that booklet and was willing to share that with the Commissioners. She added there was a cost associated with the recruitment process and they would screen and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 10:57 a.m.

Chair Viegbesie asked the costs and she said it would be \$5,000.

Chair Viegbesie said for them to conclude the conversation on working with FAC.

Commissioner Hinson moved to approve Dr. Henry Grant as the Interim County Administrator.

Chair Viegbesie said before they throw out names, for them to first decide what they wanted to do with working with FAC.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Butler from the previous services from FAC on the same issue, as a result of that process what came to fruition from that. Ms. Butler said they previously provided that service, provided updates, reviewed the applications, the County went through the interview phase of the applicants they recommended and was presented to the Board. Commissioner Morgan asked if that person was hired from the recommendation. Ms. Butler stated no-one was hired through that process. Commissioner Morgan said they paid \$5,000, went through the process and nothing resulted from that. Ms. Butler said that was correct; they went through the process, FAC did everything that was in the guidelines for the recruitment, completed the entire process, they provided the County with the recommended names of applicants to interview and the County did that. It was left up to the Board if they wanted to hire the top applicant and that did not happen. Commissioner Morgan said he saw the benefit of going through FAC and thought they would do a great job, but thought it would take a commitment from the Board if they did go through that process that they would let that play out and make a selection from those candidates, if they could all agree that the candidates fit the bill.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Butler the person they got from the Range Rider program, he worked until they got a permanent Administrator. She said they were able to get someone to fill in that gap but at that time they had an Assistant Administrator. They need time to find someone that wants a permanent job. She asked what length of time were they talking about with the Range Rider program. Ms. Butler said she thought the Range Rider program was offered through ICMA and not FAC. Commissioner Holt asked even if they did \$5,000, what were they looking at timewise?

Ms. Butler said according to the timeline sent to her, their recommendation was the position be advertised for 4-6 weeks. The position was currently being advertised for 4 weeks; once the position closes, it indicates the applications would be forwarded to them for review and screening and a recommendation would be sent back and was talking about an additional 4-6 weeks after the position closed. Commissioner Holt said they were talking about a permanent manager. Ms. Butler said yes. Commissioner Holt said she was talking about the Range Rider Program for the Interim, they were talking about two different programs. Ms. Butler said she did not have information on the Range Rider program.

Chair Viegbesie said now that they have found where they are, his personal take was, and may not be popular but felt what they, as a body, needed to consider and sometimes during the times of emergencies they need to do what they need to do. He further stated they had a County Administrator that hired the Interim County Administrator that everyone was regretting that was leaving and the individual was one that had actually been here, knew the Department and worked with staff. He added if they wanted someone to hit the ground running as their temporary Interim Administrator until they completed the search for a permanent Administrator, they should consider Dee Jackson if she had the time to be able to come in and do what she could do with them temporarily until they were able to get a permanent County Administrator. He said personally, they need to look at and did not know what the individual Commissioners thought of that, as long as they took their individual personalities and idiosyncrasies out of it and consider the smooth transition in the government, he thought that would be the path for them to follow.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to put things in point of order. She said two very significant issues were out there. The first concern was if they should do the agreement with FAC. She said her position was they have an HR Department that can do the job as far as advertising and they do not have to spend \$5,000. She said her position with regards to going through FAC to find a permanent Administrator was, she was not in support of that, HR could help with finding someone. She said prior to his motion he put on the floor; Commissioner Hinson also put a motion on the floor.

Chair Viegbesie said his was not a motion because the Chair cannot put motions on the floor according to Robert's Rules. Commissioner Taylor said she stood corrected and wanted things in order and not too many things out there; not that she disagreed with what he said.

Chair Viegbesie said the most pressing thing was to get a temporary interim to fill the gap.

Commissioner Morgan felt it might be better to decide on an Interim to fill the gap until they could go through the process of completing the advertising, interviews, selections, etc., and that person would not be one to fill the permanent position.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt Dr. Grant would be an excellent candidate for Interim and explained he worked with Gadsden County for 30+ years, was the brainchild behind the GCDC, was the brainchild behind refurbishing the Livestock Pavilion, even came back after his retirement and helped support that task, he has a strong relationship with the farmers and has a strong relationship with the community.

COMMISSIONER HINSON STATED HIS NOMINATION WAS DR. HENRY GRANT AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they could add a name to the list and was not in favor if they were Interim that they could not apply to be permanent and she wanted to add another name.

Chair Viegbesie said he was not an attorney but if the attorney thought that was a wrong procedure, then he could say so. He thought in every organization when it came to nominations for election or appointment to a position, there was always the chance for multiple names and each was voted on with a motion and second.

Commissioner Morgan said his point was if there was another name to consider, they could add that to the discussion before they voted on the motion on the floor.

Commissioner Taylor said it would probably knock a few people over but she concurred with the Chair given that they needed to find someone to hit the ground running.

Commissioner Morgan asked who and Commissioner Taylor said she had not put a name out there yet; she was agreeing with what Chair Viegbesie had said.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SHE WAS GOING TO PUT DEE JACKSON'S NAME OUT AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID HE WOULD SECOND THAT.

Mr. Knowles said the other motion was still on the floor and asked if they could deal with that and then the other.

Chair Viegbesie said for them to call the names and to vote on Dr. Grant and then vote on the other. If Dr. Grant got all the votes needed, then he becomes, if not then will go to the next. He said this was just a process. He added they had the motion and second for Dee Jackson and if they wanted to add another name, they could do that and vote on them. He then said he saw that the attorney looked uncomfortable.

Mr. Knowles said his concern was to take them orderly in voting because they had the motion and second of Commissioner Hinson, take it up or down and if that does not, however it went, then take Commissioner Taylor's recommendation. He said there were two motions and two seconds out there. Chair Viegbesie said they were going through nominations; they had a nomination of Dr. Grant and the nomination was not final.

Commissioner Morgan said he believed Commissioner Hinson had a motion and a second on the floor and he called the question.

Chair Viegbesie said he believed it was a nomination of Dr. Grant and Commissioner Morgan said he did not take it as that.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Deputy Clerk what the nomination was for, for appointment or...

The Deputy Clerk said "He said he nominated Dr. Henry Grant as his motion".

Chair Viegbesie said that was what he heard, that was his nomination. He then said the Deputy Clerk said, based on what her records said and she heard, was "a motion to nominate Dr. Grant as the person what we are looking for and the second came from Commissioner Holt. So that was a nomination and the second to the nomination. That's my understanding Commissioner Morgan".

Commissioner Morgan said Commissioner Hinson was there, for them to ask him.

Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Hinson his intent.

Commissioner Hinson said "My intent was to move, make Henry Grant the Interim County Administrator."

Chair Viegbesie said "So it was not a nomination."

Commissioner Morgan stated that was what he heard. Commissioner Hinson stated that was his intent.

Chair Viegbesie told the Deputy Clerk "I think that would be something you need to put down as what Commissioner Hinson's intents were, not what we were..."

Deputy Clerk stated "I've got that as his motion..."

Chair Viegbesie said that was his motion and asked Commissioner Holt what was her second. Commissioner Holt stated that was her second to his motion.

Chair Viegbesie asked what was his motion that she seconded, the nomination or the appointment.

Commissioner Holt asked why they were picking through this, they said this was his motion and she seconded his motion.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion and a second to appoint Dr. Grant as the temporary Interim. He said now before he carried the motion, did the conditions that Commissioner Morgan expressed that this person would not apply for this position, is that part of the consideration of this particular motion, or not.

Commissioner Taylor said it did not matter to her who applied, it should be open to anyone that wanted to apply.

Commissioner Taylor asked if anyone had asked Dr. Grant if he was interested in filling the position for the next three – six months or however long it would take. Commissioner Hinson said yes. Commissioner Taylor asked if it was in writing. Commissioner Hinson said he could have a response by the end of the day from him.

Chair Viegbesie asked for a friendly amendment to add contingent upon the acceptance of position and Commissioner Hinson said yes.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED DR. GRANT WAS APPROVED AS TEMPORARY INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE DURATION OF THE SEARCH FOR THE PERMANENT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

Mr. Knowles asked if they needed to readdress the retail language. Commissioner Taylor said he could bring back language at one of the next meetings and he said he would work with her next week to develop the language. Chair Viegbesie said that would not be a part of this Resolution and stated the Resolution had to be adopted today by law, every seven days it had to be adopted by County Government and that language will be something they need to consider for the new Resolution.

Commissioner Hinson had a question. Was there a survey that employees could use to evaluate the County Administrator? Chair Viegbesie said to recall during the retreat during the development of the Mission Statement for the County, one of the things they discussed that the County Administrator's performance evaluation and never had a follow-up meeting to develop a

performance evaluation because they serve at the will of the Board. Commissioner Hinson then said he was asking if there was a form for employees to evaluate. Chair Viegbesie said constitutionally, that was not possible. They could give feedback and comments.

Commissioner Taylor said motion to adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:31 A.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 1, 2020 AT 10:00
A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Wesley Hall, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

****Please note: There were difficulties with the audio/video equipment during the meeting with the video freezing****

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., asked everyone to bow their heads for the Invocation.

Commissioner Holt arrived at 10:07 a.m.

He asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Citizens Requesting to be Heard

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadscdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Chair Viegbesie asked citizens to email their concerns to the email address given.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Resolution Update

Chair Viegbesie then announced he may be leaving the meeting early, depending on how long the meeting goes because there will be a walk-through/drive-through at the hospital at 12:00 for testing about to materialize. He stated they have received 1,500 test kits and are currently at EOC and testing will be at the Hospital.

Chair Viegbesie said a draft of the Resolution was emailed to the Commissioners last night for their review. He said one thing he would like in the revision was a relaxation of the curfew of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. He also wanted to mention Gadsden County is the State with the highest per capita positive rankings in testing.

Commissioner Morgan said to his direct point about the higher percentage, that was due to the fact of the higher risk population than the other counties. He also wanted to mention he would like recommend a change in Section Q regarding the masks from “mandate” to “strongly recommend”.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE WORDING FROM “MANDATE” TO “STRONGLY RECOMMEND” AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Holt said they upped testing and that will up their percentage of positive results. She stated she had no problem with the curfew.

Chair Viegbesie said he felt wearing masks, especially in this community, was good. He added that the continuing of wearing of the masks was something that was needed to be done for the next couple of weeks and do a gradual re-opening.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with the Board but strongly felt they should change the wording to “strongly recommend”.

Commissioner Taylor said listening to the numbers in place in the County but it did not match what they were doing. Why would you ease back in the curfew when you have a rise in cases? The two do not coincide with each other to remedy the situation. She said they were not in a position to grant or even consider that. She added she was very proud of what has been done thus far, it was working and she was appreciative of it. She added she did see comments where the Sheriff’s Department has a version and then there is the Board’s version and that needed to be looked into.

Chair Viegbesie said they need to look at the section added on cleaning and disinfecting of retail stores and suggested that section be added.

Commissioner Holt asked if the attorney could go over changes from last week.

Mr. Knowles said restaurants could now open at 25% permitted seating capacity as long as they maintain social and personal distancing and encouraging carry-out. That also applies to retail essential businesses. He added they would look at how the Governor introduces Phase 2. He said the bar area of restaurants will remain closed. He said the main changes will be in Section C, D, S and the curfew is contained in Section G and that was the main substantive changes.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to see if she could get consensus moving forward on a concern from one of the Commissioners where the Chair was makes decisions without the consensus of the Board where it was written in to the Resolution where the Chair had received authorization to make such decisions for the Board without the consensus of the Board. She wanted to have that revisited by the Attorney. She said in many cases it was a requirement that the Chair take positions for the Board without the consent but in this situation, they were able

to meet and had three or four Friday meetings and all five Commissioners have been present on those meetings and there were no constraints where they could not talk and give directions like done in a regular Board meeting. She said she was asking that the Attorney revisit where the Chair makes decisions without the consent of the Board because the Board needs to know and to give some directions between the five of them. She also said she appreciated what the Attorney did with the cleaning of retail and she did not agree with the curfew.

Chair Viegbesie said for them to understand COVID-19 was not the only emergency they were going to have and with Hurricane Michael they were unable to meet. A tornado came through just Wednesday and they were unable to meet. Now they were about to make testing available for the citizens. He added he has no problem with revisiting the section that gives Chair the power.

Taylor said point of clarity, when a letter is written from the Board, that letter or information should be vetted by the Board if it was written on behalf of the Board. She said to modify responsibilities of the Chair, not take all the powers away when opportunities come that they do not take advantage of it, you do, but you do not send out communications without the consensus of the Board. She added this is a democracy and knew he was the point of contact.

Commissioner Holt said this was a conversation for another meeting, not for an emergency Resolution. This was not the County's business at this time. They needed to move on with the item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT AS MODIFIED AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Mr. Knowles asked, for record purposes, what the revisions were.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to include the draft the way it was written as far as new standards set by the Governor, approve for the new curfew of 10 pm to 5 am, approve the mandatory wearing of masks and the cleaning/disinfecting in the retail stores.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-2 COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED

2. Interim County Administrator Position

Chair Viegbesie said they have a draft of the contract for the Interim County Administrator before them.

Commissioner Morgan made one recommendation under paragraph 2a to change the advanced written notice from 90 days written notice to terminate the agreement to two weeks.

Chair Viegbesie said he had no problem with 30 days, two weeks was too short a window.

Commissioner Morgan said that would allow them to work together for 14 days. Commissioner Morgan said that was for notification.

Commissioner Taylor asked if that was 2 weeks after someone was hired?

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney if this required 90 days total for the length of time for them to find a replacement. Mr. Knowles said the contract was open-ended until the position was filled permanently. He said the goal was that both parties had adequate notice. Commissioner Holt said they were now at the notification part; they select a Manager; would the notification be at the date of hire of the Manager?

Mr. Knowles said his thought was, his concern was when they make the decision, they give Dr. Grant and the new Administrator enough notice. This was dealing with notice; the Board could do whatever they wanted to effectively do to make sure that person was indoctrinated into the system.

Chair Viegbesie said if he understood the explanation the attorney gave was the reason he heard Commissioner Morgan say 90 days was too long and then read from the contract.

Commissioner Holt said that was what she just said.

Commissioner Taylor said to move with the 30 days and thought everything else was good with the contract.

Commissioner Holt said to put it in a motion.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED IF DR. GRANT HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE CONTRACT AND HE STATED YES.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND STATED THERE WAS A MOTION AND SECOND TO RATIFY THE CONTRACT WITH THE CHANGES FROM 90 DAYS TO 30 DAYS.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Commissioner Holt said regarding the tornado that struck in the St. John's area and damaged several houses on Wednesday evening, Road and Bridge and the Interim Manager did a marvelous job and thanked everyone involved.

Commissioner Taylor asked that the item with regards to the Chair be added to the next agenda.

Mr. Hall said Old Federal Road should be completed by June 30th but there were some issues and that needs to be brought before the Board, they could lose funding.

Commissioner Holt said with the Interim Manager coming in on Monday, it would be good for them to meet with Peavy to see what they could do, that was usually part of a “clean-up” list and if there were other things they needed to be notified of, would be good to have a list.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE EMERGENCY MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:10 A.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 MAY 5, 2020 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
Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD APPROVED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

There were none.

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. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Lien-State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program**
- 3. Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Liens State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program Gadsden County Emergency Repair (ER) Program**
- 4. Request to Install a Historic Quincy Wayfinder sign on the Gadsden County Courthouse Square**
- 5. Approval to accept 90-day Extension for Current Fiscal Year Emergency Management Performance Grant FY19-G0047**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Chair Viegbesie said there was an email from Marion Lasley about being no public access and read the email aloud for the record. He said as the number continued to increase this was not the time to relax protection criteria. He said he was ok with the relaxed curfew but masks and social distancing were critical and needed until something in the future with data showed improvement.

He read another one from Terry Paul, President of Havana MainStreet asking the Board to write a Letter of Support for approval of a Grant.

Commissioner Holt asked to bring back the Letter on the next Agenda for approval.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Approval of American Tower Corporation-Tower Site

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was submitted for approval of American Tower Corporation's Tower site in Midway, Florida for Gadsden County's radio equipment.

Commissioner Holt asked if it would have an emergency generator and was told yes.

Allan Meeks, Fleet and Facilities Manager, appeared before the Board and said it was for the County system that has been in the works since 2017.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could bring a plan back and maybe could apply for a grant.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-0

7. Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Request for Advance Funding to Implement the Delivery of Services for the Gadsden County Criminal Justice Diversionary Project

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said the Sheriff's Office requested an advance of \$100,000 to implement delivery of services for the Gadsden County Criminal Justice

Diversionary Projection. He further explained it would be refunded to the County from the grant funds by the end of this fiscal year.

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

She asked if there was a line item for the \$100,000. Chair Viegbesie asked if she was requesting a friendly amendment and she said no, she wanted to know what line item the funds were coming from.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-0

CLERK OF COURT

8 Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

9. Updates

Dr. Grant had nothing to report other than he was glad to be here.

Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:15 p.m.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

10. Updates

Mr. Knowles said he had nothing to report and was available for questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

11. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with a Commissioner from Calhoun County and was told they had several testing sites there and asked about additional testing sites for Gadsden County.

Chair Viegbesie said opening Saturday, May 9th from 9 am to 1 pm at CRMC ER at 23086 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, regular operating hours will be Mondays and Wednesdays 1 pm to 4 pm, Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm, to make appointments call 850-329-0685 Monday – Friday 9 am to 12

pm to register in advance and will be walk-up or drive through. He said it will be exclusively saliva test and not through the nose and will be for everyone, insurance was not needed.

Commissioner Hinson said speaking of uninsured, he spoke with someone at Neighborhood Health and a few years ago, there were concerns because they had to stop serving uninsured because they stopped receiving funding from the ½ sales tax. He asked how they could readdress the indigent sales tax and maybe they could discuss this during their budget sessions. He added maybe if the Clerk was still present, how much money was in the Indigent Care Tax now and who was receiving funds.

Chair Viegbesie said the County Administrator was taking note of his question and maybe the Clerk and Administrator could respond in an email. Commissioner Hinson said also he has asked the last 3-4 weeks they have bi-weekly meetings, basically for this issue because if someone catches the corona virus and has no health insurance, it could be a problem. He then said not bi-weekly, maybe twice weekly.

Chair Viegbesie said before he allowed the County Attorney to respond, as long as they have the State of Emergency and Governor was continuously changing policies and procedures of operation, they are having meetings every Friday at 10:00 to get updates and they update their Resolution on a weekly basis. He asked the Attorney for his legal opinion on Commissioner Hinson's request.

Mr. Knowles said the point was well taken but did not think they were legally obligated to do that. They were meeting every Friday and on the first and third Tuesday of the Month, he would be happy to discuss anything with the Board members at any time and would refer to the Board on their will.

Chair Viegbesie said to also consider the more they meet, the higher the bill of the County Attorney would be as he was charging them on an hourly basis and they needed to consider the fiscal impact on the County's budget in the frequency of the meetings that they desire to have.

Commissioner Hinson said he had some questions from citizens. Was there any emergency funding like the City of Tallahassee had for the non-profits?

Chair Viegbesie said questions of this nature would require research, if he could send in questions early to allow the County Administrator and Clerk's Office a chance to review the fiscal condition and the budget, they would have answers to his questions.

Commissioner Hinson then asked with relation to affordable housing, how does someone go about getting down payment assistance with closing costs? He said a lot of people were having issues with that because they have to take a class and due to the corona virus, they do not have access and was losing that funding.

Chair Viegbesie asked him, for the sake of time, to please send in his questions ahead of time and could be addressed once have a chance to research. Commissioner Hinson said they need to have Directors at the meetings. Chair Viegbesie said even if they were at home, they need to have time to do research and then could provide answers to the questions during the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson congratulated all the graduating seniors. He then congratulated Dr. Grant and said of all the ones he has hired; he could sleep at night now because he knew he was a man of integrity, passion, commitment, and a man with strategies and was a thinker and reader.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had no comments.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she was continuously getting calls regarding Building Inspection. At one time they had a Board that looked into contract and certifications and would like that brought back for them to consider and would like to reinstate that Board if it was not functioning and she did not think it was at this time. She stated on that Board sat the Building Inspector and contractors and that would be someone to look at some of these issues and could filter some of the concerns through. Also, the homeowners could have a place to speak their concerns. She asked that be brought back before the Board.

She stated they had a Board for Zoning and was done pretty much the same way, there was one for Tourist Development and also need to bring in and meet with the Industrial Board. They look at economic development and that Board has not met with Commissioners. She said each district has an appointee on that Board.

She said there were questions from citizens and they could be addressed on Friday. She said one lady tested positive and may have from work and has insurance. She asked where these people need to go when they test positive. Commissioner Holt said if they test positive, they need to quarantine, if they test negative, they do not have to. If they have a regular doctor, they go to that doctor, if not, they need to know where to go.

Chair Viegbesie asked her to send her concerns to the Administrator and let him send the concerns to Dr. Cooksey and take direction from her.

Commissioner Holt said what she was asking for was more of an update, even from other medical providers in the County. She said just general information.

She reminded everyone Dr. Cooksey was a State employee, she must report to the Department of Health, not to this Board. She said she would like the Health Council to be a part of this to see what they have found out and at the end of all of this, no matter what the results were, if they continued to increase testing, they would increase positives and at the end of all of this, what would happen to us economically.

Commissioner Hinson said he was on point of what Commissioner Holt said, he assumed she did not mean exactly what she said, he knew they want jobs and was hoping and was thinking they want to get as many people tested including himself.

Commissioner Holt clarified what she was saying was how to use the information once it was received.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she had questions and heard responses would come later in emails but, there have been positive numbers of tests in the County. She asked if they were taking off the ones that were now negative and was no longer positive compared to two weeks ago

She then asked about the status of Stevens School and said Ms. Inez Holt asked if she would see the school opened before she passed and asked for a timeline.

She said she has been asked about the opening of Pat Thomas Park and asked if some type of communication could be put out along with the boat ramp.

Mr. Knowles said they met on that today and the boat ramp will be opened tomorrow, the Pavilion will not be opened yet to be rented.

Chair Viegbesie said there will be a meeting on Thursday and as the Governor relaxes things it will be incorporated into the County Resolution every Friday.

Commissioner Taylor said the last thing she wanted to bring up regarding local police and Sheriff's department; she made a statement at the last Friday's meeting with regards to something she read on something on Facebook and it indicated there were two different versions of a Resolution being passed out and she was wrong.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 6:59 p.m.

She added that however, going through the County and looking at some of the local policing areas within the municipalities, they were not following the mandate with wearing masks and they need to be reminded to wear the masks.

She said it was mentioned earlier about being frugal with meetings they were having and the being mindful of the cost of the attorney to be there and her suggestion on something they could look at, when having a regular meeting, like this one, then they should not have one that previous Friday, there was only a day's difference.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:00 p.m.

She said her suggestion was when they have a regular meeting so close to when the Resolution needed to be adopted, it could it be done at the same time as the regular meeting to cut down on meetings.

Chair Viegbesie said his response was because the Governor's orders and instructions come in overnight and they do not want to prepare a Resolution that would stand in opposition to the Governor's orders based on the fact his authority was over the Board's.

She said she agreed with him, but instead of meeting on Friday and then on Tuesday, they may could save it to meet on Tuesday unless they had to respond immediately to the Governor. He added that the Resolution was something that had to be revised every seven days.

Mr. Knowles said Captain Collins contacted him regarding a line item to reimburse the Sheriff's office for costs due to testing sites security. He said his understanding was there was a line item in the budget for that for funds to reimburse the Sheriff for that but they would need to take affirmative action from the Board in order to authorize that and they could not to take that up tonight but it could be addressed Friday at the Emergency Meeting. Chair Viegbesie said they do need security and was something that needs to be considered.

Commissioner Holt said regarding the Stevens School issue, the Commission does not manage properties and that needed to be said and the County Commission did not manage facilities that were used for other purposes but they leased them.

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

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

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 7:11 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 8, 2020 AT 10:00
A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Gene Morgan, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk
 Jeronda Robinson

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 10:24 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and led in Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadscdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Resolution Update (Henry G. Grant, PhD, Interim County Administrator)

Chairman Viegbesie stated the Commissioners had a chance to preview the Resolution and asked Mr. Knowles to explain the changes.

Mr. Knowles said the changes in the Resolution were on Pages 11 & 12, section R. He stated there was clarification to the definition of vacation rentals, pursuant to Florida Statute 509.013(4)(a)1. He further stated the curfew was still in effect as well as mask usage requirement and there were no other changes.

Chair Viegbesie said he was asking policy makers to use common sense over emotion when making policies.

At 10:31 a.m., Commissioner Holt arrived.

Chairman Viegbesie stated if the positivity rate goes down, he would be willing to ease curfew hours and wearing masks, but benchmarks were needed to be set for this. Starting Saturday, May 9th, the community wide, free testing would start. If the positivity rate dropped below a certain percentage, the BOCC would ease the curfew and masks. For example, if it went down 10% for two consecutive weeks, the BOCC may completely remove all masks and curfew.

Commissioner Holt asked if the BOCC was doing what the Governor said to do.

Chairman Viegbesie said everything done was in accordance with the Governor. The Governor had a re-opening plan and the County should not do anything that was in conflict with the Governor.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to let the citizens know exactly what they should or should not do.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE THE WORD MANDATE TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND FOR WEARING A MASK. WITH NO SECOND, THE MOTION DIED.

Chairman Viegbesie said as of May 7, 2020, Gadsden County had the highest positivity rate of the surrounding counties at 15.1%. He stated that should be considered in the decision to relax and eventually eliminate the requirements.

Commissioner Hinson said he understood both sides, and stated several people had no masks. He purchased 320 masks with his own money. People who work in stores needed masks. He stated it was difficult to mandate citizens if they had no mask. He was trying to get 2000 more masks and encouraged non-profits and churches to purchase masks for their members. He stated he had support for Commissioner Morgan's motion on masks, but he hoped people in stores would wear masks.

Chairman Viegbesie stated that Commissioner Morgan's motion died with no second. He said the Board gave each Commissioner 300 masks to hand out, if that was not enough, the County Administrator would be asked to order more to distribute to citizens.

Commissioner Holt asked people to protect other people by wearing a mask. She stated no deaths meant everyone was doing something right. She said people could use a cloth to make a mask. She encouraged a mask and stated people were not being arrested, she did not want people to die.

Chairman Viegbesie said the policy was about lives and livelihood, and the Board needed to do a cost benefit analyst to prioritize one over the other. Gadsden County had the highest positivity rate at 15.1% without community wide testing. Calhoun was at 12.5%, Liberty-15%, Jefferson-14%. On May 9, 2020 the Community free testing drive thru, walk by, started. He stated the BOCC needed to establish benchmarks before mandates were lifted. The Wall Street Journal said Florida dodged the worst prediction during COVID-19 and it could have been worse than New York if the government did not take the drastic actions it took to prevent the spread of the virus.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the County could buy additional masks, if possible, with no fiscal restraints. She stated someone had called from the Courthouse and said that they need masks. She stated she supports the mandate for masks.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT WITH THE UPDATE, WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.

Commissioner Hinson said distributing information to the citizens was important so they could make informed decisions about their health. The more the County pushed testing and provided testing sites, the more information there would be available as the State reopened. He further stated testing would help to save lives and protect citizens. He further stated he highly recommended a mask.

Chairman Viegbesie said Gadsden County COVID-19 Community Drive-thru/walk by testing site had a trial run on May 7, 2020. Chair Viegbesie was tested, and said it was not in the nose, it was a mouth swab and painless. The test would start Saturday May 9, 2020 from 9am-1pm at the Gadsden County Campus of CRMC, 23186 Blue Star HWY, Quincy, just follow the traffic signs. He stated no referral was needed and there was no charge. The testing days were scheduled for Monday and Wednesday 1pm-4pm, Saturday 9am-1pm, for 30 calendar days. He further stated information did not have to be collected and you could make an appointment by calling 850-329-0685 Monday-Friday, 9am-12pm where your info would be taken and you would be registered. He added there was no charge and no referral.

COMMISSIONER HINSON- NO
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE- YES

COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED 3-2

Commissioner Taylor spoke about the call-in number and stated 80% of the County would not know or hear the call-in number. She asked if citizens could register at the site and would all who showed up be served.

Chairman Viegbesie said everyone would get in. People were calling and registering already and the Department of Health wanted to register 50 a day but were prepared to test more.

Dr. Cooksey appeared by phone and said in the first 45 min yesterday, the first 50 appointments were scheduled for Saturday. Staff was tripled for Saturday, May 9th and she expected more than 50 tests to be completed. (3 times more) She stated they would do as many as possible between 9am-1pm on Saturday. She said they wanted to stop at 1pm because the tests needed to get to the pick-up zone by 2pm.

Commissioner Taylor asked if any documents were needed for pre-registering.

Dr. Cooksey said no, she would like to have ID but it was not needed to get tested. She further stated they would ask for a name, date of birth and an address. She also asked the citizens to please wear a mask or get one at the site.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the number of cases was decreasing? Dr. Cooksey said they needed a unified definition for recovery and that it was a nationwide conversation but they were working on figuring that out. The estimate was 40% recovered, but it was not definitive.

Commissioner Holt said for people to please bring their Social Security Number when being tested and stated CRMC was not requiring hospitalization anymore.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the test turnaround time was and Chairman Viegbesie answered 3-5 days.

Dr. Grant asked how many masks to order and Chairman Viegbesie said 5,000 for now. Commissioner Morgan asked for the fiscal impact for that cost. Chairman Viegbesie said it would be temporary because it would be part of the next item on the agenda. He stated the staff had submitted the application for registering for COVID-19 reimbursement for expenses due to COVID-19. He said it was FEMA public assistance, and the County had already registered for the reimbursement program and he hoped all of it would be reimbursed to the County, but it was not a guarantee.

Commissioner Holt said all of the Constitutional officers could apply for assistance and they could order and get reimbursed.

Dr. Grant asked if there was a mask requirement in churches.

Mr. Knowles said if distance could not be kept, then yes. Churches could stay open and had not been mandated to close, just maintain social distance and wear a face mask if they could not manage social distancing.

2. Funding for GCSO Security at COVID-19 Testing Site (Henry G. Grant, PhD, Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant explained this was for security at the COVID-19 testing site, \$20,000 for no more than 30 days.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked if it was 30 consecutive days or 30 testing days.

Captain Collins answered that it was calendar days.

Chairman Viegbesie stated depending on the crowd and need for security was what the money would be used for, up to \$20,000. GCSO would be providing an invoice that would break down what had been paid for each security provider at the time security was provided to determine the payment.

Commissioner Taylor said security was needed with walk up and drive up available and she figured it would be 10-15 hours per week.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the funding source was.

Commissioner Viegbesie said it was going to be from the FEMA reimbursement that was already there for emergency and this expenditure was part of the COVID-19 reimbursement (Disaster relief fund) expenses from the FEMA Public Assistance. The money would be money from Hurricane Michael Reimbursement Money and when the County files for the reimbursement of that, that money would be put back into appropriate coffers. That was how Mr. Price explained it to Chair Viegbesie.

Commissioner Morgan asked why the deputies on duty could not be used?

Chairman Viegbesie said the Sheriff's Office told him they did not have the man power and they were using those who were off and paying them overtime for security.

Captain Collins appeared before the Board and said his officers were needed to meet mandates and this was not planned. He stated US Highway 90 could not get held up, and they would manage traffic flow and any unruly people. He stated they were using reserve officers and officers on their days off. He further stated he personally had over 100 hours of work put into this just coming up with an operational plan and that was not costing the County anything because it was done during his work hours.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Commissioner Morgan if his concern was addressed. There was no answer from Commissioner Morgan.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to the funding source, make sure the Clerk gives a thumbs up because sometimes the funds are restricted. She stated the Board would come up with the money and they may need to take it from the General Revenue. She said she was ready to move the question.

COMMISSIONER HINSON- YES

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- YES

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- NO

COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE- YES

MOTION PASSED 4-1

COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED

3. Fire Ban for Gadsden County

Mr. Grant said he had a request from Major Wood at Emergency Management for the County to put into place a burning ban for Gadsden County to prevent wild fires and forest fires.

Chairman Viegbesie stated he thought it was a good idea. He would not want to go through what Santa Rosa was going through with all the houses burning.

Commissioner Holt said she was under the impression the last burn ban was still in place but she thought the County would need a Resolution written up.

Commissioner Hinson said he would also support a burn ban.

At 11:23 a.m., Chairman Viegbesie handed the gavel to Vice-Chair Holt and stepped out.

Mr. Knowles stated the County had an Ordinance on the books banning the burning of waste. (Ordinance 87-009) He further explained he could work up a Resolution and have it addressed at the next meeting. The County may not need to do anything other than the Sherriff's office to enforce the Ordinance. (Section 70-37)

Vice-Chair Holt said she called the Forestry Department about a burn ban and was told Gadsden County Burn Ban was never lifted; it was more restricted.

Mr. Knowles said he would look into it for the Commission.

Dr. Grant said the state puts on burn bans and then they take them off, and recently, another was put on because of the recent fires.

Vice-Chair Holt stated Gadsden County's ban was not taken off and that was what she was told three weeks ago.

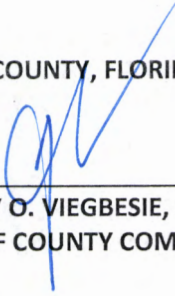
Commissioner Taylor said the Board could not discuss this item because it had not been advertised and if there was something in place, let the Sheriff enforce it. She asked it be advertised and put on the next agenda.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Vice Chair Holt called the meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PHD., Chairman
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 15, 2020 AT 1:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chairman, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Gene Morgan, District 3
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1

This meeting was had over audio/conference call during the COVID-19 shutdown.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. He then led with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Mr. Hall requested to add item 3 to the Agenda for approval for the purchase of masks.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadscencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

None were had

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Resolution 2020-021 Update

(Henry Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)

Mr. Knowles gave an update and stated there were a few changes. He said the most significant changes were mask usage from mandatory to strongly recommend, advocate and encourage. (Section Q) Mandatory places for wearing a mask were grocery stores, pharmacies and restaurants. (patrons and staff) Clarification was added to Section B for Religious activities and language added to section D. He further stated the County was reopening barber shops and beauty salons and in Section G, there was an alteration of the curfew to 12am-5am. He said

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there may be more alterations made at the Tuesday meeting depending on the Governor's orders.

Chair Viegbesie said changes from the Governor could change the County Resolution on Tuesday.

Commissioner Holt said she would like an update on cases before voting, knowing there was one death.

Chairman Viegbesie said there were 140 positive cases and one death. (69-year-old) At this point, 478 citizens had been tested.

Commissioner Holt said one death and the positive cases was not evidence to her to not have a mandatory mask. People were getting used to wearing a mask and she asked if the State suggestion was to not require mask.

Mr. Knowles said no, the State had made no rule about masks at all.

Commissioner Holt said a hairdresser would be in your face and asked if the employees at the hairdresser had to wear a mask and Mr. Knowles said not to his knowledge. She said it was not logical to take away mandatory mask usage especially since children would be getting haircuts too and that could possibly infect children and that would increase the possible infection if schools opened back up in the fall. Even if the Governor said all the businesses could open, they do not say the BOCC could not require masks, she would like to keep the mask mandate.

Chairman Viegbesie said as of today the County had a 12.8% positivity rate, which was down since the 18.1% from a week ago. He said the County was Improving, and he thought as the positivity rate increased, citizens were getting used to the mask and were strongly encouraged to use a mask. People can have self-discipline to wear a mask. The curfew was also changed from 12am-5am.

Commissioner Holt said the percentage decrease could be due to the mandatory mask. She said isolation would have taken 14 days and that was not to mention the virus stayed on a hard surface for three days. The fastest way for the virus to travel, she said, was through the air and a mask was the only protection since there was no vaccine or treatment. She stated she felt the mandatory mask should stay in place. She was not betting on the fact that everyone was good willed. She stated society was getting used to masks and masks were working. She wanted to see the mandate stay. The one death was a co-worker and friend to Commissioner Holt. She further stated the mask mandate may be inconvenient but it was working. She asked the attorney if the BOCC could still vote with only three Commissioners.

Mr. Knowles said three was a quorum and they could vote.

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Commissioner Holt stated she was going down fighting and still believed and thought it was in the best interest of Gadsden County to keep the mandatory mask usage.

Chairman Viegbesie said at the last meeting he presented the Wall Street Journal from May 4, 2020 that said Florida “dodged a bullet” because of local government and the requirements they had in place. He stated people become creatures of habit and hoped citizens would do the right thing if approved.

Commissioner Holt asked if the percentage went up would an Emergency Resolution come back to the Board.

Mr. Knowles stated changes would have to be made in accordance to what the Governor was doing. He asked Commissioner Holt if she wanted the Resolution amended to reflect barber shops and beauty salons to wear a mask in their establishment and told her she could motion that change.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Board could wait until Tuesday to vote on the new Resolution. Chairman Viegbesie said they could not wait because the Statute required the Board to have a Resolution every seven days.

Commissioner Holt asked why not just keep the Resolution how it was and change it Tuesday when the BOCC knew what the Governor was going to do.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought the mandate was not necessary because it could not effectively be enforced. He stated he was in favor of discontinuing the mandate for masks. In addition, he asked how people would wear a mask at a restaurant and eat. He thought staff wearing a mask was fine. His suggestion was to remove restaurants from the mask mandate. Commissioner Morgan then asked about church service limits.

Mr. Knowles said the Board could amend the Resolution to provide clarity. A motion could be made to tailor specific ideas presented.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not asking to alter the Resolution today, beside take off restaurants, and asked again for more clarity for churches.

Mr. Knowles stated churches were not regulated by the County, they were just asking churches maintain social distancing. He further stated the Governor was considering going to a religious service essential.

Chairman Viegbesie repeated Gadsden County had no limitations in place on places of worship as long as they were maintaining social distancing.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a limitation of 10 or more people?

Mr. Knowles said no, there were no limitation on churches.

Commissioner Morgan asked to remove restaurants from the face mask mandate.

Commissioner Holt asked if 6 feet distancing was still a thing.

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Chairman Viegbesie stated he was aware that, last Monday, a mask was mandatory in the White House. Using the positivity rate, we need to give some slack to mask wearing and make it something that was encouraged.

Commissioner Holt said if you maintained six feet apart, there was no mask needed. The CDC guidelines were what she would listen to. She further stated the County needed guidelines for the public for when the BOCC takes away their only protection. Children follow what adults do, and she was concerned about that. She asked if the BOCC could install something later if this did not work, without an Emergency from the State.

Mr. Knowles said the County was in our own local State of Emergency (Statute 252.38) until the BOCC deems otherwise, even if the State was not.

Commissioner Holt said she had two calls and one person asked where the hot spots were in the County, and the other call was about race. Gadsden County, being predominately black, had a higher percentage of minorities dying, why take away the mask. She said the BOCC needed to let churches know that the virus and other germs were circulated through the ventilation systems.

Mr. Knowles stated the COVID dashboard gave the zip code of positive cases.

Chairman Viegbesie said if there was a spike, the BOCC would have to take a different action. He further stated, for now, he thought the County could slack a little and if the positivity rate increased, he would be ok to changing it back. If people decide to have block parties, that would be a problem. He stated he and his household would continue to wear a mask. He asked if the BOCC wanted to amend the Resolution to remove restaurants from the mask mandate.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO PASS THE RESOLUTION AS WRITTEN BUT REMOVE RESTAURANTS FROM THE MANDATORY WEARING OF MASKS WITH A SECOND FROM CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE WITH QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Holt said she did not have questions, she wanted to add that a mask was required for hairdresser and barber shops, and asked what percentage the restaurants were going back to.

Chairman Viegbesie said 25%.

Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Morgan if he accepted the friendly amendment to his motion from Commissioner Holt.

Commissioner Morgan said mandates get push back and were not effectively enforced, so there was no point to have a Resolution that could, technically, not be effectively enforced. He was not in favor of the mandate for a mask anywhere.

Commissioner Holt said under Commissioner Morgan's theory, there was no reason for a curfew.

Commissioner Morgan said he was good with that.

Commissioner Holt said something needed to be in place and she was not in favor of how the Resolution was written and she would not support it. She thought the County needed mandatory masks until the percentages went down because not enough people were tested in the county to get an accurate percentage.

Commissioner Holt said her friendly amendment was to add hairdressers and barbers to the face mask mandate.

Commissioner Morgan stated he was not in favor of that addition.

THE BOARD VOTED 2-1 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- Y

COMMISSIONER HOLT- N

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE- Y

MOTION PASSED 2-1, COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED

Commissioner Holt asked for a repeat of the changes to the Mandate.

Chairman Viegbesie stated to remove restaurants from where mandatory mask was required. (Sub-Section Q)

2. Proposed Resolution 2020-022 Regarding an Emergency Burn Ban

(Henry Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was a proposed Resolution regarding an Emergency Burn Ban.

Chairman Viegbesie stated people were burning things and it was becoming dangerous. He stated this was a Burn Ban Resolution.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MOVED TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE.

Commissioner Holt asked what the law was that was already in place. She stated the Game Warden told her the County never lifted the strict burn ban from Hurricane Michael.

Mr. Knowles stated if it was initiated under a State of Emergency, it could not still be in place because the BOCC had to redo a Resolution every seven days.

Commissioner Holt said people still had downed trees from Michael and if they burn, they needed to know these things. She stated the information needed to be put out to the public, and made available with the conditions.

Mr. Knowles stated there was no time frame and the County, with this Burn Ban, was regulating irresponsible burning.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Commissioner Holt if she had any Resolution or Ordinance that was instituted in Gadsden County that dealt with burn bans, or did she know of a Resolution on its own, not one that went with Hurricane Michael.

Commissioner Holt said it was only for Hurricane Michael. She stated Forestry told her there was still a Burn Ban in place and it had not been lifted.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN-Y

COMMISSIONER HOLT- Y

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE- Y

MOTION PASSED 3-0 THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

3. Mask Purchase

(Henry Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant stated on May 8th, a discussion was had about purchasing additional masks for each district and it was not voted on. There needed to be a vote to purchase masks, 5000 for the districts and 1000 for the Constitutional officers.

Chairman Viegbesie said 1000 to each district (5 Districts) to go to voters and voter's family members in each district. 1000 would be for the Constitutionals and would go to the Courthouse for people who came without a mask. He added Hurricane season was 2 weeks away, if a hurricane came with COVID still in force, the County did not want to scramble for masks. He suggested to add another 1000 masks to go to reserve and suggested to order 7000 masks unless opposed.

Commissioner Holt stated the Constitutionals had their own budget and could get \$2,000 and buy masks for their offices. Dr. Grant he said he would check with the Constitutionals and see if they wanted to purchase masks too. Commissioner Holt stated she thought the County needed 1000 for employees at the Commission Building and Road and Bridge. She further stated 1000 was not enough for reserve with the Hurricane season coming. She suggested 5000 masks for reserve and have Constitutionals order their own.

Captain Collins appeared before the board and said 1000 is grossly too low. He said there were over 800 in the shelters during Hurricane Michael. He stated a minimum of 5000 was needed.

Commissioner Holt asked about long term use inside with the masks. She stated the County was going to have the Special Needs Shelter and it was a totally different animal. She asked if the masks the BOCC were buying would work for people who had congestive problems. She further stated people with Special needs would need to be put in a separate shelter. She also stated the virus was airborne and the ventilation system should be considered when looking at the types of masks that went to special needs. Commissioner Holt asked for 5000 masks for the County and 5000 for the Special Needs Shelter.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ORDER 10,000 MASKS WITH A SECOND BY CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the funding source and fiscal impact were.

Chairman Viegbesie said the Emergency expenditure and the BOCC had completed the application for reimbursement for COVID-19 expenditures. Everything spent during the COVID-19 Emergency, could be filed for reimbursement through FEMA. He stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Price and understood the money was coming from the Emergency money the County already had (\$300,000 from FEMA) and would take a loan to meet this emergency and when the County files for reimbursement, the Emergency Fund taken from would be replenished.

Mr. Price said he was working with Finance on the proper funding source and would take out of the fund the Chair had spoke about and the fiscal impact of 10,000 masks was \$12,500.

Commissioner Morgan stated he was not in favor of purchasing masks for the Constitutional Officers. He further stated the BOCC needed to keep in mind there was going to be a lot of needs moving forward and would be fine with ordering 5000.

Commissioner Holt asked Captain Collins if the cost given was an accurate number.

Captain Collins said yes, for the level 2 mask she was wearing. He was wearing a KN-95 and special needs kids need KN-95 and they cost 3 times as much as the others.

Commissioner Holt asked to call the motion.

Commissioner Morgan asked if masks for Constitutionals were included and he was told no by Chairman Viegbesie.

Dr. Cooksey stated the Health Department had purchased N95 masks for those who would be in the Special Needs Shelter. She further stated they had about 1000 that were going into reserve

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and they were looking at purchasing for the general public shelter. She stated they had ordered 10,000 already.

Commissioner Morgan stated by what Dr. Cooksey just explained, there were enough masks.

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE WHICH WAS TAKEN BY ROLL CALL.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- N
COMMISSIONER HOLT- Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-Y

MOTION PASSED 2-1 COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED

Chairman Viegbesie stated with the 5000 masks getting purchased for reserve, the rest of the money should be split to have additional masks for special needs. He further stated Hurricane season was coming and people were preparing.

Commissioner Holt said the only shelter issue was the BOCC needed to look at getting that facility at Stevens School in order to use as overflow as a Special Needs Shelter. She also said she had asked for funding on the Federal level. Her final statement was the virus was not going anywhere and people would have to be located at a separate location if they had the virus.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO BE HAD, CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 2:21 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 19, 2020 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
Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to Order at 6:03 p.m. He asked the Interim County Administrator to give the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant asked to pull Item 10 from the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. (COMMISSIONER HINSON WAS NOT ON ZOOM AT THE TIME.)

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS 1-9 AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. (COMMISSIONER HINSON WAS NOT PRESENT ON ZOOM AT THIS TIME.)

1. Ratification Memo
2. Approval of Minutes
 - February 18, 2020- Regular Meeting
 - February 4, 2020 – Regular Meeting
 - January 21, 2020 – Regular Meeting
 - January 21, 2020 Workshop
3. Approval of Proclamation Honoring Public Works Week and EMS Week
4. Approval and Signature for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien
5. Gadsden County W.S. Stevens School Renovation Task Order

6. **Stevens School Cafeteria Renovations Proposal**
7. **Pat Thomas Park Survey Task Order**
8. **Replacement of Roof at the Quincy Public Library**
9. **Approval of Letter of Support for Havana Main Street**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

*****There is a statement that is normally on the Agenda that the Chair reads off for the benefit of the public and it was not printed on the Agenda for his reading.*****

He asked if citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

~~10. Approval to Purchase Heavy Equipment for the Public Works Department~~
ITEM PULLED

11. Approval to Replace and Upgrade Video Equipment in the Commission Chambers

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it sought Board approval to replace and upgrade video equipment in the Commission Chambers. He added that presently, the video solution in place did not have the capability to continue with the definitive reliability to support the needs of the BOCC. The current solution has been modified to support the emergency actions brought on by the Covid-19 Emergency. He further stated that due to Covid-19, all travel has been eliminated. Funds allocated to travel can be repurposed to fund this project resulting in no additional Fiscal impact.

A MOTION FOR APPROVAL WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CLERK OF COURT

8 Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and said there needed to be a number of budget amendments done and approved that may not have already been in the budget and a number of grants that

needed to be brought forward. He also wanted to mention there probably will be a decline in revenue due to the COVID matter during the month of April. He said he was not asking the Board to take any action, he simply wanted them to be made aware of the situation. He said typically when there is a decline and there is no reduction on the expenditure side it means it eats into their Fund Balance and he wanted to make them aware.

He said Commissioner Hinson asked a question at the last meeting and he sent an email and the short answer at this moment was \$26,736. He said the question basically was, how much money as a result of the new agreement with CRMC but after the new contract started in March and at this moment that figure was \$26,736. At some point the Board will need to make decisions, based on the Statutes, as to how they want to allocate the money going forward.

Commissioner Taylor said he said there may be concerns with revenue, the pandemic started in part of March, had he looked at March 2019 and how things looked then versus now. He said March was a good month, May will show the impact. She asked if the \$27,000 was accumulating each month. He said that amount varied each month, depending on the amount that was collected each month.

Chair Viegbesie said that money was specific for indigent health care only and Mr. Thomas agreed.

Mr. Thomas said prior to the new agreement, all the money that came in under this tax was sent out each month to pay the debt service, CRMC, etc., it is now coming into our coffers each month. Now the portion going to CRMC has been reduced under the new agreement and stays with the County until they decide what to do.

Commissioner Holt said she knew they were looking at the particular pot of money from the hospital but during the recession, did not know how the revenue was going to come out and was pretty sure that was what he was saying. He said it would be lower and she said they did not know how low.

She said they were going to have to look at things in the budget at how they plan on making the difference up and the budget session may “take a minute”.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

9. Updates

Dr. Grant said the masks were here and ready for pick-up, there were 1000 masks for each commissioner.

He said Thursday, May 21st at 4:00 will be their first Budget Special Meeting.

Commissioner Morgan asked if was a special meeting and Chair Viegbesie said was a workshop.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator to remind the Commissioners of the Public Works Week and EMS Week recognition they will have on Friday. Dr. Grant said they would be observing EMS and Public Works Week on Friday.

Commissioner Holt said she did not question Item numbers 5 & 6 to be pulled for discussion. She said Joel Sampson has already written up a plan for a shelter for the Stevens School site. As she has mentioned before, the County does not handle schools, the County was not licensed for that. She said they were trying now to get a location for a special shelter since there are cases of Covid-19 and if there was a hurricane, the cases could not be combined and they have to look at other facilities. The only place they currently have is the high school. They need to look at those things. She said they need to look at three different types of shelters, general needs, special needs and one for virus patients. She said Mr. Sampson was the County architect and gets all in-house contracts that was done. But they were also supposed to do bidding at a certain point and they have to look at other companies to be fair.

She stated they need a grant writer.

She said on the masks and issues, there is a Health Council and they need to be contacted. They have to look beyond the cases and look at economic development of the County and how things can be spun in a positive light once this thing is over.

Commissioner Taylor said two things: With regards to items 5 & 6, Stevens School, she wanted to make sure they were moving forward on those items, work should have been done months ago.

She asked if there was a sizeable donation of masks to the County and she asked that it be looked into. Freddie Figgers said he made a donation of 50,000, said he had given to Health Department, River Chase, Sheriff Department, and the City of Quincy.

Commissioner Taylor then asked things were coming with regards to head hunting for the Administrator. Dr. Grant said he was told today was the deadline for applications and did not know how many applications had been received.

Commissioner Taylor said some of the Department heads that used to come to meetings cannot come but could participate through Zoom and they could get answers. She said she did not know if it was an inconvenience, but thought would be a great idea if they were available.

Dr. Grant said he would take the blame; he asked the ones that had agenda items to join in the meeting but he could ask that they all attend.

Commissioner Holt said if they were on Zoom, they could still answer questions and was better to have the directors available. She asked if there was anything new from the Governor's meeting on the re-opening of the State that affected them.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

10. Updates

Mr. Knowles said there had not been a substantive update since last week; they did receive a request from one short-term vacation rentals in town to re-open and that is permitted pursuant to Executive Order 123. He said it required for Dr. Grant to provide a Plan and letter authorizing such action to Secretary Beshears. He said Pat Thomas Park was open for fishing and the boat dock but not currently open for camping and has been requested that the Pavilions be opened

for Memorial Day but people maintain personal and social distancing and guests could park RV's at that location.

Commissioner Holt said Chair Viegbesie stated if percentages went up, they may need to re-address things on Friday and she asked if they were. Chair Viegbesie said since she referred to that comment, he said percentages have gone down. He said percentages were at 11.1%.

Commissioner Holt asked compared to what and he said percentages compared to tested to positivity. She said not percentages of tested to percentages of non-tested, so they still did not know what was out there; the number of cases had gone up.

Commissioner Holt said she was talking about the number that increased since last week.

Commissioner Taylor said she was a little off-centered because the meeting time was moved because the Chair could not be there, but they have a Vice-Chair, at times she is a little heavy-handed, but she knew how to run a meeting. At that meeting, two things were announced. Could they bring up things now that happened Friday? Chair Viegbesie said that question was for the Administrator and Commissioner Taylor said she was asking the Attorney.

Mr. Knowles said he would direct that to the Chair, it was their dais, but he was happy to answer.

She wanted to make sure they were not outside Robert's Rules and not outside their scope of items to be discussed because it was not an agendaed item and felt it was a legal question she wanted answered.

Mr. Knowles said if they were taking board action, it would need to be noticed but if they were having a discussion it was their chambers...

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to take a vote because she thought that was an option tonight. She said going back to her point from last Friday, they just became the laughing stock of the County. She said two or three things happened at that meeting; 1) they announced there had been a fatality from the virus, and an increase in the number of cases and then they relaxed the mask mandate. What made people start laughing was the fact that after they took down the mandate and then "strongly recommend", they ordered more masks and they became laughing stock. She said "I have to give it up, I am not a fan, never been of Commissioner Holt, but I must salute you, young lady, for what you did, or tried to do to keep this County safe, the argument from my understanding you put up. Again, that's why I'm coming from up here because I got upset that the meeting was moved instead of us doing what we normally do. That's why I'm leaving. The meeting was moved instead of us going on with the Vice-Chair. I did not come. I want to put it back on the floor for another vote and that makes it look even worse because now we are flip-flopping and I don't want to be a part of that." She said she could not understand how intelligent people could vote that item down with the indicator that was mentioned at the past meeting was so clear that bringing the mandate down was not an option. She said the only word she thought of was political posturing. She said she was not going to relax the rules. Everyone with good conscience was putting masks on their face. She asked if they were spending County money smart and being frugal. She said "they" talked about how strong Commissioner Holt was and how disappointed "they" were and said she was too and

would like to bring this back for a vote. She asked what were they telling the public. She said she would wait until Friday but wanted to be able to say she wanted the masks back to be mandatory. She added she cared about the safety of people. To do anything else right now was asinine.

Commissioner Hinson said this was on point with Commissioner Taylor. He said normally the meeting was scheduled for 10 am and was moved to 1 pm and it changed the whole dynamics and complexity of the Board. His heartburn was the week prior to that was the mask issue. The Board stated they were going to bring in 5,000 more masks for the citizens and thanked the Board for doing that.

Chair Viegbesie said the meeting was moved to 1 pm, there was nothing constitutionally that stated the meeting was to always be at 10 am. The regular meetings are 6:00 p.m. on first and third Tuesdays of the month, constitutionally. This was not the first emergency this County has had. He said he could not recall during the hurricane that the Commission had a regular meeting to review the Ordinances were being made. If the meeting time changes, there was no violation of the policy of the Board. He said he was not able to make the meeting at 10 am and staff made the change. If that gave someone heartburn, they could call him whatever they have called him before, that was not something secret because some of them have referred to him (when he wrote the letter) as “dictator”. He said they have their opinion and the right to it and he was not going to allow that to be (inaudible).

Commissioner Morgan said he would share with the Board what the citizens were looking for was for the Board to be unified and put together a common sense plan, move forward; everyone has the best interests and well-being of the citizens in mind. He added just because someone did not believe in a mask mandate did not mean it was a stupid opinion in his opinion. He did not think they needed a mask mandate because it was something they could not afford, if someone wanted to wear one, they would. He said he did not vote to buy more masks because Dr. Cooksey said there were enough masks on hand. He added it was ok if they disagreed on decisions, to just do so in a professional manner with the leadership everyone was looking for them to have.

Chair Viegbesie said he also wanted to point out morality was something you could not legislate. Morality was how people see right from wrong. Smoking marijuana was legislated as illegal but people still saw as a right thing to do. He further stated he believed that they, as people, did not need legislature to make them do what was right, no legislation that says when you go to the bathroom, when you come out, wash your hands, it was just the right thing to do. It was good for them to wear masks to be safe. Before the mandate there was people having block parties all over the County without masks and because of that, we had a mandatory mask in place.

Commissioner Taylor said they took an oath of office to protect this County to the best of their abilities as a primary, not secondary. This pandemic is something this County has never seen before. If there is a divide, it must be professionally done. She maintained a professional décor when she spoke what she felt with regard to the masks being considered highly recommended. She said shared public comments and remained professional. She stated it was uncanny to her that all of a sudden, asking people to wear masks was uncalled for when there was a majority vote with the exception of Commissioner Morgan for three to five meetings where they joined in asking people to wear the masks. She said it made no sense when reporting data that being

reported at that meeting and then take such a vote. Stores are saying unless you have a mask on, you can't come in. She said there is no Statute on meeting time but there was a Statute in Robert's Rules that when the Chair was not available, the Vice-Chair takes over the meeting. That is a Statute, that is in Robert's Rules, that is what they follow. She said they have the right to be in disagreement and she was in disagreement. She said they need to look at the proxy where all the position is given to the Chair. She said this was a functioning, active Board that was to hear situations that they were supposed to hear, not one individual. She added they have had opportunities to meet, they could discuss the items and they need to look at them, bring them to the Board and not to an individual. Then said she had to go to work.

Chair Viegbesie said to the attorney, the policy and procedure of County says the County Administrator is one that determined items that was to go on the Agenda. He said if anyone wanted the gavel, they could have it and they could run the County the way they thought it should be run right now. He said if his being Chair becomes an issue for anyone, anyone could have it.

Commissioner Holt said if they were not voting on the item, they needed to move on.
Commissioner Morgan said Amen.

Commissioner Holt asked what guidelines were they going to use for businesses to reopen?
CDC has guidelines, they need something in place.

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

She said she had two candidates for Planning, Charles Hayes and Ms. Lee. She said people needed a training program in place for them.

She wanted to reiterate, this (masks) should go to the Health Council.

Building Inspection.

She said there were real problems there. She said they need a board to look at issues in that department. Maybe use a check-off sheet.

Mr. Knowles said he would be happy to get with the Administrator and get back with the Commission on Friday with more information on re-opening.

Commissioner Holt asked what guidelines the Administrator would use to submit for vacation rentals, assumed would be CDC. Mr. Knowles said he would try to get clarity from DBPR, his understanding was if they wanted to re-open short-term vacation rentals, the County Administrator was legally required pursuant to that Executive Order, to submit a plan to DPR, which detailed how the County planned to re-open. She said that was why she asked what guidelines he would use to write that up, she assumed it would be CDC. Mr. Knowles said so far what they had received was a potential plan from the operator of the short-term vacation rental where they detailed their plan. What they proposed was what they (County) would work from in addition to the CDC guidelines. She stated she was interested in the Healthcare part and check CDC to make sure the County was in line because if anyone sued, the Board would be the one sued.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

11. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said as they focus on physical health, May was National Mental Health Awareness Month. He asked if the Health Department could share on Friday what perimeters were in place to help residents that were battling mental health.

He said the County Administrator also shared with him the progress of the bridge between Midway and Quincy and asked him to expound to the Board of the progress. Dr. Grant said he thought the schedule was for it to be completed by the end of July.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the road project between Midway off Brickyard Road that runs into Quincy.

Chair Viegbesie said the Public Works Director was not available, but thought now he would be requiring all the Directors to attend meetings in the future.

Commissioner Hinson said the County Administrator gave him all the information, he wanted to share it. He said they also discussed the mosquitos in Gadsden County and hoped they could resolve that problem too because he had a lot of citizens call him to find out when they would be spraying the area.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the policy was if a citizen wanted their property sprayed, they make a request and then the property was sprayed.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator to look into the status of EMS in Midway.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had no comments.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said one other thing they had available and had not applied for, was the Criminal Justice Department has several grants. She said she was told there were different categories that may be applied for and they may be able to get funding. She said they need to look at how they could get creative with funding.

She said Commissioner Hinson mentioned mental health, they need to look at marketing for the County for economic development. People were out of jobs and there was nothing saying companies have to re-hire people back.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

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

Chair Viegbesie said his only comment was, “I would rather most of us don’t attend, don’t run with the rabbits and bark with the dogs. There is no reason for us to be talking from both sides of our mouth. You just heard Commissioner Holt talk about grants and how much money was

out there and there was a lot of money out there. If we really care for the citizens of this County, we all will approve some organization or someone who will help is look for grants, there's millions and millions of dollars out there. So, there is no reason for us to come pontificate, act like we really care but when it comes to voting for what's good for the County, we go the other way. If we really love this County, we'll do the right thing for the citizens. Not just pontificating and posturing and grandstanding. Let us do what is right for the citizens. Again, O said it before, a few minutes ago, if anyone is interested in this gavel to be the Chair and would run it better, I'm willing to let them to have it. So, Mr. Administrator and Mr. Attorney, if you want to explore how to change the policies on election of leadership on this Board, let us consider that. O know election is normally in November. Of you want to consider that, that someone else thing they could do it better, I have no problem letting the gavel go, but I will vote the way my conscience tells me as a Commissioner elected by the people until I decide not to run again or until the citizens decide to not re-elect me. Let's explore that so we can move this gavel to the people who think that they can do a much better work in the leadership of this Board. That is my ...(hitting gavel) and meeting adjourned."

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 7:30 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 22, 2020 AT 1:00
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
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

This meeting was had over audio/conference call during the COVID-19 shutdown.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m. He asked for a moment for silent prayer, then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

1. COVID-19 Resolution 2020-023 Update

(Henry Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)

Mr. Knowles explained there was no changes to the Burn Ban Resolution.

The COVID-19 Resolution had 3 proposed changes; 1) Reopen vacation rentals to conform with the Governor. He stated the County would submit a plan to the Governor's office if the Commissioners approved. He stated he was working with the County Administrator to try and get a plan to get vacation rentals reopened as soon as possible. 2) Updating the capacity of retail and commercial businesses from 25% to 50%. 3) Raising the capacity for Restaurants from 25% to 50%. No other changes were proposed.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MOVED FOR APPROVAL WITH THE UPDATES WITH A SECOND FROM CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE, WITH QUESTION FROM COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.

Commissioner Taylor stated the last time the Board met at 1:00 there were changes with regards to mandatory was changed to strongly recommend the face mask and she wanted to go back

and revisit that particular item. She asked if the change was in the document that was in front of them.

Mr. Knowles said no, it was just presented in the document from last week with updates from the Governor, with the intention of having the Commissioners discuss and vote, and if the Board wanted the change, it would be made.

Commissioner Taylor stated she was in favor of the mandate of the mask. She also asked for updates on test results before she could decide going from 25% to 50%.

Dr. Grant said the count yesterday was 249 positive cases.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Mr. Knowles, with regards to capacity, if the County was changing the capacity from 25% to 50% in accordance to the Governors executive orders.

Mr. Knowles stated it was not mandatory, it was just a suggestion and could stay at 25%.

Commissioner Taylor said the State just started to open and now was talking about 50%. She further stated each County was different and she was glad about the flexibility. She asked if anyone was tracking the increase as the months went past. For example; How much had the positive cases gone up in the past 3 weeks? Is there tracking? Is there a data line to measure? She further stated she did not think there should be more community participation if cases were increasing.

Dr. Grant said he received updates on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday was 242 and Thursday was 249.

Commissioner Taylor said the BOCC needed to look at the tracking to see where cases were going. She stated a month and a half ago, Gadsden County was at one, and now the number was 249. She said the Board needed to look to see if the trend suited what the Board was doing or if the Board needed to hold their position until a flat curve was hit, like other counties.

Commissioner Holt said the numbers 212-249 was just a few days. People could have gotten infected 14 days from the testing day and just got tested. She thought the BOCC needed a graph to track and asked if Dr. Cooksey was on the line.

Ms. Hannigon, from the Health Department, was on the line and said she would find out Dr. Cooksey could respond.

Commissioner Holt said regarding the time frame of when a person was infected, to the time they were tested, the number went from 212-249 and it looked like it was all in two days but it really was not two days. She stated they could have been infected 14 days ago. The people they were near before they were tested could now be infected. She said she was apprehensive about not having more masks being worn. There stated there was no vaccine, and we need to make it

until there was a cure. She did not feel encouraging people was working. She stated there was a lunch for Public Works and people still wore a mask while getting food and sat separately to eat, showing you can wear a mask into a restaurant. She was still in favor of more people wearing masks and pointed out the CDC and doctors were saying to wear a mask.

Chairman Viegbesie said wearing a mask was the right thing to do. A law was not needed to wear a mask because people knew a mask would save them. Laws do not make people wear masks just like a speed sign does not make people stop speeding. He further stated the County had a mandate and there were still house parties with 500+ people. In his point of view, putting the word mandate on the Resolution was symbolic and there were some things in life where a law was not needed, common sense was needed. He was convinced the citizens of Gadsden County were full of common sense and knew how to do the right thing. Saying you must, would make people rebellious. He thought the word in the Resolution needed to be, "strongly encouraged" and not "mandated".

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Cooksey about tracking data on the cases reported each day and Dr. Cooksey said yes, she could get that information to the Board. Commissioner Holt stated just like the burn ban, people may burn and break the law and not get caught, but that was law enforcement. If it causes a forest fire, then they cost lives. She stated it was harder to get masks back into place than it was to get rid of them because people did not want to go back. Someone told her the BOCC could not determine what was worn or not worn on her body. She told them that was true and she was not trying to determine what people wore, she was trying to save as many lives as possible until there was a treatment. She said she was ready to vote.

Commissioner Taylor stated no mask was harmful to others. She said 500 people having a block party while there was a mandatory law in place, the law official had the right to go in and break it up and she hoped it was happening. The Board should be driven by data. She wants to move strongly recommend back to mandate and stated she would attend the rest of the meetings from now on. She said common sense should play a part but people were not showing common sense and asked why the mandate was removed during the last meeting, just to turn around and buy masks. She said her primary goal was public safety and wanted the Board to track data before the County was opened any more.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN CALLED THE QUESTION.

COMMISSIONER HINSON- Y

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- N

COMMISSIONER HOLT- N

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- Y

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE- Y

MOTION PASSED 3-2 COMMISSIONERS TAYLOR, HOLT OPPOSED

THE CALL TO QUESTION WAS APPROVED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

Chairman Viegbesie stated a vote on the motion of the item would take place now.

Commissioner Taylor asked what item was being voted on.

Chair Viegbesie said they were voting on the motion made by Commissioner Morgan to approve Resolution 20-23 as presented, with a second.

Commissioner Taylor asked what was in the Resolution the Board was voting on.

Chair Viegbesie said the Board was voting on Resolution 20-23 and asked the Attorney when the draft was emailed to Commissioners.

Mr. Knowles answered yesterday evening.

Chair Viegbesie stated everyone had an opportunity to preview the document and Commissioner Taylor stated she had not.

Commissioner Hinson asked if Commissioner Taylor could amend the motion made by Commissioner Morgan.

Chairman Viegbesie said it was up to Commissioner Morgan.

Commissioner Taylor made a friendly amendment to reinstate the mask mandate and stay at 25% capacity until further data was in.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the document had to be completed today and if there was a part that Commissioner Taylor wanted changed, she could make a friendly amendment on specifics to the entire document or make a motion with the changes she wanted and get a second.

Mr. Knowles stated there was no friendly amendment, it was just an amendment.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not interested in an amendment and he would like to see the vote go through.

Mr. Knowles stated what the steps were for votes and amendments. He stated the motion that was on the floor by Commissioner Morgan with a second by Chairman Viegbesie needed to be voted on.

COMMISSIONER HINSON- N

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- N

COMMISSIONER HOLT- N

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- Y

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE- Y

MOTION FAILED 2-3 COMMISSIONERS HINSON, TAYLOR, HOLT OPPOSED

THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY ROLL CALL VOTE NOT TO APPROVE

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR MANDATORY MASKS TO BE WORN IN GADSDEN COUNTY AND TO STAY AT 25% CAPACITY FOR ALL BUSINESSES THAT WERE OPEN, WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.

Commissioner Holt had no problem with a second to that motion. She thought it may be difficult to reinstate masks. She thought the police and the BOCC needed to sit down together and make a plan. She stated she was willing to back off for a week in order to meet with law enforcement for a plan.

Commissioner Taylor agreed about law enforcement sitting down with the BOCC but thought if the mandate was put back on, it gave the officers more creed to find a method. She wanted to get people in the mindset that the mask was coming back but did not want to wait seven days. She stated she wanted to get the three 3 votes she needed.

Commissioner Holt was willing to hear from the City Manager because the County needed a good plan in place.

Chairman Viegbesie said the Board always had law enforcement input with the Resolution to tell the BOCC how they would enforce changes.

Jack McLane was on the phone and spoke to the Board. He said the City's position was there should be masks. Masks had helped keep numbers down and other places were mandated as well. Less people wear a mask, and because of this, he was concerned the County was going to have more positive cases and possibly deaths. He said the City invested a lot of money in masks and he wanted to see results. He stated the mandate was being enforced and said people wanted to abide by the law. If the BOCC was going to wait, he wanted cities to be given the option to decide themselves. He urged a mask mandate with a unified voice for the whole county.

Commissioner Holt said the Chair and the Manager met with law enforcement but not the whole Board. She wanted to make sure all law enforcement was telling citizens the same thing and make sure everyone was safe. She was in favor of a mandatory mask and that was why she made a second to the motion. She asked what was the percentage of vacation rentals and was it all businesses across the board.

Mr. Knowles said it was currently 50% across the board and Commissioner Taylor's motion was 25%.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any reports from the 25% of owners, negative or positive. Mr. Knowles said there were requests to allow a higher capacity, typically for vacation rentals.

Commissioner Holt said if people were willing to abide by the rules, regulations, distancing and mask wearing, she had no problem with 50%, but she was concerned with people being too close.

Chairman Viegbesie said he would always wear a mask whether it was mandated or not and hoped others did the same. He urged people to get tested.

Commissioner Taylor wanted data before opening any higher than 25%.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the motion was for 25% capacity opening and a mandatory mask.

COMMISSIONER HINSON- Y

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- Y

COMMISSIONER HOLT- Y

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- N

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE- N

**MOTION PASSED 3-2 COMMISSIONERS MORGAN AND CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE OPPOSED
THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE**

Chairman Viegbesie asked Mr. Knowles to change Resolution 20-23 to institute mandatory face mask and change the percentage of businesses opening to 25% capacity.

Commissioner Holt said she may need to withdraw her vote. She stated she could not do the 50%. She asked if 50% was capacity or amount of business open.

Mr. Knowles said it was capacity but that was in the presented Resolution.

Commissioner Holt stated she was good when the explanation was given.

Chairman Viegbesie stated wearing of a mask was mandated and 25% capacity of opened businesses.

**2. Extension of Resolution 2020-22 Regarding an Emergency Burn Ban
(Henry G. Grant, PhD, Interim County Administrator)**

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.

COMMISSIONER HINSON- Y

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR -Y

COMMISSIONER HOLT- Y

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- Y

CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE- Y

MOTION PASSED 5-0

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 22, 2020 Emergency Meeting

Commissioner Taylor asked before the next meeting, to get data from Dr. Cooksey and to schedule a meeting with law enforcement officers (multiple municipalities) and the BOCC with a common message.

Commissioner Hinson said at the next budget meeting, he would like to have a discussion about internet access and digital infrastructure and how the citizens that live in unincorporated areas. He asked the Board consider a 4-week program for Summer Youth Employment. He stated Mr. Sapp had called him and wanted to help support the kids. Freddie Figgers had an opportunity at 15 years old and was now worth \$62 million. He wanted to inquire about the local banking systems response to the Rural Business Community for business loans. He asked if there was data that showed or reflected how local business benefited from guaranteed lending to sustain small business employment.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Commissioner Hinson to put those things in writing and send them to the County Administrator and he would explore the answer to give.

Motion to Adjourn

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE CALLED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:19 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 29, 2020 AT 1:00
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-appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5-absent
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to Order at 1:00 p.m. and asked everyone to bow their head for a moment of silence. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Commissioner Holt arrived at 1:02 p.m.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsgdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Resolution 2020-24 Update

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Chair Viegbesie said they have had a chance to preview the document and was ready for discussion.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem continuing with the mandatory masks but would like for the 25% to be increased to 50% occupancy and was in the form of a motion. Chair Viegbesie made the second.

Chair Viegbesie said one change requested was increasing the business occupancy from 25% to 50%.

Mr. Knowles asked if that was for all businesses including restaurants or for retail businesses, she asked what was in place now. He said both now for restaurants and retail. He wanted to clarify the motion to make sure...

She stated it was at 25% now and would like both to be at 50%.

Commissioner Morgan asked on the percentage of occupancy, was that in line with the Governor's current Executive order and Mr. Knowles said yes.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-1 COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any other changes or revisions to the Resolution, if not, he would entertain a motion to adopt the Resolution with the last change they just approved.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked about day camps, was that a part of this Resolution and he said yes.

Chair Viegbesie stated with regards to youth programs and camps during the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a part of the Resolution with an attachment that conforms with the CDC requirements.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were still voting to maintain the mandate on masks and Chair Viegbesie said yes.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-1

Chair Viegbesie said due to current conditions, the burn ban was not currently on the Agenda and the ban has been temporarily lifted.

Commissioner Holt said the Manager still had up to \$5,000 that he could get daily work of the County done without bidding. Chair Viegbesie said the discretionary spending was still up to \$25,000 and Commissioner Holt stated they were definitely at \$5,000 and she wanted to make sure that was still in place and people understood that they have to do that. It had to be done in order to run government and almost all governments had that. Chair Viegbesie said he could

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 29, 2020-Emergency Meeting

not recall any other conversations on this Board that had actually changed and thought it stood unless someone proved him otherwise.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VEIGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:12 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Ph.D.

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 2, 2020 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-appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5-arrived late
Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., asked that heads be bowed for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant said he would like pull Item 11, Item 16 and add item 14a-Approval of the Proposal of Contract for Repairs for Little River Bridge.

Commissioner Taylor appeared at 6:05 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE 5-0.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

Commissioner Holt asked to pull Item 3 for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. Ratification Memo
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a) March 10, 2020 Workshop Minutes
 - b) March 17, 2020-Regular Meeting
 - c) April 7, 2020-Regular Meeting
 - d) April 21, 2020-Regular Meeting
 - e) May 5, 2020-Regular Meeting
 - f) May 8, 2020-Emergency Meeting
3. ~~CR 65B (Old Federal Road) Supplemental Agreement~~
Pulled for discussion

4. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-CDBG & SHIP**
5. **Public Officials Bond Review**
6. **Appointment to the Quincy-Gadsden Airport Authority (QGAA)**
7. **Appointments/Reappointments to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors**
8. **Approval to Accept the FY 2020 2nd Quarter Report**
9. **Approval of Release of Lien for Parcel ID No.: 5-0L-0R-0S-1400-0000A-1111**
10. **Approval of Johnson Control Service Agreement for the Gadsden County Jail**
11. ~~**Approval of Contract Replacement on Quincy Library (Roof)**~~
Item pulled

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CR 65B (Old Federal Road) Supplemental Agreement

Commissioner Holt asked if the contingency money (\$188,164.56) would come back before Board before use and Dr. Grant said if requested was would. She wanted to make sure that point was brought up.

She said also, if possible, have the contractors bring millings back to the County yard so it could be reused in residential roads.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Earlene Taylor sent in an email and asked "Since Seniors are more vulnerable for the virus, what are your plans for shelters during hurricanes for Seniors.

I do realize that we do have an emergency management office and I have spoken to them.

Thank you for your response."

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator to respond to her.

Commissioner Taylor said with regard to Emergency Management, Covid-19, possibility of hurricanes and tornadoes, could a Contingency Plan be put in place on how they would house people in the event of an emergency, especially one at the same time, Covid and weather. Dr. Grant said they were working on it. Commissioner Taylor asked the timeline and he said hopefully by the end of the week.

Commissioner Holt said she was waiting on Item 17 before she said anything about the sheltering. She said she was also called and she called Emergency Management to see what they needed to do. She said Red Cross would not go into a non-certified area and with the social distancing, they would be out of space even with contracting with the School System. Also, this was a situation they needed to talk about now, on Friday (at the Emergency Meeting) and again next week. She said they should schedule the meetings because it was hurricane season. She said she receives calls about the elderly, Covid-19 and was sure the other Commissioners received calls as well.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

12. PUBLIC HEARING-(Quasi-Judicial)-Hot Rods Steakhouse Special Exception Use (SEU 2020-01)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of an application for a Special Exception Use for the proposed Hot Rods Steakhouse (SEU 2020-01).

Chair Viegbesie read aloud:

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker, swore in **Jill Jeglie, AICP, Interim Growth Management Director**, and she explained the item. She said the Planning Commission voted unanimously to accept this item.

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

Chair Viegbesie said Ms. Marian Lasley had requested to speak. She appeared on screen on Zoom but there were technical difficulties with her being able to be heard.

Commissioner Holt asked to hear from the representative of the property owners.

Mary Margaret Farris, Melvin Engineering, 4428 Lafayette Street, Marianna, FL, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk.

Commissioner Holt asked if the proposed owners were local and she said yes. She asked if there was a reason there was no outside dining and Ms. Farris explained they chose not to do it

at this time, the capacity of the parking lot was based on seats and they meet the capacity inside the building at this point. Commissioner Holt said currently with the concern of the virus, outdoor dining was recommended and thought that might be something they wanted to consider. Ms. Farris explained that in Jackson County where she resides, local restaurants had placed outside tents that took up some of the parking spaces and was how they were achieving their 50% capacity. Commissioner Holt asked if there was a reason for the time of service and Ms. Farris said that was the time they chose to start out with. Commissioner Holt said there was quite bit of traffic at that location, especially with that hill coming up. Ms. Farris said they have gotten comments from DOT and the permit was pending at this point for the driveway connection and a traffic analysis was done. The project itself along with the existing traffic on the road did not warrant any type of signal or turn lane. Commissioner Holt said she represented that District and was for economic development and restaurants were needed, just wanted to be careful about it.

Commissioner Holt then asked Ms. Jeglie for that facility, had there been any other questions about alcohol use in the County and Ms. Jeglie said not recently. Commissioner Holt said she would like to see something addressed as far as commercial in alcohol use in the future so something would be in place and it would not be so difficult.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Ms. Lasley was able to join in yet and she was not.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT SUGGESTED THEY TEXT MS. LASLEY.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

13. Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-Hot Rods Steakhouse Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2020-01)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated this was for consideration of an application to approve a Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan for the proposed Hot Rods Steakhouse (SP 2020-01).

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any public comments regarding this matter and there were none.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any comments or questions on the site plan and asked if there were any from the Planning Commission and Ms. Jeglie went over the conditions and options.

Commissioner Holt said the representative for the owners said with outdoor dining there was a limit on parking, did they include outdoor dining, was there property available for increased parking or was the wetlands not allowing that?

Ms. Jeglie said the Representative indicated when they had the discussion in the Planning Commission briefly, there was an indication that the site was fairly maxed out as far as they could take parking and this was pre-Covid. Commissioner Holt asked the size of the parking spaces and Ms. Jeglie said it was 35, including two for handicap. Ms. Farris said if they were to expand, they would have to acquire land to the west of them.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

14a Approval of the Proposal of Contract for Repairs for Little River Bridge

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval of the proposed contract for the repairs for Little River Bridge (BR# 500045-CR 268 over Little River). Dr. Grant explained Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. submitted a proposal for \$748,795.70 to complete the necessary repairs of the bridge. Gadsden County was awarded \$2,272,345.00 from the Department of Economic Opportunity for bridge repairs for the Hutchinson Ferry Bridge and the Little River Bridge. The total cost to complete the Hutchinson Ferry Bridge is \$1,612,943.00; the remaining balance is \$659,4.2.00. Anderson Columbia submitted a proposal to complete the Little River Bridge repairs for a cost of \$748,795.70. The remaining balance is \$89,393.70. Staff is requesting the balance to be paid from the Public Works Right of Way Fund-112-0126-54400.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBIESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Approval to Sell Surplus Equipment/Vehicles at Auction

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to sell surplus equipment, which was replaced or is no longer in service.

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

Commissioner Holt said she has brought this to the Board before, we were in a recession and headed into a depression and was a great idea to get rid of the equipment that was needed to be gotten rid of. She said they needed to look at the inventory closely and look at a 5-year lease/buy options. She said they would have to maintain the equipment and rotation and would not be bothered that much with lease/buy options. She asked where the vehicles would be auctioned at and hoped local citizens were notified and they would have a good chance at purchasing some of the equipment themselves.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Commissioner Taylor asked where the funds would go from the sale of the surplus equipment and Dr. Grant said the funds would be subdivided and returned to General Funds and Public Works Fund.

15. Motorola Solutions Change Order Number 5

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of the Motorola Solutions Change Order Number Four (**NOTE: Should be Number 5**) for materials, labor and services associated with civil work required at Prime (Jail), Midway (American Tower) and Peavy (SBA) sites. This is to include site work, fence, grounding, slab for shelter (provided by County) and/or the Generator (provided by County), electrical, telco, grubbing and rock, where required, ice bridge and crane. He added the fiscal impact total would be \$444,451.00 with an annual payment of \$66,566.00 starting November 15, 2020. He said the funding would be from General Funds and paid through the Towers and Rentals account.

Chair Viegbesie said this was just short of One Half Million Dollar change order and asked how this happened that it was so under estimated.

Allan Meeks, Facilities Manager, appeared remotely and said Debbie Giles should be on and could answer the questions.

Debbie Giles, Mobile Communications, appeared remotely to answer questions the Commissioners had regarding the Change Order. She said with the initial contract all tower and civil work was, at the request of staff at that time, to be conducted by County employees. Things have changed since then and one tower site was damaged from the hurricane and would

not hold the weight of the new equipment; that was the first change order requiring the new tower and the Dispatch Center equipment. This change order was to cover three of the sites that currently need site work to place the shelter, run electrical to it to bring it up. These were things that were pulled out of the original contract by Staff at that time that was going to be done by Gadsden County employees.

Commissioner Holt said she understood they had social distancing and could not have a room full of people, but felt this was one they needed to discuss a little. She said they need to schedule a workshop next week on this.

Chair Viegbesie said he would support that. He asked the Administrator to work with the Clerk's office to retrieve the Meeting minutes to have them available so they could review them and what conditions they were awarded under along with the Change Orders.

Commissioner Taylor said that was her summation as well. She added if there were some intentions that some of this be done in-house, they needed to look at that as well.

Commissioner Morgan said he would refrain the topic a little bit and advise the Board to reconsider some of the conversation. He said they knew from the beginning of this project, because they were solving a 30+ year old problem, not only for the Sheriff's Office but for the volunteer firefighters, EMT's and so many others who were responsible for the health, safety and well-being of the community, they could not communicate from one end of the County to the other, this was a project that . He further stated that this was a project that from 2016 to present, they knew they would have different moving parts and pieces even before having the challenges of Hurricane Michael, major changes in staffing and so many other obstacles on this project. He said the implication that this was not being done properly he did not see that in the least at all. He said they did not have the capability of County Staff to do some of the things that at one time thought they could do. He said they were 5-6/8ths of the way through the project to solve the problem and had so much invested into it, it was not a matter of whether or not they were going to finish it, it was how they were going to finish it. He said if there was going to be discussion, he had no problem with that, but felt they needed to approach it with the understanding that they have a major issue that they have been trying to solve the past 31/2 years. He said they need to schedule a timely workshop to get that done he did not have a problem but it was something they absolutely needed to do and was of the utmost importance and hadn't been for the past three years outside of how they were addressing the effect of Hurricane Michael and the situation with Covid-19.

Chair Viegbesie said the One-half Million-dollar change order was his concern. He could not recall that conversation.

Commissioner Holt said they could schedule a special meeting.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REGARDING THIS MATTER AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NO
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES

COMMISSIONER MORGAN YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE YES
MOTION PASSED 4-1 COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED

16. ~~Approval of Gov Easy Software CGA Proposal No. 20-3786 Agreement~~
Item Pulled

17. Approval and Execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Gadsden County School Board for Sheltering

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to execute an Interlocal Agreement for public schools and post-secondary education facilities for use as public hurricane evacuation shelters.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CLERK OF COURT

18. Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and said they have discovered some issues that the Commissioners need to resolve. He said complete funding was not provided in this year's budget for items. First, for the Ag Center, it has funding from multiple sources, 1) \$1 Million appropriation from the State and have drawn down over \$900,000 ; 2) There is supposed to be a \$350,000 cash match to be provided by the County but was inadvertently omitted from the budget; 3) a \$707,000 loan that the County has with BB&T, which will subsequently get converted to a USDA loan; and then 4) there is a \$199,000 grant from USDA which will cover the costs of the Food Market/Farmers' Market. He said overall, a \$2.2 Million project that is missing from budget and was not appropriated was \$350,000 cash match, USDA required that the County spend it's required funding before they convert over to a USDA loan and before receiving the grant. He said he mentioned this at an earlier meeting that it appeared that way to give staff a chance to review and tell (Finance) if the money was somewhere else in the budget but it appeared the final answer was it was inadvertently omitted from the budget. He added this needed to be addressed quickly as they were well into the project; have commitments from the State and the Federal Government, which they have obligated themselves and for some reason was not included in the budget.

Commissioner Taylor recommended they tag that item with a special meeting and direct staff between now and then to identify where the funds are to come from so they can keep the project moving and to give the Clerk what he is looking for as far as direction in identifying the money.

Commissioner Holt asked if that was a motion.

Chair Viegbesie said to give direction to the County Administrator to work with the Clerk and Mr. Price to see how they could creatively come up with what they have committed to with consideration of what they have in the budget. Commissioner Taylor said to put that on the agenda and he said yes.

Mr. Thomas said the second problem was with the Shuttle Program. They have agreements with Big Bend Transit, City of Tallahassee and Havana. Both Havana and City of Tallahassee is providing money for the program and the County was provided an expense line item of \$200,000 but in the transfer from the General Fund was only \$100,000 transfer and was short \$100,000 in their obligation to the program as it was budgeted. He said they have already received from Star Metro and Havana nearly \$100,000 and they have fulfilled their obligation and it appeared the County had an obligation and did not provide all the money needed for it.

Chair Viegbesie asked if he was hearing him say right now the County was committed to \$450,000 that was not accounted for in the budget. Mr. Thomas said it appeared the County was committed to \$200,000 but only provided a transfer of \$100,000.

Chair Viegbesie said they were short \$100,000 plus the monies for the Ag Center and that was a total of about \$450,000.

Commissioner Holt asked if that item could be added to the Agenda as well.

Chair Viegbesie said they had to resolve the fiscal responsibilities and commitments that they have dug themselves into and need to find a way to dig themselves out of. Especially when it comes to the Shuttle when the other participants have met their end of it and the County was the originator of it, it behooved them to at least meet their end of what they have committed themselves to. Yes, it needed to be added to that discussion on the next Emergency Meeting and schedule the emergency meeting for 6:00 as soon as possible. Dr. Grant asked for a date and Commissioner Holt said the next Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said they needed to really look at the Budget Department because items such as this should not be missed.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

19. Updates

Dr. Grant said they all should have a revised, updated budget calendar, they changed the special meetings to workshops.

He said the position on the County Administrator was advertised for thirty days and twelve applications were received and seven met the minimum requirements. Staff asked direction on how the Commissioners wished to move forward with the interviewing phase of the recruitment process.

Chair Viegbesie said his opinion was, since there were seven applicants, whatever the Commission wanted to do, did not see why all seven should not be called for an interview and the top three brought before the Board for an interview.

Commissioner Taylor said she concurred to interview all seven applicants since they met the minimum qualifications and preferred the top five.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to see all seven, they have had so many problems, she wanted to see all of them. She said they could take four one day and three another. She said they needed to do something and this was not working. She said she really wanted to see all the applications, whether they qualified or not and requested same. She wanted to see all seven because they really needed to sit down and work on this item.

Commissioner Hinson said he concurred with Chair Viegbesie to look at the top three.

Commissioner Morgan said to send out the information on the seven that were deemed qualified, let the Commissioner review the information and rank them independently and take the top three and do interviews.

Chair Viegbesie said if all seven was brought before them, he was fine with that; for all the information to be given to the Commissioners, let them to the selection and interviewing of the selected. He added he wondered why they had a HR department and was his opinion. He said whichever way it went, was fine with him.

Commissioner Taylor said she was willing to interview all seven and go with Commissioner Holt. Chair Viegbesie said he was flexible with that also.

Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Hinson if they were in agreement with all seven being interviewed, Commissioner Morgan was ok with it.

Chair Viegbesie said for them to make all seven applications available to the Commissioners; all seven be made available for interviews, to be split into two days; four one day and three the other day.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not see how this could be effectively be done by Zoom. They needed to have the meeting in a location where they all could fit due to the virus.

Commissioner Holt said they could have offices set up where the applicant met with the Commissioners individually. He asked the Administrator and HR to work out the logistics.

Commissioner Taylor said she had a call for concern about Atlanta Street and Highway 90 for a traffic light. She said if they were to do a survey in the area, there had been a vast number of accidents that have occurred at that corner to the point that make it would be looked at for a traffic light. She knew one had been asked for at Crawford and Pat Thomas Parkway and there had been no movement. She asked the Chair, since he represented them at CRTPA, if there was anything the Board needed to send along with him asking for more consideration or what they needed to do for a light.

Chair Viegbesie said he would be one to represent the Board at CRTPA and would work with the Interim Administrator and Public Works Director to work with CRTPA and FDOT to see what requirements they must have in order for that to be considered. Commissioner Taylor said they have some advantages because they have a Sheriff that is very close with the Governor and may need to tap into that and maybe put a formal letter together. She added for them to agenda that item and name the three roads that they wanted to be considered in the very near future to have the lights: Crawford at Pat Thomas Parkway in front of Walgreens; Atlanta Street and Highway 90 and, Pt. Milligan and State Road 12.

Commissioner Hinson asked to have two additional roads added-MLK in Midway and Highway 90 and MLK and Brickyard Road.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator to take note of the roads mentioned and they will meet along with the Director of Public Works and put together some documentation and he can take that to CRTPA and FDOT. He then asked the Commissioners if they had any roads, they felt needed any traffic restraint devices, to give the list to the Administrator and he would work with CRTPA and FDOT to see what could be done to rectify the problems.

Commissioner Taylor said she has a guy that calls her once week and asked is the park open? Mr. Knowles said no, that was nothing they voted on, it was in the Resolution, they could address it. The Resolution specifically kept parks closed. Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a reason why, was this something the Governor was holding back on, because they had pretty much followed his recommendation as to how to re-open Florida. Mr. Knowles said he was unsure; things change every day with the Governor and he would look it up and get back with then. Commissioner Taylor asked if they could look at that on Friday.

Commissioner Taylor said with regard to the Public Hearings, they had two of them tonight; it was kind of mundane for the Chair to ask if there was anyone that had any input (when the public not having access due to the Covid-19 virus) and asked if it was legal the way it was handled because the public was limited. Mr. Knowles said the physical presence was not required so they were within the law.

Commissioner Taylor said she noticed they have two PIO's (Public Information Officers) and Dr. Grant said yes, at this time, they had a 30-day overlap and should be ending this week. She said they have had this vote several times and did not want to dive into the day-to-day...

Chair Viegbesie interrupted and said they had an overlap because of the technology between the permanent and the contracted. She asked if the position was advertised and was told yes. Commissioner Taylor said she was looking at the transition, hearing all this, people got raises galore and hoping when they select someone to come aboard, moving forward, whomever comes aboard will probably have to interview everyone all over again or would be her suggestion, because going out, some of these Administrators gave out lavish raises. She said she felt for Dr. Grant having to find \$450,000 without touching reserves because of the salaries and it was outrageous.

Commissioner Hinson said he echoed this last Friday, he asked the date of completion on the project in Midway off Brickyard Road. Dr. Grant asked if he was talking about State Road 268 and said it should be completed by the end of June.

He thanked him for addressing citizens on broadband issues and said a lot of people were staying home working and did not have access to the internet. He wanted to have a meeting on that infrastructure.

He said he also asked last week as they were focused on physical health, that they focus on mental health; May was Mental Health month and he wanted to have Dr. Cooksey with the Health Department to share information as it related to the community.

He asked for a workshop on EMS in Midway. He said the Board made a bold move to bring EMS into Midway and Staff decided upon themselves to remove the EMS from Midway without Board approval. He asked what happened to the money, did it go back into budget?

Commissioner Taylor said not sure if this comment was to the County Administrator, the Commissioners, the Health Department or the Sheriff's Department, she thought the way they set up and implemented the testing site was done very professional and ran very smoothly. She said the only thing she heard people were asking was how people could get test results in writing and Dr. Cooksey did a miraculous job in answering.

Commissioner Taylor asked they do recommendations for the Sheriff Department and the Health Department in the very near future.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. Updates

Mr. Knowles said he had no comments and was available for questions if there were any.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

21. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked all the students that graduated this weekend and the parents and teachers and the community as a whole.

He said he had a student, Tony Bunion, Jr, that wrote a book, "Breaking the Cycle" and could not wait to receive it and read it.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had no comments.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4

Commissioner Holt said FDOT has grants they give out, some for beautification and safety, and asked Dr. Grant to look into it.

There was a gentleman in one of the meetings regarding on one of the towers in Havana she thought, and the felt they needed to look into these things quickly.

She asked for a presentation or some data regarding a lease/buy options with FDOT and vehicles and Road and Bridge to look at savings and in-house servicing on vehicles should be mandatory. She said for regular services like oil changes, etc., but for specialty items they could send out.

She said with the shelter at the hospital, there was one item that was brought up, they need to look at any renovation monies out there, it should be in the form of a hospital and hopefully they would not renovate something for an open areas and then decide to put beds in later and have to re-renovate that area.

Initial contract on tower-if Motorola has that, they need a copy to look at that to compare what they are going to say the other one-half Million dollars will be for compared to what they were doing under the original contract.

Library-she asked if there was a metal roof on it currently and said she could not remember. She said this company was going to do shingles. She said metal roofs were supposed to be an improvement.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor had nothing to report on.

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

Chair Viegbesie echoed the comment from Commissioner Hinson on wishing the graduates of Gadsden County well.

He said to the citizens of the County to please fill out their 2020 Census or go to the website and complete it. He said that was one of the ways the County received money from the State and Federal government as it was based on population, so he asked that the citizens to that so they could have access to more money to be able to take care of some of the problems what there was no money for.

He asked that everyone, individually and family, to prepare for hurricane season while the County did the same thing.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 11, 2020-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:29 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 5, 2020 AT 1:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2-Absent
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1-appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 1:00 p.m.; asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 1:03 p.m.

An email was received from Perry Koussiafes and Dr. Grant read it aloud.

“hello

I believe the curfew is currently 12pm to 5am. It would be helpful for me to end the curfew at 4am. I like early morning walks for exercise and there is no one out at this hour, at least not in my neighborhood.

Thank you for your time.”

Commissioner Taylor said she had heartburn telling people no but she could not support it at this time and felt it opened Pandora’s Box.

Vice Chair Holt said she was in favor of keeping it as it was currently in place.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Resolution 2020-27 Update

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Knowles to review the changes that were being made to the Resolution.

Mr. Knowles said there were some changes to reflect some of the changes the Governor put into the Executive Order issued by him. He said all retail and commercial businesses could operate at 50% of their permitted capacity. He said there were specific requirements for restaurants; the bar counters that were previously closed are now allowed to re-open provided there is adequate social and personal distancing. He stated this was for establishments that derived more than 50% of their revenue from sale of alcohol can now re-open at 50% capacity. He said Commissioner Taylor asked last week about re-opening County parks for camping and there were some specifics he would go over shortly. He said the major change they would see in this Resolution was the gathering restriction would be increased from 10 individuals to 50 individuals and was in-line with the Governor's Executive Order 139. He said nightclubs were to still remain closed pursuant to his order. He said the mask mandate and curfew was still proposed to be in place. He said regarding the parks, the proposed limit still kept the camping groups to 10 people; if they were using a tent, they were requiring to keep those groups to 10 people, if using an RV, as long as within a 15 foot radius in the immediate vicinity of the RV, there could be more than 10 as long as they were adequately social distancing with the mask requirements.

Commissioner Hinson said he had heartburn over the gym opening. He asked if they had to adopt this or could it be challenged. Mr. Knowles explained the new Executive Order did not explicitly allow County or municipal government to change what the Governor said by making it more restrictive; however, there was no prohibition against it. He said he did not think they would have a problem because there was no amusement parks, professional sports teams or churches being closed here. He added they could remove gyms and he did not think they would run afoul of the Governor's Executive Order.

Commissioner Holt asked about family gatherings and Mr. Knowles said it had been raised to 50, provided the Commissioners accepted the changes.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NEW RESOLUTION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CHANGING THE MASK MANDATE TO "STRONGLY RECOMMEND" AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said the riot was a huge thing all over the country and asked if 50 people were ok or should it stay at 10. Vice Chair Holt said according to Mr. Knowles and per the Governor, there could be gatherings up to 50 and they had to abide by what the Governor said. Commissioner Hinson asked if they could be stricter on that. Mr. Knowles stated they could be stricter if needed to, this was a proposed recommendation and not a requirement.

VICE CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
VICE CHAIR HOLT	YES
MOTION PASSED 3-1	

Major Shawn Wood, Gadsden County Emergency Management, appeared remotely for questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor said there were things not clear and she was trying to get a picture to get clarity as far as trying to implement the mask mandate.

Major Wood said he was the one that sent the information, this was the only County mandating the mask. He said there was still a major concern, there have been 4 fatalities in the County and around 300 cases. There were still people that had concerns as to why they had to do it.

Vice Chair Holt said of course there were concerns as to why it had to be done but all they had to do was save one life and they would have done an improvement. She said they did not have to have a true "hotspot" here if they were careful, they were not trying to dictate, simply were trying to save lives and help people.

Commissioner Hinson had a question and said he would bring this up until they caught on to it. He said he brought this up about for years ago and was serious now because there were a lot of students and parents now and he was talking about Broadband. He said they need to have a workshop and this was very serious. The kids need a way to do their work from home and they need to have this conversation soon as this was a state of emergency for the County.

Vice Chair Holt asked them to look at scheduling a workshop with the County, School system and Commissioner Hinson said he would like Mr. Freddie Figgers to be a part of that as well. Vice Chair Holt asked him to work with the Manager on that.

Commissioner Hinson said they also had to get EMS straight in Midway and needed to make sure those citizens were taken care of.

He said they also needed to have a conversation concerning mental health.

Vice Chair Holt asked him to talk with the Administrator on these items. She also said that the County had a Health Council and they should be contacted.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:27 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 12, 2020 AT 1:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2-Absent
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4 – appeared remotely
Eric Hinson, District 1-appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 1:07 p.m., asked for a moment of silence and then asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Dr. Grant read aloud the COVID-19 statement for the public.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Resolution 2020-28 Update

Mr. Knowles stated the only change was on the date and changed the curfew time to 11:59 instead of 12 Midnight to off-sway confusion.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE THE MANDATORY MASKS TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AND VICE CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

VICE CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

CHAIR VIEGBESIE NOT PRESENT

MOTION PASSED 3-1

Commissioner Taylor said they were to discuss the insurance issue whether they could use that today and was not sure if they were ready for that and they were to briefly discuss if they were ready to open the meetings to the public.

Vice Chair Holt said the last item was to be discussed the next Friday.

Mr. Knowles said he has done some research after consulting with Dr. Grant and the carrier, and the information was on a thumb drive it was so large, but they were under the impression they should not use those insurance funds to cover shortfalls, in addition to the fact that that construction that the funds came from was still ongoing, if they expended those funds and do not finish the project, the money not properly budgeted and something else happened to the building, the insurance carrier may not cover any future damages. He did not believe it would be prudent to use those funds for that particular purpose and should keep those funds where they were and try to find another funding source if the Board so chose to do so.

Vice Chair Holt said that was why she was asking for a report on all facilities dealing with insurance because they have to know what was there, what was left and what they could still use. She asked the attorney that it was his opinion that they should wait on those funds and not look at using them for other uses and he stated he did not believe they should use those insurance funds for this purpose (for the \$350,000 for the AG Center). He said it could pre-create too many problems down the line for the County; insurance issues, liability issues, the funds were still encumbered and the County did not have the full \$350,000 from the insurance money, it would be only a portion, if they were to use those funds. He did think it was prudent for the Budget Director, the County Administrator and himself or whomever to get together and present alternative options for the Commissioners to decide where to draw the funds from.

Commissioner Taylor concurred with the attorney; the Budget Director needed to find other funding sources so they could meet their obligation. Commissioner Morgan said he would second that along with Vice Chair Holt.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
VICE CHAIR HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	NOT PRESENT

MOTION PASSED 4-0

Commissioner Hinson said one thing he wanted to address was broadband and infrastructure. He brought this up four years ago and now with people working from home, broadband needed to be addressed.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners . .
June 12, 2020-Emergency Meeting

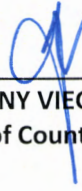
Vice Chair Holt said she could barely hear him and asked if he had spoken with the Manager regarding this. He said he had along with his constituents.

Vice Chair Holt said for him to get with the Manager and have this placed on the agenda.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:18 P.M.

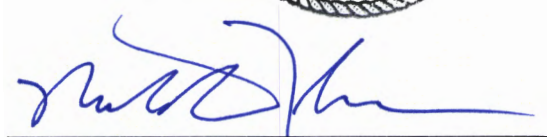
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



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 JUNE 16, 2020 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-appeared remotely
 Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m., asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant said he would like to pull item 10 as the applicant requested for the item to be heard when live meetings could resume as opposed to the Zoom meetings.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Audit Presentation

Purvis & Gray

Ryan Tucker, Purvis and Gray, appeared before the Board to present the audit report to the Board.

He said they had met with each of the Commissioners individually to go over the audit and at the request of the Chair, had prepared a brief summary of the results of the audit. He said as a reminder for the public, the primary purpose for their Financial Statement Audit is to issue an opinion on the financial statement and to ensure the statements are presented fairly and in accordance with GASP. He said they are required to issue a report on the internal control in accordance with the County’s internal control in accordance with Government auditing standards and if County spends more than \$750,000 of Federal or State grant funds in a particular fiscal year, they were required to have Federal and State single audit. He said they did have to do a Federal and State single audit this year and was included in the report.

He said EMS collections was up and gave a brief analysis over-all of the state of the County. At the end of the year, the County ended up with an unassigned fund balance of \$4.3 Million in the General Fund. He said the County took on various new debt of the past year and he mentioned what that was. He said the County made scheduled principal

payments of \$1.7 Million; stating they added \$3.1 of new debt but paid off \$1.7 of existing debt.

He said there was a Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Financial Assistance and there were 21 federal grants that had expenditures during that time period for a total of \$1.3 Million and 15 state grants that had a total of \$4 Million of state expenditures so they had to do a Federal and State Single Audit and there were a couple of findings.

Problems:

The first was related to the SHIP Program, was a continuation and they were still trying to work through the issue from a prior year and they had to follow up on any of the findings in the next audit. He said the Annual Reports that had to be submitted to Florida Housing Finance Corporation was not being reconciled to the General Ledger, the County records and they were recommending they investigate the differences and submit a corrected report and make sure it was reconciled prior to submission going forward. On the Federal side, they had to do some additional work on the FEMA grants and this was at the Sheriff's Office and the Board. He said all cities and counties had trouble with FEMA and the documentation that was pulled together was not consistent with the amount they were submitting for reimbursement. He said he understood the County has hired a consultant to help them navigate that process for Hurricane Michael and hoped that issue would get itself resolved. He said there were two additional items related to internal control. The first was inventory of Shop Supplies; the Public Works Department had some turn-over at the first of the year and was not able to perform the monthly inventory that they typically perform and they recommended they get that back into play. He said the next item was the reconciliation with health insurance withholdings against the invoices with the County's insurance provider. He said those were not being done timely and got behind. It was being recommended that was being brought up to speed and stayed on top of on a monthly basis and insured processes were in place.

He said the County had issued their responses to those particular findings and their thought was they were generally iteming due to turn-over and got put to the side and should be fairly easy to resolve going forward.

He said there were two additional items on the Sheriff's report and were carry-overs from the prior year and he noted that the Sheriff did resolve one of the findings from the prior year related to (inaudible) of their fixed assets records. He said there were two that still remained, one was on the Financial Statement Closed Process and the delay in that getting that done timely, getting the bank records completed on a timelier basis and has mainly been a staffing issue at the Sheriff's Office. The other issue was related to some Confiscated Funds that were taken into evidence years ago, probably 15 years ago or more, they were still trying to get those cases resolved and may need a Court order to release those funds.

Mr. Tucker said this year was even more difficult with the pandemic and they had to do a lot of the work remotely and took extra time and they appreciated all the effort of everyone involved in meeting the June 30th deadline.

Chair Viegbesie asked about the deficiencies found with the Sheriff and County, were there situations that were time sensitive with regards to finding resolutions to them, or as long as they were done before the next audit? Mr. Tucker said a couple like the SHIP report only gets done annually; the Health insurance reconciliation needs to be done monthly and thought they now had a procedure in place; Public Works needed to be done monthly and have now implemented a procedure; and the Sheriff's Office needs to do a softer close on a more timely basis to be ready for the year-end and the Confiscated Funds issue would take more time but was not something that was on fire.

Commissioner Holt said they went over this the other day and she wanted to be able on the next audit to sit with Board members before the audit to make sure those departments are doing what they are supposed to do. On SHIP and FEMA, it was recommended by Emergency Management and State government officials that more people be put in those departments and in FEMA they have just done that; they have not yet for SHIP.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated their team for not only getting together with everyone and the Constitutionals, particularly in the current environment. He added the good news was they were still financially sound and was confident that was a result that they have created and adhered to, for the most part, good budgets and lived within their means, particularly with Hurricane Michael, but threw a word of caution in the year ahead. He said their revenues were going to decrease, not only from their ad valorem tax dollars but from the State-funded line items they were accustomed to simply because of what has happened in recent months. He said they needed to remain vigilant as they approach the budget season.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND; THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CONSENT

Commissioner Holt asked to pull Item 3 and Commissioner Morgan asked to pull Item 7 for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH CHANGES AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **March 13, 2020 Emergency Meeting**
 - **May 22, 2020 Emergency Meeting**
 - **April 17, 2020 Emergency Meeting**
 - **May 29, 2020 Emergency Meeting**
 - **April 24, 2020 Emergency Meeting**
 - **May 1, 2020 Emergency Meeting**
 - **May 15, 2020 Emergency Meeting**
 - **May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting**

- ~~3.~~ **Contract for the Quincy Library Roof Replacement**
Item pulled for Discussion
4. **Appointment to the Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition**
5. **DEO Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant Agreement**
6. **Dewberry Engineering Task Order for the American Tower Midway Site**
- ~~7.~~ **Public Works Heavy Equipment Buy Back Plan**
Item pulled for Discussion

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

3. Contract for the Quincy Library Roof Replacement

Commissioner Holt asked if comparable materials were being used.

Dr. Grant said in a Memo that was sent to all the Commissioners, a metal roof was approximately \$100,000 and a shingle roof was \$37,500.

Commissioner Holt said until she received more information, she could not vote for this item.

Commissioner Holt asked the amount of insurance for the building; insurance was written for each facility separately.

Dr. Grant said they were looking for a blanket to cover all the buildings in the new year.

Commissioner Morgan said the discussion seemed to imply that a shingle roof did not give better protection than a metal roof and that was not the case.

Commissioner Holt said that was more an opinion on the quality of the roof than the coverage of the roof itself. She said if they were going to look at doing this, if could look to upgrade, should do that.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was bid out and Chair Viegbesie said it was.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1 COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED

7. Public Works Heavy Equipment Buy Back Plan

Commissioner Morgan said this item concerned the Public Works heavy equipment buyback plan and ensured the efficiency of the Public Works Department while maintaining the integrity of their Transportation Fund balance. He said this item concerns 13 pieces of equipment they will be leasing and wanted to mention they would have new equipment 5 years from now so they could keep that rotated with current equipment. He said he wanted to mention that to identify the difference between this item and the item in General Business. He thanked Lisa Robinson, the Public Works Director, and said they have had extensive conversations.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Jessica Sykes, Chair Viegbesie read her email aloud.

Jim Roberts III, Dr. V read his email aloud

Commissioner Taylor said the entire conversation was not mentioned, she did not want to hold up progress with regards to updating their system, but they need to be fiscally responsible. She did not say it was an unimportant task, but to spend that kind of money without doing their due diligence was irresponsible. She said she now had a better understanding of what was being asked of them. She said this item would come back before them at the first meeting in July.

Atticus Stevens, Chair Viegbesie read his email aloud. Commissioner Taylor gave her cell number 850-264-1518.

Chair Viegbesie took the time to thank the citizens that took the time to send their concerns that were read into the record.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial) 84 Triple H, Salem Road, Havana, Communications Tower Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP-2020-03)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was a quasi-judicial public hearing for a communications tower conceptual/preliminary site plan located on Salem Road.

Jill Jeglie, Interim Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by Deputy Clerk Blocker and she gave an overview of the item.

She stated there were some concerns regarding location of the property, why it was selected that required so many and such severe deviations. The Planning Commission felt there was available land that could be set-back further than 174 feet from the roadway, there was an option where they could set it back further; that asking for the three deviations impacted, more than just one deviation affected 10-11 property owners; an option was put in front of them, option 2 where they could reduce the number of deviations that they requested by setting the tower back 500 feet, however, the property owners' relatives (Hiers) have provided letters to you with an attachment, indicated that they did not want the tower closer to their properties, as there were safety concerns. One of the primary concerns was it seemed the tower was too close to the road and would fall into the road or when it collapsed, would take trees and power lines down with it, even if it collapsed into itself and would cause an issue. The biggest concern was it was on the west side of the County road and a hurricane could put the tower onto the roadway, however Mr. Volpe described the power-zone radius, which is usually 100-150 feet and is a 200 foot tower, as 150 feet and would be 24 feet from that right-of-way and was concerns regarding whether it would pull down trees with it. She said there were also concerns as to how the site was picked and the fact there were other large properties in the area that could have been selected. The tower owner reached out to all the property owners within their search area, however Mr. Donahoe was provided a letter with the packet indicating his opposition and at the meeting, stated he was not contacted. Other concerns were the Citizens Bill of Rights meeting and the fact it was held at 4:00 p.m. on a Friday and also landscaping.

The four options presented:

The first is to approve with conditions;

The second is to approve with the deviations;

The third is to deny the tower; and

The fourth is Board Direction. She said the Planning Commission recommendation was Option 3 to deny the tower unanimous 8-0 and the Interim County Administrator recommendation was for Board Direction.

Mike Donahoe, 130 Rabbit Pond Road, Havana, FL 32333 appeared remotely and was sworn in by Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker. His property is immediate adjacent to the proposed tower property. The tower is stationed at an intersection of Potter-Woodberry Road and Salem Road, which has a very dangerous pattern of traffic along that road. He said they bought that property 30 years ago to be in a pristine neighborhood and was

surprised the Board was considering this after the Planning Board denied this 8-0. He said it did not make sense, it could be further up the highway where there were plenty other places that were residential that it could go there. He asked the Board to deny this as the Planning Board did.

Stacey Rasky, 281 Potter Woodberry Road, Havana, FL, appeared remotely and was sworn in by Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker. She said they are 2-3 parcels east of the intersection and have about 215 acres and understand Mr. Donohoe's concern. Their property was actually looked at for placement of the tower but they have a conservation easement and the tower was not allowed. She was for it because they have no cell coverage or internet. She added when COVID-19 hit and people were instructed to stay home, she and her husband could not, they had to venture into Tallahassee to work because they did not have internet. She was in support of tower.

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy, FL, appeared remotely and was sworn in by Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker. She wanted to bring up the fact there are quite few properties that were much closer than the set-backs and eight (8) parcels that are closer than one-half mile from rural residential and eleven parcels that are closer than 1,750 feet. She said the deviations are listed as three and the deviation basically for the language for the Land Development Code and there are possibly 19 parcels actually affected. She said the road issue is probably the worst thing for the County to have to deal with and felt it was a safety issue. She felt the deviations requested were quite numerous, not just one set-back that was 200 feet, it was quite a few that was almost the whole set-back. She felt the deviations were definitely detrimental to the public good as the safety issue and are detrimental to the surrounding properties. She added that she believed her vote on the Planning Commission reflected how she felt on this property and they should keep looking for a more suitable location.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any more speakers.

Ms. Steele said Mr. Volpe was available for comments.

Robert Volpe, Esquire, Hopping, Green & Sams, PA, 119 S. Monroe Street, Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301, appeared remotely before the Board and said he would like to make comments when the Board would like to recognize him.

Chair Viegbesie asked to let him read into record the emails received from citizens.

Larry Ganus, opposed to cell tower-Chair Viegbesie read into record his email.

Michael Dorian, Chair Viegbesie read into the record his email.

Eileen Parks and **Jeffrey Davis** were in favor of the tower and Chair Viegbesie read their email into the record.

Hugh Stephens, Chair Viegbesie read his email aloud into the record and he was in favor of the tower.

Turner Hiers, Chair Viegbesie read his email aloud into the record and he was in favor of the tower.

LucidityTV, mperkins, Chair Viegbesie read his email aloud and he was in favor of the tower.

Mr. Volpe, appeared remotely before the Board and thanked the Board for considering the application and allowing him to appear before them. He asked they approve the application with the deviations. He said the project would bring much needed cell service and internet to the area of Gadsden County. Verizon identified a gap in their service and this tower would fill that gap. He said they were requesting three deviations from set-backs and said Ms. Jeglie had gone through them in detail. He said the site was carefully considered by both the property owner and Tarpon Towers and the proposed location on the property was at the lowest elevation and was surrounded by tree cover. He went on to explain more on the tower. He added there was a clear need for cell and internet service in the area and the tower would expand the essential services. He added a few questions raised, one was about the fall-zone and the tower would be located 174 feet off of the right of way and in response to a question from the Planning Commission, towers are engineered to collapse onto themselves. In the event of a fall, the tower would fall within the property and not impact the right of way. He said property values was another issue raised, in 2020 the lack of cell service, data and internet service could negatively impact property values and he believed having data and reliable cell service positively impacts property values. He said he was available to answer any other questions and asked they approve option 1.

Chair Viegbesie asked him with those concerns of the citizens that were expressed in the opposition, have Talquin Towers spent time with citizens to address their concerns and fears?

Mr. Volpe said initially when they set out all neighbors were noticed; one showed and at the end he was in favor. The two comments that came in this evening were not within the one-mile area.

Chair Viegbesie asked about meeting with the ones that expressed opposition and talking with them to see if they could have dialogue to come to an agreement.

Commissioner Hinson thanked the presenter for coming and said he had received several phone calls and had some of the same concerns. He felt they needed to workshop this item.

Commissioner Taylor said she was wondering whose district this was in because she knew both Commissioner Hinson and Chair Viegbesie shared the district in Havana. She agreed with some of the conversation and everyone should be made available to broadband. She said she would not support this tonight but she would support it coming to the area. She asked the young man with the presentation to go back to Verizon, talk with them and come back at the second meeting in July.

Chair Viegbesie said service was needed and there was no question about that. Citizens have expressed concerns with safety of the tower. As Commissioner Hinson said, Broadband was a necessity and suggested they give this back to Tarpon Towers to address with citizens and try to work things out and then come back.

Commissioner Holt said for the gentleman doing the presenting, could he work within the property to make any adjustments and he said yes, he thought there were options. This was a preliminary site plan and Option 2 in the Staff report is approval of the preliminary site plan and 2 of the deviations; a 1/2 mile set-back and the 7x's the tower from the residence; he mentioned that all the property owners that spoke in favor of the tower all fall within the 2 deviations and in that area; the third deviation is the set-back from the right-of-way. He said Option 2 would be to approve the preliminary site plan with 2 of the deviations and not the third deviation from the roadway and they would be willing to have a condition that they meet, discuss with neighboring property owners and come back to the Board after the preliminary site plan in the next stage with an option that addresses those concerns at the siting phase.

Commissioner Holt said if this is approved for the preliminary site plan, they did not have to approve development.

Ms. Jeglie said this conceptual/preliminary site plan would be to approve a specific site plan, if that was going to be changed, her recommendation would be that it come back before them to approve the site plan. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Volpe if there was another alternative. He said he believed it would be to approve option 1 with the conditions that they discuss with neighbors to discuss their concerns.

Ms. Jeglie re-appeared before the Board and said her concern was, if this was in a different location, whether they wanted to see it or not. The actions they have gave specific locations. If option 1 to work out something and does not work out, staff should not be arbitrator of what works out, Board should be.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted them to come back before them regardless.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to move to workshop and talk about the options; there were concerns from the citizens, one being the closeness, other being the meeting was at 4:00 p.m. He said he was for broadband.

Chair Viegbesie said from his personal opinion, this did not need to be workshopped with this body, there should be a dialogue with Tarpon Towers and the citizens. They could meet and have their conversation like with Hoover Plant. Hopefully they could meet and work out a compromise and meet the needs of broadband and internet services.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make a motion for a continuance but this Board was not bound by the opinion of the Planning Board, they are an advisory board.

Commissioner Morgan said there was not any of them that did not understand the need for broadband and cell service in the area. His opinion was this was not the correct location. He agreed with Commissioner Holt they did not have to agree with Planning's

decision but with that in mind, they need, as a Board, to decide on option 1, 2, or 3 and to make a decision, personally his was option 3.

Commissioner Holt said they could continue this until the next available meeting for a public hearing after the developer has spoken about the concerns, he has always stated he (inaudible) prior to now.

MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A COMMENT.

Commissioner Taylor concurred with Commissioner Morgan on this, continuance was not one of the 4 options. If this was the will of the Board, they need to look at better mandatory rules moving forward so they will have guidelines. She said she knew Commissioner Holt had a motion on the floor she thought led by the Chair encouraging the company to speak with the citizens in the area to see if they could negotiate terms that were amenable, but to please add on having other location options to be looked at as well to offer the citizens; if they look at the two terms that will be considered, one of the neighbors will still be impacted, to look at other locations where everyone would be happy and still have services rendered and can move forward and have agendaed on the third Tuesday in July.

Commissioner Holt said she would be interested but if they choose another location, they would have to start the process all over again.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion and second that there should be continuance so Verizon will have time to have a conversation with citizens that expressed concern for them to see common ground that would enable this service to be provided before it comes back to them and then called for the vote.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-2 FOR CONTINUANCE

9. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial)-Greensboro East, SR 65 Communication Tower Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2020-02) with one deviation on Tax Parcel ID #3-19-2N-4W-0000-00130-0000

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said this was for a Communication Tower to be located on SR 65 (Hosford Highway). He added the Planning Commission approved this 7-1.

Ms. Steele informed the Chair that Mr. Volpe was also representing the applicant on this item as well.

Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker swore in Jill Jeglie.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 8:08 p.m.

Ms. Jeglie explained the item and options and that staff recommended option number 1.

Commissioner Morgan said unlike the previous item, this was a perfect location.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL
CALL VOTE.**

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	STEPPED AWAY
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

- 10.** **Public Hearing (Legislative) Adoption of Ordinance 2020 to adopt Bainbridge Highway (SR 267) Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment**
Item Pulled at request of Applicant until July 21 Agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 11.** **Approval to Change the Personnel Policy, Section 4.20, to Add Language Provided by FEMA to Clarify Payroll During Emergencies**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board to request adding Section 4.20 clarifying payroll during emergencies and natural disasters.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were already employees being paid time and half because they were already working and met their 40 hours for that week, how are they being compensated for working the extra part during the hurricane, was there an overlap?

Dr. Grant said not so much how they were being compensated; it was if the policy was in place, the County could get the overtime money reimbursed. Commissioner Holt stated they would only be reimbursed for what their Plan stated and Dr. Grant said yes.

Commissioner Holt said for example, she worked 52 hours, will get paid for the 52 hours, time and ½ for anything over 40; then told had to be at work because of whatever and had to work more hours and was what happened and was why they were given time and a half and the people that came back in were given that over ½ hour because they could not leave the facility anyway, even if they wanted to.

Chair Viegbesie said if understood question, 40 hours is full time, anything more is time and a half and if there was a hurricane and you come in and puts you at 80 hours, anything above 40 hours is at time and a half so would be additional time and half.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make sure it was documented, even if the County compensated them, was FEMA going to give them the money back? She thought that group should have gotten something. She asked if this was for hourly workers. Dr. Grant stated this was for exempt and non-exempt workers. Commissioner Holt asked that he explain the difference for the ones listening.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 8:18 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said if you were an hourly worker or a non-hourly worker, if an hourly worker, some think during a disaster, only hourly workers should get paid and she did not believe in that, she believed if someone worked during a disaster, you should get paid, whether hourly or salary.

Commissioner Morgan said to clarify, there were no employees working that were not being paid. He did not understand the need for the change in the Personnel Policy. If there are those that go beyond and are salaried employees, he was in favor of them receiving a bonus. He stated he was not in favor of this item and would not vote to approve it.

Lonyell Butler, HR Director, appeared remotely before the Board to explain the addition to the policy. She said this would allow them to receive compensation if they had to work during emergencies and their current policy did not address how hourly non-exempt and exempt employees would be paid in emergency situations.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated her comments but they should take that under a separate issue as to how an employee should be paid. The Board could approve bonuses for them if that happened.

Commissioner Holt said the pay had a lot to do if someone was called back in. You cannot work someone without pay.

Commissioner Taylor said she had written down no on this item and her reason was salaried employees could work one hour and still receive full pay.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:26 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor continued and said they needed to look further with regards to emergency situations for the County. When this County goes into emergency management mode, the County Administrator has no power, the Emergency Management Team takes over. She added she did not agree with an increase in salary or with the bonus, they need to understand there will be circumstances and situations they will be called upon to do their job.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:27 p.m.

She said if they looked at some of the Administrators and days after they had and how many they actually put in and being away from the job, it would be minimum they get

paid because they are still available and make themselves available no matter where they are at or what they are doing on their personal time. She said she never agreed with any salaries being paid outside of what was earned, do not agree with any bonuses, thought if a salary compensated position; do agree may need to add language that supports having to come back. She said as far as paying people to come to work-YES, she agreed with that. She further stated the Administrator did not have the right or authorization to offer double-pay at any time, and it was done, without the authorization of the Board. She said she had no problem with paying all the employees the salaries, as a matter of fact was why she voted previously for those monies to be paid out immediately, not knowing that a good portion of that money was also going towards salaried employees, which was wrong, and these people knew it was wrong. It was told was wrong by the different departments but they still moved forward on it to her understanding. She said to get language in so FEMA can reimburse the County but she did not agree with the bonus or adding money onto their salary. She said she thought, during the contractual agreement they have with the Administrator and themselves, needed to be understood there may be times when asked for additional hours and if worked those additional hours, it would be part of your responsibility. She said as far as the language, she agreed with what the HR Director requested and was willing to entertain the language that needed to be put in place for hourly employees, anything over 40 hours should be time and ½ over, salaried employees should be understood and similar language in their contractual agreement.

Commissioner Morgan wanted to go back to Commissioner Holt's comments earlier where she was implying employees were being asked to work without being paid or they were going to put a policy in place to have them work without being paid and that was not the case. He stated any employee that was working or getting paid their salary, if at over 40 hours are being paid at time and ½. He wanted to clarify that and stated it was not like they had to approve that particular policy in order to pay the employees time and a half for overtime, that was in place and the policy was not needed.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO DENY AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt said she was not implying they were not going to pay them time and a half (the audio/video froze); the other thing was to imply there was a lot of salary that won't come to work, there were Commissioners that don't come to work, that leave early. She said she did not want people to think their people were not working, they were working and they have good people that work there. She added if they kept going through policy and procedure, they would be able to change a lot of change a lot of things they want to change in a positive way. She added she was in favor of this procedure because she saw everyone actually working and thought there should have been a policy in place years ago.

Chair Viegbesie said this was an item even before Commissioner Morgan made his motion, if he had had time to make his opinion known, it was an item he would be taking the role of Commissioner Hinson. He said there has been a misunderstanding and instead of killing this policy, he would rather they spend time to workshop this soon and put a policy in place in case they need reimbursement from FEMA, they would have a policy that they could attach to the reimbursement application for them to know they

would get their money back. He expressed it was an obstacle to their getting some of their monies back and the other thing was, they needed to make sure they maintained accurate and detailed record-keeping of when people work, who works and so on and so forth.

Commissioner Holt asked if Commissioner Morgan would consider approving the item with changes he wanted to make so if there was a tornado or hurricane, they could have a policy in place.

Commissioner Morgan said she made the comment there were issues with FEMA because they did not have the policy adopted and that was not the case. The reason they had potential issues with FEMA, was because employees got double pay and exempt employees received pay that should not have. If they had followed the policy at time and a half for non-exempt employees and no additional pay for exempt employees beyond any bonuses approved by the Board, there would not have been an issue or potential issue with FEMA. With that being said, the policy in place is working and reinforced the fact they did not need to approve this item.

Chair Viegbesie called for the vote.

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

THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO DENY.

Dr. Grant asked for further clarification because they presented a recommendation from their consultant that they put an Emergency Pay Plan in place and was something that FEMA required they have in place before an event occurred.

Commissioner Taylor said her position did include to bring this back for further language. She further explained, what was currently in place was to deny, but the language was needed.

Chair Viegbesie said for Dr. Grant to have a conversation with the consultant and bring the item back with different language.

Commissioner Morgan said his recommendation was to have the Administrator sit with the consultant and speak individually with the Commissioners, so the Commissioners could ask specific questions on areas they may have a concern and he had several.

12. Approval of Public Works Heavy Equipment Purchase

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to approve the heavy equipment listed in the FY 19/20 Budget using the Transportation Fund Balance.

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

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

13. Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

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

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CLERK OF COURT

14 Updates

Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. Updates

Dr. Grant stated on Thursday, June 18th at 4:00 p.m. would be the first Budget workshop. Chair Viegbesie asked if they will receive the preliminary packet at a reasonable time for them to review before the workshop or if they would receive it at the workshop. Dr. Grant stated they would get it at the introductory part of the budget.

Commissioner Holt asked if there would be comparison columns and Dr. Grant stated it would be a lay-out of the format where everything was at, what has come in, etc.

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said they would at least need a copy of the old budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Administrator for an update on the Midway EMS. Dr. Grant said they have been in communication with them and they were working on an

Interlocal Agreement. Midway requested to delay until the new fiscal year in October and wanted to make proper arrangements for location and equipment.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 8:49 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson then asked about Midway bridge and Dr. Grant said the bridge should be completed September 30th.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:51 p.m.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16 **Updates**

Mr. Knowles had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

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

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

For someone that has been through a hurricane, we have an almost perfect audit rating, if not perfect as well as \$4.3 Million in Reserves and says a lot about the Board.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she could get with the Administrator, but they needed to review the Comp Plan as it needs revising.

She said when they have a committee that chooses a contractor, those members need to sign a disclosure or a statement that they can not get a subcontract with that contract.

She said Commissioner Morgan brought up something about the Planning Board not communicating with County Commissioners, and she was under the impression the Sunshine Law stated you could not communicate with someone on the same Board. She said they were not on the same Board as Planning and Zoning members. Mr. Knowles said there is a quasi-judicial action where there is a member of the Board that took action talking to another member of a Board... She asked for something in writing regarding that.

She said they still need to look at a Covid shelter, regular shelter and a special needs shelter; she was not sure where they were with that but when she spoke with Emergency Management, her preference was they need to be on the ground floor with it.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

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

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 16, 2020-Regular Meeting

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was a scheduled emergency meeting tomorrow and was told yes. He asked, after the meeting, if Dr. Grant could write a brief statement to the Commissioners so they would know what came of the meeting.

Receipt and File

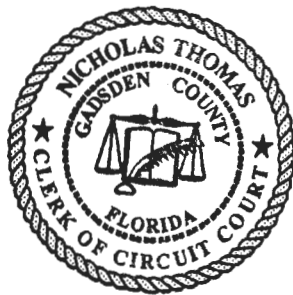
18. Department of Health Report 2nd Quarter

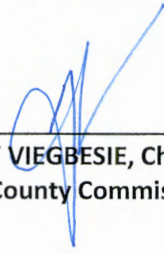
UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:00 P.M.


GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA





ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 18,
2020 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, "Dr. V", Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Brenda Holt, District 4
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Jeff Price, Sr. Management and Budget Analyst
Alan Meeks, Facility Manager
Jeronda Robinson, Special Projects Coordinator
Leslie Steele, Public Information Officer
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

THIS BUDGET WORKSHOP WAS HAD VIA ZOOM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the Workshop to order at 4:05 p.m. He asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-Minute Limit)

Due to the restrictions on gatherings as a result of COVID-19 virus, this meeting may be viewed by accessing the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/GadsdenCountyBOCC. Virtual meeting access details will be posted to the Gadsden County website, www.gadsdencountyfl.gov.

Public comment for the meeting should be submitted via email to Citizenstobeheard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2020. Any comments submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record; however, may not be read in the meeting.

None were had.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Overview and Summary Highlights (Henry G. Grant, PhD, Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and asked Mr. Price to give the 20/21 Budget Summary.

Mr. Price showed slides that were also in the packet. Each page was copied below.

6-MONTH REVIEW OF PROJECTS AND STATUS- FY 20: PAGE 2

- 1. Dispatch Center - Completed March 2020**
- 2. Green Shade Fire Department - Anticipated Completion Date: June 2020**
- 3. Cell Tower Generators -4 Generators and Transfer Switches Anticipated to be Complete in January 2021**
- 4. Social Security Office - Move Completed March 2020**
- 5. AG Center - Anticipated Completion Date August 2020**
- 6. Courthouse Renovations - Completed March 2020**

7. Stevens School - Site Design and Renovation Design Phase Under Way
8. Woodham Building Roof - Completed April 2020
9. Move EMS Campus - Phase One to be Completed September 2020
10. Received \$300,000 Reimbursement for Hurricane IRMA
11. Working with Synergy to Obtain Maximum Allowed from FEMA for Hurricane Michael
12. COVID-19
13. Special Needs Building – In Design Phase

Mr. Price said those were the basic projects the County had been working on and asked for any questions and stated Mr. Meeks was available for any questions as well.

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson was attending the Workshop via Zoom.

Commissioner Hinson had no questions but said he could not hear Mr. Price. Commissioner Hinson had a poor connection. Mr. Price was given a microphone and Commissioner Hinson stated it was still hard for him to hear.

PRICE PRELIMINARY BUDGET ISSUES: PAGE 3

- Revenues Expected to Decrease Due to Covid-19 - April 2019 to April 2020 Down Approximately 20% - For How Long? Goes Lower?
- 2021 Medical Insurance Rates are Expected to Increase 7%-9% (Put 8% in the Budget)
- Status of All Projects Being Worked on in the County
- The New Interim Administrator Has Reviewed All Departmental Budgets - Making Cuts and/or Adding Items Were Needed
- No Non-Profit Requests Were Received by the May 1 Deadline
- Extended Deadline to May 29 - Six Received
- Constitutional Officers Budgets Were Due June 1 (Except Tax Col 8/1) - At First Glance They Have Requested Nearly \$1.3m (*Now at 1.6m*)
- Goal - Balance Budget

Mr. Price stated everything here was a draft and revenue was the biggest issue. He asked for questions on this section.

Chair Viegbesie questioned Constitutional Officers Budget going from a request of \$1.3M to \$1.6M and asked if that was a total request by all Constitutional Officers.

Mr. Price stated it was the total new requests.

Chair Viegbesie stated this was \$1.6M beyond what it was in this current budget.

Mr. Price answered yes.

EXPENDITURES: PAGE 4

****Non-Profits:***

*Boys and Girls Club-	\$96,187
*Big Bend Comm. Dev.-	\$25,000
*GC A-Z Village Plaza-	\$2,807
*Havana Main Street-	\$10,000
*Health United Resources-	\$12,250
*North FL Ed Dev. Corp-	\$5,000
*Economic Development-	\$120,000
*Gadsden County Senior Citizens-	\$102,000
*Summer Youth Jobs-	\$100,000

*County Auditing-	\$129,400
*County Attorney-	\$150,000
*Medical Examiner-	\$134,000
*Apalachee Regional Plan-	\$7,026
*Forestry Assessment-	\$3,000
*Developmental Disabilities-	\$7,500
*Apalachee Mental Health-	\$136,000
*Medicaid-	\$1,000,000

Chair Viegbesie asked if the \$100,000 projected for Summer Youth was including the \$50,000 from this current year that was not spent. He stated the \$50,00 from this year should be left alone and whatever was brought in this fiscal year would be added to what was received for the next fiscal year. The \$100,000 should have nothing to do with the \$50,000 from this year. Mr. Price said he did use the \$50,000 from this year and added \$50,000 for next year. Chair Viegbesie suggested leaving \$50,000 from this year alone and whatever got hammered out would go to Summer Youth to make it \$100,000. Dr. Grant asked for clarity on the \$50,000 and Chair Viegbesie told him the \$50,000 from this FY should stay in reserve, untouched.

Commissioner Hinson had a bad connection and after no response, seemed to have left or was disconnected from the workshop.

Commissioner Holt asked to let Mr. Price finish the presentation and have questions answered when he was finished.

NON-PROFITS: PAGE 5

<u>Name</u>	<u>F/Y 21 Request</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Boys and Girls Club	\$96,187	After School Program
Big Bend Comm Dev.	\$25,000	Donation to Citizens
GC A-Z Village Plaza	\$2,807	Amateur Radio
Havana Main Street	\$10,000	Way Finder Signs
Health United Resources	\$12,580	Health Awareness
North FL. Ed. Dev. Corp.	\$5,000	Renovation Food Pantry

A copy of each application is in the back of the book.

Mr. Price said he had the paperwork from these entities for the Commissioners to review.

JUNE 18, 2020 SNAPSHOT: PAGE 6

Current Shortfall Per the Budgets Turned in \$3,000,000

Included in This Number:

Constitutional Officers- \$1,300,000 (Higher Now)

Small Projects- \$1,500,000

5 New Staff with Benefits- \$275,000

Correction Action Suggestions:

Cut Constitutional Officers, Cut Projects, Cut New Staff, Cut Requests,

Start Collecting A 6-Cent Gas Tax, Raise Millage Rate, Impose an Assessment, Others.

Mr. Price said he was looking for direction and ideas on ways to get closer to a balanced budget. He stated there were 8 Constitutionals, projects, new staff and other types of things. He shared some ways to collect more money would be raising the millage rate, start a 6-cent gas tax, impose an assessment and was open to other creative suggestions. Mr. Price asked for any questions or comments.

Commissioner Holt went through the items line by line in the budget. She stated there was previous discussion on the Ag building and bus transportation, she wanted to see the two (2) line items and know what happened in the budget last year. There was supposed to be a copy of that budget for her at this meeting. She asked where the locations were that the generators were going.

Mr. Price said he would ask Mr. Meeks to answer the questions about the towers.

Commissioner Holt said she needed more info in the handouts to make things clearer. She also asked Mr. Price to put this information online so people could see it and have their own questions. She asked if money for a Grant Writer was in the budget.

Mr. Price said yes, \$70,000 and it was advertised numerous times and there was one application in Mr. Price's mailbox.

Commissioner Holt stated she thought the Grant Writer pay should be moved up to \$100,000. She asked where the reimbursement money from Hurricane Irma was going.

Mr. Price stated it was going mostly into Transportation because it was Public Works money. Commissioner Holt asked for a breakdown of what was received and where it was going and Mr. Price said he would get her that information.

Commissioner Holt said the BOCC needed an update from Synergy. She also wanted to see the Hospital facility restored as a hospital. She stated at the beginning of the virus, she sent an email from herself, not the Board, requesting funding for improvements to the hospital. There were no cases at the time and she did not discuss it because she did not want people to think she was trying to bring cases to this county. She said to contact the Governor's office and the Senator at the Federal level for funding for the hospital building, there may be money from COVID to use on the Hospital. She further stated on page 3, there was a 20% decrease, Commissioner Holt asked what areas they were coming from, she wanted a written report to make projections. She said 8% was set aside for insurance from CHP, she asked why it went up, and suggested for Mr. Price to request documentation about why it went up. She asked what the old projects being worked on were.

Mr. Price said they were the cell towers.

Mr. Meeks came before the Board and gave the tower locations: **1)** Highway 27, at the Peavy site **2)** Midway, close to City Hall **3)** Jail **4)** Flat Creek, by the old Jai Alai fronton, there was a tower site with Crown Castle. **5)** Oak Grove, to the old AT&T tower intersection. **6)** In an agreement with Family and Children Services to utilize the water tower at the Florida State Hospital.

He further stated the tower at the jail was owned by the County.

Commissioner Holt asked if the County could lease space at the jail tower.

Mr. Meeks answered once it was built, space could be leased, the County could go back and assess the old tower and see if there was anything that could be removed. Commissioner Holt stated maybe there was space on the old one to lease. This would help generate funds to help pay for these projects.

Mr. Meeks said currently, the County had one lease agreement on the table with Motorola, they had use of space on one at the old tower and that lease agreement was in review with their counsel and had already been reviewed by the County's counsel.

Commissioner Holt asked if it was income for the County or Motorola.

Mr. Meeks said the County proposed \$1,000 monthly and were waiting for their response and it would be income for the County.

Commissioner Holt asked if it was possible to get input on what was average for a tower lease. Mr. Meeks said the County had leases and were paying \$750 and \$1,500 monthly. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Meeks to pull data and find out what the possibilities were for the jail site tower and get that data back to the BOCC.

Mr. Meeks stated the lease agreement was the ground space and that was a cost as well as the tower space. In Midway, American Towers was asking \$3,000 and the County negotiated to \$1,780.

Commissioner Holt stated she was trying to get funds at the jail site in order to offset some of the funds being spent out for communication. She asked for hard data/averages. Commissioner Holt asked what services the County provided at Florida State Hospital. Mr. Meeks said there was EMS there, but per a local agreement, they had access to the County radio system in case of an emergency, for back-up.

Commissioner Holt, concerning the \$1.6 million additional for Constitutional Officers, suggested they would get what they did last year. She stated there could not be an increase because the County did not know what revenue would be. Chair Viegbesie said he thought to keep the Constitutionals like it was the last fiscal year was a good idea.

Commissioner Holt said the BOCC could not look at any non-profit because school being back in session was still a question. She asked what the Chamber was at.

Mr. Price said it was part of the \$120,000.

Commissioner Holt stated she was not a fan of the Chamber, she said they would not give a report and show the County where they were trying to help get out of debt, and if they would not do that, then the Board needed to look at not funding them. That would save \$120,000. Chairman Viegbesie said regarding the \$120,000, was it supposed to be \$60,000 for each. He said he would not support it either. If the Chamber was getting money, we should not be giving the same as GCDC, because one was more productive than the other. He stated a larger percent should go to GCDC.

Commissioner Holt said she would give to the Chamber if they gave a report. She was not in favor of anything that did not directly help families this year. She stated the BOCC was going to have to have a hard cut to get monies to families unless the County could get some Grants in from a State or Federal level.

Commissioner Holt told Dr. Grant there were cuts in the budget to be made.

Commissioner Holt asked about page 6, 5 new staff members, she asked what positions they were.

Mr. Price answered an Elder Affairs Coordinator, Construction/Maintenance Worker, Accounting and IT Staff.

Commissioner Holt asked if an Assistant Manager salary was in the budget.

Mr. Price said yes, and Commissioner Holt asked how much.

Chair Viegbesie said he also needed to know the salary that was in this budget for the Administrator, because it needed to be competitive to retain a good Administrator.

Mr. Price gave the salaries; Assistant County Administrator \$85,000 plus benefits, County Administrator \$104,000 plus benefits.

Commissioner Holt said the problem was there were not enough people on the revenue side, the County should not look at purchasing any trucks that were not for physical work, she stated there was more concern about the year of the truck rather than the work. She did not want to see anymore new vehicles. She said the Board needed to stand still. She stated with the lease/buy option, it cut back on the maintenance, so there should not be high maintenance bills. She further stated the salary for the Assistant Administrator and Administrator were not high enough.

She stated the County would not get gas tax money, millage rate increase would not happen, especially during an election year. She said the BOCC needed to back up and try to increase the revenue, reduce expenditures and go after any Grants from the State and Federal Government. She asked that they advertise out of the local area now for a Grant Writer. On the Emergency Management side, would it not increase the temporary employees needed for housing, and building inspection, which was a recommendation from Emergency Management. Until FEMA money the County had was moved, would the county be allowed to apply for more money. The only other way to get monies in was housing, FEMA and USDA. Concerning the insurance report, Commissioner Holt wanted a report on the buildings, as far as damage, which buildings the County had received money for, what was the progress on those buildings getting done and how much more was needed to be done. (Flow sheet for projects)

Chair Viegbesie stated most of Commissioner Holt's talking points were his as well. He stated with the Boys and Girls Club, there was no school, so what program was provided while the kids were at home. It needed to be looked at it seriously. He requested a packet of each Non-profit applications especially the Non-profits the BOCC had not worked with before, like the Big Bend Commercial Development Donation to Citizens, what are they donating to citizens? He wanted to see a description of each of them. He stated the BOCC needed to work on making the Administrators salary competitive, \$104,000 was not enough, he stated it was an assistant pay. He said if the County was going to recruit and retain, the salary needed to be higher. He further stated, next time he would come back with alternative sources of Revenue. There was some form of special assessment needed that would be considered by the citizens, like a user-based assessment. If you use it, you pay kind of thing. He said Commissioner Holt did a good job

questioning things. Chair Viegbesie said Economic Development was something that needed work as far as GCDC and the Chamber.

Ms. Steele said there was an audience member from One Gadsden Foundation on the phone and they wanted to speak. The connection was lost and no one spoke. They would be allowed to speak when they were brought back on.

Chair Viegbesie stated he did not see an application from One Gadsden Foundation on the list, and said the BOCC needed an application from them handed in to consider being put in the budget, and that date had passed.

Commissioner Holt wanted to go down the list of items Mr. Price had handed out. She asked if the amount of increase in buildings was due to FEMA and Insurance, starting at the top of the Budget Expenditures page.

Mr. Price said due to Insurance proceeds and projects, the buildings the County had, needed to have repair, such as the flooring, roofing for the library, and that type of thing.

Commissioner Holt asked where that money was coming from.

Mr. Price answered \$300,000 from Insurance proceeds.

Commissioner Holt asked if FEMA was included in that number.

Mr. Price said no.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the amount for this fiscal year included County Buildings such as the houses the county had for emergency. He said one was needed to be repaired.

Mr. Meeks said he spoke with Sonya Burns and the County would roof the house on Virginia Street and the other one they were putting \$80,00 into it to renovate.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that money was part of the \$2,095,102. Mr. Price answered not yet.

Commissioner Holt asked if the two houses were damaged in the hurricane.

Mr. Meeks said the roof had a tarp and they were planning to use some insurance proceeds but the damage did not reach the deductible, most damage was prior to the storm.

Commissioner Holt stated that was for the insurance, but you could still file with FEMA.

Mr. Meeks said FEMA assessed it and it was still in preliminary work and they were not taking any new claims.

Commissioner Holt said people should have had it done already. She said there was income that came in to do buildings, she told Mr. Price to compare, and see where the money was going and see if something else needed to be done. She further stated the County would not know what to apply for until there was an inventory done.

Commissioner Holt asked what the \$192,000 reduction was for the jail.

Mr. Price answered the Cell Towers and Jail Maintenance were together for some reason and that was split into two.

Commissioner Holt stated the Jail Maintenance was going to be \$144,000, and asked where the \$192,000 was going.

Mr. Price answered to cell towers.

Commissioner Holt asked where the addition for Custodial Services was going.

Mr. Price said it went up because the County was hiring a new custodian and the County had a new building to maintain.

Commissioner Holt asked why Code Enforcement was down.

Mr. Price stated he did not look at anything under \$10,000.

Commissioner Holt asked why Hospital Maintenance was down.

Mr. Price stated it went down because the County was not doing as much since the lease was renewed and the hospital did most of the maintenance themselves.

Commissioner Holt asked if that was in the agreement. Mr. Price was going to check on that and get back to the BOCC with the answer.

Commissioner Holt asked why there was an increase to Parks and Rec.

Mr. Price stated there was a gentleman retiring and he had a payout coming for sick leave and annual leave.

Commissioner Holt asked if Parks and Rec would hire someone new and Mr. Price answered no.

Commissioner Holt asked if the County Commissioners line item decrease was for travel.

Mr. Price said yes, travel, pictures and they added more because there may be new people on the Commission so new pictures would be needed.

Chair Viegbesie stated if that was the case, the number would increase, but the number was a decrease.

Commissioner Holt noted Medicaid was up \$30,000, and asked who processed the Medicaid claims.

Mr. Price said he did not know that answer.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to check into the process of Medicaid claims. She said sometimes it depended on how they were processed and it may save some money.

Commissioner Holt said Office Management and Budget was up \$137,352.

Mr. Price stated that was where the Grant Writer and Personnel were added.

Chair Viegbesie if that included the \$275,000 to hire 5 new staff with benefits or was that salary without benefits.

Mr. Price said the \$275,000 was with benefits and the Management and Budget line was the cost with benefits of an Accountant and also the Grant Writer.

Commissioner Holt asked where the Accountant would be used at.

Mr. Price stated to help out in Budget.

Commissioner Holt said there was an increase to the County Administrator and asked what it was for. Mr. Price answered an Elder Affairs Coordinator.

Commissioner Holt questioned why the County needed that.

Chair Viegbesie told Commissioner Holt that this was talked about when Mr. Hall was Interim Administrator, because of the issues with the Seniors and the coordination of the Senior Citizens Programs and Centers. The last FY it was postponed for this FY.

Commissioner Holt said she was just trying to figure out numbers.

Chair Viegbesie said an Elderly Affairs Program Coordinator was \$62,000 when Commissioner Holt asked earlier.

Commissioner Holt said what she was asking of Mr. Price was, if he put a topic up saying, this is what the money was for, under that, list those particular things. Increases or decreases should be broken down. She said Extension Services was down \$60,714 and asked why.

Mr. Price said there was rent being paid on a house, and they would move into the new building and not have rent.

Commissioner Holt said they would still have utilities there, and asked Mr. Price to look at that. She also wanted the Manager to know that facility was not just for Extension Services and asked him to look at the use of that facility.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not see a variance in the amount for the County Attorney for the rate the County was currently using Legal Services. With all the meeting and various contact, if they would be used at the rate that they were being used now, he wanted to see a variance from the \$150,000. He asked how much from the current budget had been drawn on as of now. He said to use that number to project something for next year, because the BOCC did not know how long COVID would last, then there were hurricanes and other hazards where legal council would be needed and the County did not want to end up taking out of the General Fund to pay Legal Services.

Commissioner Holt asked if the County was funding Senior Citizens. Mr. Price stated they were getting \$106,000.

Commissioner Holt asked if Information technology hired someone. Mr. Price stated they were hiring a staff person.

Commissioner Holt said there was a decrease of \$15,233 for Veterans Services, and asked why. Mr. Price said there were two part time drivers and they were being combined into one full time person.

Commissioner Holt wanted to know why, but Mr. Price did not know. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Grant to find out why.

Mr. Price stated the Community development line was a typo and should have been a difference of (3,640).

Commissioner Holt stated Board Finance was up \$65,511.

Mr. Price said that was the Finance Department.

Commissioner Holt asked if it was for across the street. (Courthouse)

Mr. Price said yes and Commissioner Holt stated the ones that were not supposed to be helping us with our Budget, say yes. Mr. Price said it was part of the BOCC Budget. Commissioner Holt repeated herself saying, not supposed to be helping us with our Budget, say yes. Mr. Price said yes.

Commissioner Holt said the Finance Director was paid by the Board and was not a Clerk Employee and they were not supposed to co-mingle over there. She further stated the person who planned the money was not supposed to be the person that wrote the checks.

Chair Viegbesie said that was a question he had when he was elected, and he went across the street (to the Courthouse) and asked before he was sworn in. He asked to consider moving the budget finance position back to under the County Administrator instead of the Clerk. He stated there should be separation between the Auditor and the Finance Manager. He asked that be put into discussion.

Commissioner Holt said the Clerk said he was going to hire someone and she told him, "you get the interest off all the money, so go right ahead." She said the bottom line was that position was a County Employee and asked why there was an increase of \$65,511.

Mr. Price said the Clerk was increasing two employees. Commissioner Holt asked if any were leaving.

Mr. Price said they had 9 employees and were adding 2 more. Commissioner Holt asked if there was any particular reason they gave, and Mr. Price said no.

Chair Viegbesie asked for clarity. He asked if the two employees being added were employees that worked under the Budget Director.

Mr. Price said they worked for Finance, but was not sure what position they had.

Commissioner Holt stated they worked for the Commission.

Chair Viegbesie said this was a Clerk Expenditure, and Mr. Price said it was what the County paid the Clerk.

Chair Viegbesie said since the County paid this to the Employee across the street, they were actually County Employees and answerable to the Board, (County Administrator) not the Clerk. Commissioner Holt said that statement was true.

Commissioner Holt said Information Systems had an increase of \$66,869, and asked why.

Mr. Price said that was also the Finance Department, IT section, and they were looking to upgrade their software and hardware.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was just for Finance.

Commissioner Holt said the Finance Director. She asked what the numbers were at the top of the next page that said Health.

Mr. Price said it was the Health Department and the County was no longer giving them money. The \$10,000 was what the County paid for their insurance; it was just moved to another location. He stated the bold numbers were totals.

Commissioner Holt asked why the Courthouse Facilities were down \$24,955.

Mr. Price said it was from testing of equipment for false alarms, fire equipment and that type of stuff. He further stated there was some money in there for X-ray machines and they either received them or not but they were taking that money out of the Budget.

Commissioner Holt stated this was not X-Ray machines and asked again why it lowered.

Mr. Price said he would go back and look at the detail. Commissioner Holt thought it had to do with the walls leaking.

Commissioner Holt said there was a decrease in Road and Bridge Maintenance, and that was good and asked if it was because of the equipment.

Mr. Price said yes, also from the decrease in Workman's Comp. Insurance.

Commissioner Holt stated the Sheriff's Office was up \$3,349,196. She asked if he was buying cars this time.

Chair Viegbesie noticed the line items did not show a difference but the Variance line did and asked why.

Mr. Price said he was just plugging in numbers, and there were 3 versions of the Sheriffs Budget and he was still working on it.

Commissioner Holt told Dr. Grant, with the Sheriff's budget, you have to call the Sheriff and say "Let's sit down and go through the Budget." That way you would get a good understanding of what they needed. She said sometimes the County and the Sheriff ordered together, if possible, to reduce his cost.

Dr. Grant said he had just received the Sheriff's budget this week.

Commissioner Holt said the numbers that were listed were the same for 20 and 21 and should not be there.

Mr. Price stated this was a work in progress. Commissioner Holt told Mr. Price to leave the spaces blank so it did not look like a mistake, it would look like you were still working on it instead.

Commissioner Holt asked what the library increase of \$35,501 was for.

Mr. Price said the past couple of years the County had been cutting books and this year they would be increase books and promotion.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any Library Grants being used.

Mr. Price answered yes, there were donations and some Grants.

Commissioner Holt stated the libraries in the towns were down a total of \$32,287, and asked why. Mr. Price said one had a repair that was fixed.

Commissioner Holt asked what the \$34,670 raise in Building Inspection was. Mr. Price stated it was personnel issues, where somebody changed their insurance from single to family, and the retirement increased the amount.

Commissioner Holt questioned the amount. She then asked why the Indigent Surtax was down. Mr. Price said he thought it was going to be different, but had not figured out what different meant yet.

Commissioner Holt asked if he thought there would be less in sales. Mr. Price answered less tax, yes.

Commissioner Holt said EMS was up \$167,544, and asked why.

Mr. Price stated they were in the process of moving their location and it was to get the facility ready and to make the rooms livable.

Commissioner Holt asked where they were moving from and where they were moving to. Mr. Price said they were at the Hospital and moving next to the Health Center. Commissioner Holt stated they were just moving down the hill and questioned the amount of \$238,860. Mr. Price said he thought it had to do with the plumbing, showers, walls, and cable.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted numbers and reasons for that move. She further stated plumbing work and other services should be contracted out.

Mr. Meeks stated there would have to be windows cut into the bedrooms for building code, also a fire sprinkler system installed at a cost of \$30,000. That project would have a design made up and then sent out for bid.

Commissioner Holt stated the EMS Administration was picking up \$28,684, and she wanted to know what it was for. Mr. Price said one person was moved from one department to this one.

Commissioner Holt asked which department. Mr. Price said 144 (Emergency EMS)

Commissioner Holt asked if they increased an employee. Mr. Price said they went from 2, to 3.

Commissioner Holt said Gadsden Express was up \$100,000. She stated that was the one she was worrying about and asked what happened with the Clerk on it.

Mr. Price said they were finishing the journal entry to make it \$200,000.

Commissioner Holt stated she knew what they were doing, she asked what happened. She asked Mr. Price why the Clerk did not come to the meeting and say that it was not there.

Mr. Price said he could not answer for the Clerk.

Commissioner Holt said the Board was going to have to find out about that one. She asked about Debt Services.

Mr. Price said all the Debt Services were not done yet, and there was no amortization schedule yet but he would have it before the next meeting.

Chair Viegbesie stated Debt Services for the Fiscal Year would decrease by \$132,637. He asked if that was for the fiscal year, or if was for the entire debt. He stated he wanted to know why the decrease.

Mr. Price said he would get Chair Viegbesie that information.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to look at the loans and see if there were better interest rates.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not think the County would get a better interest rate.

Commissioner Holt stated it did not hurt to check.

Chair Viegbesie said after the budget passed, figure out how the County was performing financially with a quarterly update, and he would like to see a better detailed report.

Commissioner Holt stated there was help needed in permitting and budget. She further stated people could not come in and see that money was not in the place it should be.

Chair Viegbesie said one person alone could not catch everything.

Commissioner Holt said the County was going to lose on a federal level if they did not get things figured out. All departments needed to see what crossed their computer and see what the County could apply for. That was not up to a Grant Writer, it was up to the director in that department. The Grant writer would go after the Federal Grants needed to save some of the projects that would need to be done.

ADJOURN

Chair Viegbesie called the Workshop adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PHD, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 19, 2020 AT 1:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4-appeared remotely
Eric Hinson, District 1-appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3-absent
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 1:03 p.m.; asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Dr. Grant asked to add Item 7 Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion for State of Florida.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie announced Commissioner Morgan was unable to join the meeting today due to unforeseen circumstances.

CONSENT

Dr. Grant said the Consent Agenda was before them.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. Cr 268 Adams Street sidewalk LAP Agreement
2. CR 159 Dover/Scotland Road Guardrail LAP Agreement
3. CR 153 Iron Bridge Road LAP Agreement

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Chair Viegbesie read the COVID-19 statement aloud.

Perry Koussiafes, Havana, FL (email attached at end of final Minutes) concerning the curfew.

Jackson Sumpton, Honolulu, HI (email attached at end of final Minutes) concerning the Confederate Statue

Jessica Sykes (email at attached at end of final Minutes) concerning the mural

Commissioner Taylor responded to Ms. Sykes, heard her concerns; at the beginning and also was interested in the mural becoming multi-cultural. She explained they had reached out to some of the physicians that would have made it diverse and it was in the Minutes that she was vocal about that; however, the reason it was not brought up that night was some of those physicians that were being considered had not been spoken with by the time of the Commission meeting and timing was an issue at the time. She added that she was not in favor of removing the mural in its entirety but she was in favor of making it more diverse and thought that would be a step to help the community come together, grow together and be together. However, she did not have any confirmation at the time from any of the physicians so she did not speak out at that time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. COVID-19 Resolution 2020-29 Update

Dr Grant introduced the above item.

Mr. Knowles explained the changes in the above Resolution, and said there were no changes other than the curfew being changed to 12:00 am to 4:00 am to facilitate walks.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS IS AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with the curfew changing to 4:00 a.m.

Commissioner Hinson concurred with Commissioner Taylor on changing the curfew.

Commissioner Holt said currently the curfew was keeping the elements at hand, if people were staying home, they were better off.

Chair Viegbesie said in looking at the trend going on in the Country, Florida alone had 3,200 and Gadsden County had 319, 57 hospitalized and 6 deaths. He did not think this was the time to be relaxing the requirements.

Commissioner Taylor said in listening to him, a few weeks ago he was ready to get rid of the masks altogether. She added there were other extenuating circumstances that has caused the increase in numbers other than someone taking advantage of walking at 4:00 a.m. She added

that this vote looked like it would be a 2-2 and asked that it come back when they had a full body to discuss.

Chair Viegbesie said he was not a “narcissistic, pathological psychopath that does not understand that when you see things change, you need to change the way you think”.

Commissioner Holt said with the elements she was talking about, if people were staying home and that was what they wanted them to do, then they do not change and allow them to get back out there and that was what she was concerned about.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-1

5. Joint COVID-19 Mitigation Re-Opening and Returning to Work Plan

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to administer the Gadsden County, Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, Midway and Quincy Joint COVID-19 Mitigation, Re-Opening and Return to Work Plan.

Commissioner Taylor asked if what was in front of them altered what they have done thus far or confirmed it. Dr. Grant said it confirmed what they have done and allowed them to move forward or go back if necessary.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was anything additional the public needed to know. Dr. Grant said this was a road-map to open up everything and how it should be done. Commissioner Taylor asked if this had to do with the Board room being opened up and he stated it had to do with opening any facility in the County. She asked if the next regular meeting would be open to the public and Dr. Grant stated should be and she asked what would hinder it and he stated with the spikes, he did not know what would come about.

Leslie Steele, the Public Information Officer, pointed out the room capacity in the plan.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this Plan would be made available to the public. Dr. Grant said it could be shared, but after it was approved.

Dr. Grant added not only were the cities’ names in there but they participated thoroughly in developing the document.

Commissioner Holt asked how they would handle the mask wearing when people were not following it. She wanted to make sure they could put “teeth” into the Ordinance in enforcing the mask ordinance.

Mr. Knowles said he was not sure if they received his message this morning, Monroe County implemented an Ordinance requiring mask usage until June, 2021. He stated this was done via an Ordinance so it has more “teeth” in it. What Gadsden County was passing is Resolutions and they have to be updated every week and was costing the County money, Staff time, etc...

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make sure they had the opportunity to change it later if they wanted to update it.

Mr. Knowles explained they could update the plan, for her specific question regarding mask usage to have “more teeth”, they would need to enact an Ordinance for that purpose.

Chair Viegbesie asked if a Resolution was as strongly binding as an Ordinance and Mr. Knowles replied no.

Commissioner Holt said she did not want people to say that people were being allowed to come into businesses and they were not requiring masks and they should be available if they wanted customers to come in. Mr. Knowles said that might be legally difficult for them to achieve to “force” a business to purchase masks. Commissioner Holt stated they would not have to purchase them, she was saying if the person did not have one, (the rest was inaudible).

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like to see this document put in the form of an Ordinance at some point soon.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding was the aspect of what she wanted framed into an Ordinance would be the wearing of face covering or everything on the plan. Commissioner Taylor said to carry the motion on the floor and they could digest the plan a little more to see what needed to be taken out and put in form of an Ordinance. She said she had not had a chance to look at the plan yet.

Commissioner Hinson said with the spike rising, he did not want to send the wrong message to the community; he could not support this today.

Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Holt if she heard Commissioner Hinson’s comments.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-1

Chair Viegbesie said they should strongly consider cutting back on the frequency of the meetings they were having; if there were no drastic changes, he did not think they should meet outside of their regular Tuesday meetings. One of the things he talked about at the Budget workshop was the attorney's fees. He said the budget for the attorney was \$150,000 for his fees for the fiscal year and if they looked at what they have expended thus far, it was close to not having much left to carry them onto October 1st without having to dip into their Revenues. He added they should consider the frequency of their meetings because the attorney not only came to their meetings but was required to attend the advisory Board meetings as well.

Commissioner Holt asked for a spreadsheet to show what was being spent and the balance. Chair Viegbesie said that request was made yesterday for a spreadsheet.

6. 2020 Summer Youth Program

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said this was to suspend this program this summer and add funds allocated for the 2020 program to the funds allocated in the 20/21 fiscal budget.

Commissioner Holt asked if this could be done during a regular meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they needed to send a strong message to the community that the Board supported them.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they should keep it at \$100,000 and if he was not mistaken, Mr. Price said he would add the \$150,000 to the other \$50,000 and he strongly recommended the Board follow Staff's recommendation. He further stated that way if they wanted to add another \$10,000-\$20,000, but for years they have been taking funds from the budget and for them to not play games with the kids again. He said for them to do what was right for the kids this time and keep the \$100,000, then go up or bring down \$10,000 as they need to do. He further stated he was hoping Staff could be creative so the kids could still work this year, but he supported the staff.

Chair Viegbesie said Staff also said the Sheriff was asking for additional \$1.6 Million and if they were going with the suggestion that was presented yesterday in the Budget workshop, the Sheriff will be getting an additional \$1.6 Million. That particular budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was a work in progress. He said the item they were discussing now was regarding the \$50,000 for this fiscal year, which was what Staff was saying they should not spend but carry over and guarantee in addition to whatever was appropriated for the next fiscal year for that particular program. He said he felt they should stay within what the item on the Agenda was and they could continue the conversation during the budget workshop

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought the Sheriff makes great judgments sometimes and if he thought there was a need, they needed to at least try to give to the Sheriff what he needed as well.

Chair Viegbesie called for a roll call vote.

COMMISSIONER HINSON YES

Commissioner Taylor asked if he understood the vote and stated he must not. Commissioner Hinson asked what the motion was. Chair Viegbesie stated the motion was for the recommendation of Staff to hold in reserve, guaranteed reserve, the \$50,000 from this year to add to whatever was appropriated next year, which was saying that the Summer Youth Program for this summer, this year should not be carried out.

COMMISSIONER HINSON CHANGED HIS ANSWER TO NO.

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

MOTION FAILED 2-2

7. Medicaid Expansion for Certain Qualified Adults under the Age of 65 in an Effort to Address the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

Dr. Grant asked for direction for people that were calling for the Summer Youth Program for this year. Commissioner Holt said to let them know that due to the virus, there was no program this year and they will be looking at it during the budget session.

Commissioner Taylor said the item was approved for 2019/20 fiscal year; if time and opportunity permitted, they have to implement that line item because it was just voted down to move it; it has to be implemented if time permits now.

Chair Viegbesie asked what was the response of the business partners.

Lonyell Butler, HR Director, appeared remotely before the Board and said they made the effort to reach out to partners that have been utilized in the past. The majority of them were not in favor of participating this year, they were concentrating on insuring the safety and sanitation of their locations in order to bring their staff back and some were not even bringing their staff back and opening until the latter part of July and that was what helped Staff come to the recommendation of suspending plans for the Summer Employment until next year.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 19, 2020-Emergency Meeting

Commissioner Holt said that was why she suggested to address this in the Budget workshop and to carry this over to the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to point out there was still free Covid testing every Wednesday from 1-6 p.m. at the Health Department and people could call 850-329-0685 to make an appointment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:06 P.M.

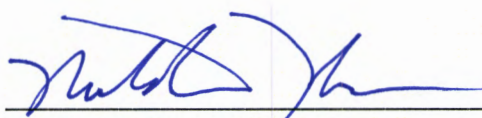
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA





ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 2,
2020 AT 1:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1
Sherrie Taylor, District 5- *Arrived at 1:34 pm*

Absent: Gene Morgan, District 3

Staff Present: Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk
Jeronda Robinson, Special Projects Coordinator

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:07 P.M. He asked everyone to bow their heads in silent prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Consent

1. **Approval to Submit Letter to Governor DeSantis Regarding the CARES Act (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant gave an overview of the above item.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE.
THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON- YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES**

PASSED 3-0

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

No comments were had.

General Business

2. COVID-19 Resolution 2020-037 Update (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)

Chair Viegbesie recognized and gave the floor to the County Attorney, Mr. Knowles, to explain any updates, revisions or reviews to the Resolution.

Mr. Knowles stated the resolution had remained almost exactly the same. He said the mask mandate was still in place, curfew was still in place but would not go into effect until July 3, 2020. The official order for bars not being able to serve alcohol on the premise was included. He further stated Major Wood wanted to get into the enforcement mechanism in place. If the Board wanted any further changes, they could be made.

Chair Viegbesie said the Board would hear from Major Wood, but first Chair Viegbesie stated he wanted to personally and publicly issue an apology to Chief Smith, Police Chief for Havana Township, because the info given to him was incorrect. He apologizes for any inconvenience or anxiety caused to Chief Smith. He stated Chief Smith and himself confronted the person who gave the incorrect information. He further stated about the COVID awareness and use of masks, that he suggested to the County Administrator to look into campaign signs to put a photo of a mask and the order of the mask mandate, and post throughout the County and let citizens know it was mandatory to wear masks and also suggested to print flyers with the information to be posted at the door of a business. By the end of the day he would like the BOCC to say that was what they would do.

Major Wood stated 7 people had currently died of COVID-19 in Gadsden County and the numbers had jumped to 402. He stated yesterday was the second largest day of growth in the County. He took a lot of heat, but supports the Commissioners and their decisions. He stated the County was close to an epidemic. He wanted to make sure people understood social distancing over the 4th of July and wore their mask. If after the 4th, numbers went up, the County may have to look at the stores being more of a part of the process. He stated most people and stores in Gadsden County adhere to the mask mandate. He understood the concern of Constitutional Rights and there were people who had filed lawsuits, and if they won, it would be readdressed, but until then, the lawyers gave good advice on the constitutionality of wearing a mask. He further stated he was working with the school system trying to get school back up and running. Schools were in line with the Health Department. He stated he was online for questions.

Commissioner Holt said she had asked the manager at two different meetings to invite law enforcement in to talk through things. The Board wanted to know what problems law enforcement was having and listen to their concerns. Havana and Greensboro

could be having different problems. When laws were set, they needed to be reevaluated every so often.

Major Wood stated the Administrator put together a Zoom meeting this morning, and he thought there was something put together from that meeting.

Commissioner Holt understood and stated she wanted face to face time with people. She said an event was run out of Havana and it ended up on the South side of Quincy. When citizen called her, she called the law. She thought a meeting with law enforcement was overdue. It was not that staff could not do it, but the Commissioners were getting calls and needed to be able to give answers. She thought it would be best if it was a workshop. She wanted to make sure the County was saving as many lives as possible.

Chairman Viegbesie thanked Major Wood and Dr. Grant for scheduling a meeting with law enforcement. Maybe the next conversation would be a meeting involving the Police Chief and Commissioners so the BOCC could hear the conversation. He asked Dr. Grant to prepare a briefing of the conversation he had with the Chief and Law Enforcement and send it to the Commissioners so they would have an idea of what the conversation was, then they could all get together to discuss any new information.

Commissioner Holt stated law enforcement was doing a good job, but she would like a face to face meeting because neighborhoods needed to be talked to. She wanted to ask law enforcement questions.

Dr. Grant said he asked the Chiefs this morning what they needed and they said they did not want to punish citizens criminally, they wanted to enforce the mandate as a civil citation. He stated the Chiefs wanted to propose that when they come across people not following guidelines, special officers would bring care packages with literature explaining why the mandate was in place. In the care package would be masks, sanitizer, and gloves, especially for elders.

Commissioner Holt stated, concerning the literature, people would not read it if it was too much verbiage.

Dr. Grant stated it was a small flyer.

Commissioner Holt stated he needed a catch phrase and to not have more than 4-5 words per bullet. People know from watching the news, but the BOCC was asking them to do it and should put something behind it. She stated the officers were outnumbered, so they backed away. It was more intimidating with 100 people and not enough officers. She said she wanted to find out exactly what law enforcement needed.

Commissioner Hinson had no comment.

Chair Viegbesie stated the Gadsden County Health Council, along with the municipalities, was putting together Public Service Announcements that would be on the radio in Gadsden County about the need for mask wearing and the need to adhere to the CDC guidance. Chair Viegbesie suggested purchasing more masks. He stated People said they did not have a mask. Since the Commission was mandating that

people wear mask, he strongly suggested the purchase of masks for citizens, he also suggested they would be a cloth mask so it could be washed, bleached and worn again.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE MORE MASKS PURCHASED AND THE PURCHASE SHOULD BE THE SAME NUMBER OF MASKS AS LAST TIME, AND USE THE SAME NUMBER AS LAST TIME WITH A SECOND FROM CHAIR VIEGBESIE.
THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE- YES**

PASSED 3-0

Commissioner Holt asked if there was anything from the Governor's Office stating what they were going to do about evictions.

Mr. Knowles stated it was extended to August 1, 2020.

Commissioner Holt asked if landlords could not evict, how were they going to get their money, they were months behind already. She stated there was no money now and for some people and it was their income. She asked if there was something in the CARES Act for this. She asked for the County Attorney to bring new things to the meetings when there were updates. She needed to give answers to the public.

1:34 Taylor arrived.

Commissioner Hinson stated he talked with the Attorney about bars and nightclubs. He asked if the nightclubs could be open and not sell alcohol.

Mr. Knowles stated the Executive Order was Bars and Restaurants, Nightclubs, to his knowledge would remain closed. They were all licensed differently by the EPR. Bars or establishments that derive more than 50% of sales from alcohol were not pursuant to Secretary Beshears' Executive Order and were allowed to serve alcohol in unopened containers on the premises, but could not be consumed on the premises. Restaurants could still serve alcohol on premises to be consumed on premises.

Commissioner Hinson asked why there was a reduction in testing days to only Wednesdays.

Chair Viegbesie stated resources and access to testing kits was not abundant. The DOH could still do drive-thru testing for a limited time. Anyone could go to the Health Department and get tested anytime. If the County could get more tests, he trusted Dr. Cooksey would be willing to do the tests.

Commissioner Hinson said testing at the Health Department was Wednesdays 1-6 pm. Call Monday-Wednesday for an appointment from 9am-12pm @ 850-329-0685.

He stated the test was free at the FDOH. He asked what the Board could do to help and increase the resources.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not get a memo about a meeting but about a group called CARES Act.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the meeting was yesterday and the CARES Act letter had been approved already in this meeting and The Integrity Group was on the Agenda for this meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said at one time she used to get phone calls because not all Commissioners were in front of a computer. She would like a phone call to let her know about the meetings that were not consistent. She stated at the last meeting, Dr. Grant was between Phase 1 and Phase 2, since then, numbers had doubled. She asked if the County was staying where it was or pulling back in particular areas. She also asked was the County still at 50% attendance at businesses or was it regressing a little.

Chair Viegbesie stated he had a conversation with the County Administrator and the County was going to stay with Phase 1, which was putting a break on reopening the County due to the trajectory the numbers had. The plan stated the County would move to the higher level and reevaluate moving forward.

Commissioner Taylor asked if business capacity was still at 50%.

Mr. Knowles said yes, it was still in the same place, the only addition was about the bars. Everything else was proposed to remain the same. He further stated the Board could change any of that today if they chose to do so.

Commissioner Taylor thought the Board should look at bringing some of the restrictions back a little with death number at 7. If numbers continued going up, she said the BOCC should look at 50% attendance at businesses going down.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to know in Duvall, Broward, and Dade Counties, what were they doing now. He stated they were cutting back on a lot of things because of the incline in numbers.

Chair Viegbesie stated Dr. Grant would look into that.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would discuss it at the Tuesday regular meeting.

Mr. Grant stated the County reopening plan was set up in a way that it could be brought back if the situation changed. He further stated the County would open according to the numbers.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought it was clearly necessary to regress according to the numbers.

Dr. Grant said the Board just had to say to go back to Phase 1, no new plan was needed.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney to look at the preemptive impact of the Governor's authority over the County if it went back to less than 50%, which was what the Governor's executive order stated.

Mr. Knowles stated he would pull together answers for questions that were brought up and bring them to the Tuesday regular meeting.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was not aware of the CARES Act Meeting either.

Commissioner Viegbesie stated it was a ZOOM Staff Meeting with Integrity to discuss the CARES Act.

Commissioner Taylor asked if something needed to be approved or was the meeting a discussion only.

Dr. Grant answered he was trying to figure out how and why to use the CARES Act.

Commissioner Taylor said someone called and asked her for ideas for her district in regards of spending portions of the CARES Act money on special projects. She asked if the information was answered and if it had gone to the governor or if it was waiting on approval.

Dr. Grant said everything was still open, if the Commissioners had projects they wanted to present, give them to staff as soon as possible.

Chair Viegbesie said there were items the County Administrator asked the Commissioners to give. His list was Small Business COVID Hardship Relief, Personal COVID-19 Furlough/Layoff Hardship Income Relief, and things of that nature. Yesterday those items were pulled and given to The Integrity Group. He stated if you needed something done, give it to the Administrator because time was running out.

Commissioner Holt asked to vote on the Resolution and then they could get back to Integrity.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-037
WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.
THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES**

PASSED 4-0

- 3. Approval of Agreement with the Integrity Group to Provide Professional Emergency Management Contractual Services on a Continuing Services Basis (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Holt said The Integrity Group was at the meeting yesterday and gave an extensive interpretation to everyone about parts of the CARES Act, like how the money could be used, writing proposals. She said we needed someone to help with this, someone who had done this before. She stated there was a lot of paperwork that was time sensitive. She further stated there was 4-5 different programs that could be combined to get more bang for the buck, everything from CDBG, housing money, and economic development and she asked about equipment that was ordered the other day. If it related to the hurricane, how does the County get money back, these are things we would get help with from Integrity. December 31 would be the deadline and you could not go back. She further stated invoices and contracts had to be done by the deadline. Small business need help and the County needed to provide; all money not used would have to be sent back. Her suggestions were needing to know how much staff was needed to do this, what else was happening in the County with ideas that may fit this County. Good things were going on in other locations and she said the BOCC needed to find out.

Chair Viegbesie said he had seen this go across the desk of the Administrator; Small Business COVID-19 hardship relief, personal COVID-19 furlough/layoff hardship income relief, residential rent/mortgage assistance for individuals and businesses whose hardship came as a result of COVID-19, and more. As ideas come up send them to the County Administrator.

He stated in regards to Integrity, back in February or March, they were approved along with Wheeler. In this agenda item, it should not only be for the CARES Act, it should be a revisiting, because the contract was not processed to be recorded. He stated he wanted to retain them for the County's Professional Emergency Management Contractual Service Provider on the continuing services basis.

Commissioner Taylor asked what the fiscal impact The Integrity Group would have and how would they be paid for performing the services.

Dr. Grant answered from the CARES Act money to start with and there would be different sources of money.

Commissioner Taylor asked how much it was to perform the services.

Dr. Grant answered that would be found in Item 4, from this meeting, which was the Task Order for The Integrity Group.

Commissioner Taylor saw a list of fees but it was not clear to her.

Mr. Knowles stated he drafted the contract so that every time The Integrity Group wanted to do a new service, they must submit to the BOCC, a task order for approval, which would detail what it was, and that was item 4. For this particular one, we would be reimbursed or they would be paid out of the CARES Act. Nothing would come out of the County's pocket, if you approved the task orders at the rates in Item 4 on the Agenda. They would submit a bill log with the invoice that would explain what they had done and submit that for payment or reimbursement.

Commissioner Taylor asked in the future to not put task order on the Consent agenda. She stated it was illegal in itself. Anything that impacted the budget should go under General Business, not Consent.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT-YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES**

PASSED 4-0

- 4. Approval of Task Order No. 2020-01 with The Integrity Group to Provide Disaster Recovery Consulting Services in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Hurricane Michael (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this would come out of the CARES ACT money or the Disaster Recovery funds.

Mr. Knowles stated on the Agenda Item, there was a number of positions allocated and rate posted and the maximum possible hours with different goals set. All consulting costs related to the CARES Act Funding and HUD CDBG-DR would be eligible for 100% Federal Funding. FEMA reimbursements would be made via the standard 12.5% local match process, but the local match could be reduced or eliminated. He stated it would vary depending on what was done. The County may have to spend in order to get reimbursed.

Commissioner Taylor thought the County would get some proceeds up front. She thought it was 25% and asked if the County had to spend that 25% before getting the additional money.

Mr. Knowles stated he would get back to the BOCC on this answer Tuesday.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was somewhere that said someone could not exceed an amount for a particular item.

Mr. Knowles answered yes, the last page shows max number of hours. 160 hours at \$160.00 per hour: \$25,600.

Commissioner Holt stated \$88,000 was the max. The Integrity Group was the billing agent for this. They must help and make sure the County had everything together to turn into CARES to get the money back. Making sure the County would get a refund was their job too. She further stated that donations could be used as payback.

Dr. Grant said another thing The Integrity Group told him about match was if there were volunteers doing anything, the County could count the value of the volunteer hours, which were calculated at \$23 per hour, and use them towards the match.

Commissioner Taylor asked what kind of volunteer service would qualify.

Commissioner Holt answered handing out masks/donating masks, or anything related to the Virus. She further stated there may be some flexibility under FEMA. There were two different parts of money under COVID. You get the 25% up front and the other part we were going to have to show where work was done. The Integrity Group was willing to sit with the County and find things to write off.

Dr. Grant said the County would use volunteer hours towards any match needed.

Commissioner Holt stated any pictures or documentation, they would go back and get funding for them. She did not know about reimbursement of salaries. She stated there was a lot in the agreement and the BOCC needed someone to look at it. There were so many departments to pull money from, but it was going to take someone that could go in and knew how to do that. The County did not have the staff for that.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TASK ORDER WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE. TAYLOR OPPOSED.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- NO
COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES**

PASSED 3-1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED

5. Approval of Emergency Mosquito Services-Gadsden County (Henry G. Grant, PhD., Interim County Administrator/Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE EMERGENCY MOSQUITO SERVICES WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie asked what happens to the salary from this position that had just become vacant. He further stated the Director of Mosquito control position was no longer and asked if that money was what was being used for this expenditure that would exceed \$40,000 or Public Works 126.

Dr. Grant said it was coming from Budget 126.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON-YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR- YES**

COMMISSIONER MORGAN- ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT- YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE-YES

PASSED 4-0

Commissioner Holt said she had a flyer for notice for projects. Projects needed to get in now because money was tight. She heard there was going to be a more difficult time to get anything and urged Commissioners to get projects in now.

Dr. Grant stated August 14, 2020 was the deadline.

Commissioner Hinson stated the County needed to be aggressive on culverts getting cleaned in our communities so water could run through them. He further stated he thought it may be the reason mosquito population was up.

Chair Viegbesie stated there were 0 ICU beds available, 0 hospital beds available, and 0 defibrillators available in Gadsden County. Be safe and wear your mask in public and in groups and maintain social distancing.

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PHD., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 7, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
 Eric Hinson, District 1-appeared remotely
 Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., asked everyone to bow their heads in a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant asked to pull item 8; add Item 16 (for numbering purposes will be Item 15a)-Approval of Lease Agreement with Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida and add Item 17(for numbering purposes will be Item 15b) Letter of Support for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH CHANGES AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Chair Viegbesie pointed out there were errors in the Agenda as posted on the County Website and “Consent” was missing; it should be before the Ratification Memo and Items 2 – 7 were to be on the Consent Agenda.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Affordable Housing of Veterans**
Jim Brennan, CEO, Friends of Post 84, Inc., appeared before the Board; asked if they could work with the County Administrator to be partners in bringing a Shelter forward and explained the proposed Shelter.

Commissioner Holt said if the Board decided to work with them, she would like input to be gotten from each Commissioner.

Commissioner Taylor asked him to speak with Michael Jackson, Veterans Service Officer, she asked if he was aware of this program and he said yes. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to speak with him because she has had several Veterans that have contacted her for assistance and she has sent them to see him.

Chair Viegbesie said he heard that he asked to be allowed to schedule a meeting with the Administrator and for the assistance of a grant writer.

CONSENT

Dr. Grant said the Consent Agenda was before them.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked what was Beard Equipment and Chair Viegbesie said the Agenda had been approved, motion made and asked the possibility of pulling an item for discussion.

Mr. Knowles said since they have a motion and second on the floor, they need to take the vote. She said she just wanted to know what Beard Equipment was for Item 5. Chair Viegbesie stated that was Item 6 and she said she showed it was Item 5. (There was confusion in the numbering of the items on the Commissioners' iPad apparently.)

Dr. Grant explained Beard Equipment was a vendor and this was for repairs made to Public Works' equipment.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

Item passed 4-1 Hinson opposed

- 2. Ratification Memo**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - **June 2, 2020-Regular Meeting**
 - **June 5, 2020-Emergency Meeting**
- 4. Approval for the CareerSource Region Board**
- 5. CR 159A Potter Woodberry Road Widening and Resurfacing**

6. **Ratification of Public Works Invoice-Beard Equipment**
7. **Ratification of Public Works Invoice-Tallahassee 2 Way**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Marion Lasley, 5 Dante Court, Quincy submitted an email and Chairman Viegbesie read the email aloud. (Will be attached following the final Minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- ~~8. **Public Hearing Approval of Resolution 2020-035 for FY 2020**~~
Item pulled from Agenda

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. **Juniper Creek Road-Bid Award**
Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

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

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION Passed 5-0

10. **Cooks Landing Road SCOP CEI Selection**
Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES

COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

11. Convert USDA Lease from a Partial Lease to a Full Lease

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

12. WA Woodham Building Fire Sprinkler Repairs

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

13. Gadsden County Emergency Services Education Agreement

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE ITEM.

Dr. Grant explained it was a recruitment and retention proposal that if approved, would improve the Department's ability to recruit paramedics and would facilitate retention via a contractual obligation in return for education reimbursement.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES

COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

14. Approval of Revisions to the Personnel Policy, Section 4.20, to Add Language Provided by FEMA to Clarify Payroll during Declared Emergencies and Natural Disaster

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Morgan said he “hated to slow down the train” but did not understand the need to adopt this language. The policy did not cause an issue, the process did.

Dr. Grant explained they had a person joining from Synergy to explain.

Jason Stolfus with Synergy appeared remotely to explain the need for this item to the Commissioners. Because there was no policy in place prior to Hurricane Michael, the extra pay that was paid out to salaried employees was not reimbursed to the County by FEMA. Because of that, the County lost approximately \$100,000 they were not reimbursed for. He said the recommendation was to establish an explanation of how overtime pay for salaried employees would be handled after a disaster so the next time something of this magnitude occurs, FEMA reimbursement will be eligible for those costs. He said the value of extra pay the County paid out that was not reimbursable was close to \$100,000, if policy had been in place prior to the hurricane, the entire amount would have been eligible for reimbursement.

Commissioner Morgan said if the matter had been brought before the Board, they would not be in that position.

Chair Viegbesie said the Advisory Board they had was suggesting this. He asked if the County would be required to have a log of documentation of employees that work, times they work, days they work, all has to be logged and documented.

Mr. Stolfus said that was correct and in addition, FEMA policy says FEMA determines eligibility of overtime, etc., from pre-disaster written labor policy. In addition to tracking hours, FEMA required there was a policy established prior to a disaster that outlined how extra overtime pay would be calculated.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor said direction that was given weeks ago was not being followed because this item was voted down as far as salary for employees, this came before them previously, they decided it was procedure issue, not policy. She stated she was not in agreement with salaried employees being paid overtime, they discussed a bonus. They also talked about during an emergency, County employees with regards to the Administrator and those that work under the Administrator, does not have authority during an emergency; it now fell under the direction of Emergency Management. She said they did not need to tie themselves down with this now. She thought, when they approved the extra dollars, it was for Public Works

employees and salaried employees was all bungled into one form and one total amount. She agreed with having a policy or some language for the hourly wage employees so they could be reimbursed but did not agree with salaried employees because of statute, because of the terminology. She felt they need to stick with what they have in the policy already. She said when she came under such a situation that salaried employees are made aware of what the policy was so they could heed to the policy as opposed to going out and then wanting to be compensated. She added that she was not in support of salaried employees being compensated for overtime. That should be a discussion of the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he echoed what Commissioner Taylor said. Like what he said last time, when this happens, the one in charge is the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the person in charge of the State of Emergency is Major Shawn Wood of Emergency Management. He asked why were they holding this conversation. He said he wanted a list of the County Employees that had been paid and they could then hold that conversation and the Clerk needed to be a part of that conversation also.

Commissioner Morgan said with the item before them, he did not disagree with the comments of Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Hinson. The body that determines the rate of pay was the Board of County Commissioners and he was not in favor of this at this time.

Chair Viegbesie said that was the reason this item came back. The Board wanted a payment plan. He said this was an action item.

Commissioner Holt said they had to have a policy in place, it was hurricane season, if something happened tomorrow, they would not have a chance to vote on it. She said for them to remember that 75% of the CARES dollars are under Emergency Management.

Chair Viegbesie said he heard the concern of the Commissioners; Synergy was the responding agency they had in place and was told they needed the policy in place. He suggested if they could, approve this item contingent on the Board approving a payment plan for full-time employees in case of a disaster.

Commissioner Morgan said they have a current personnel policy in place that was reimbursable by FEMA and there were no salaried employees that go unpaid for hours they work. They were not unpaid from FEMA because of a policy not in place, rather they were not reimbursed because of a procedure that went through without approval from the Board for exempt employees. He stated he was not in favor and would not vote to approve this item.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM AND
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.**

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

ITEM FAILED TO PASS-VOTE WAS 3-2 TO NOT APPROVE THE ITEM.

15. Approval of Gov-Easy Software CGA Proposal No. 20-3786 Agreement

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor had a question. She asked if this was something that they will have to purchase every year or every other year and where would the funds be coming from.

Kembrew Jackson, Information Technology Operations Manager, appeared remotely, and informed the Commissioners this was an annual contract and there was a State requirement they come into compliance with adopting this software.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not read where this was mandated.

Dr. Grant said he had the Statute where it was required, §553.79(b), Fla. Stat.

Commissioner Holt pointed out customers could pull up permits online and businesses coming into the County could pull theirs up from anywhere to view.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

15a. Approval of Lease Agreement with Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND AND CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1 WITH COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSING.

17. Letter of Support for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Dr. Grant introduced the above item

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Morgan had a question and said he had not seen this item and asked for clarity.

Dr. Grant explained.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and stated he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the payroll amount she stated earlier; was the amount for \$129,000 correct? Clerk Thomas stated yes.

Commissioner Holt asked if, when the Clerk makes a determination on spending by the Board, would he please provide the local Ordinance or Statute as to his determination so they would be aware of why.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Dr. Grant reminded everyone the second budget workshop would be July 23rd starting at 4:00 p.m. and he should have a copy of notes from the meeting with the Police Chiefs.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Board would have a chance to meet with the Chiefs or was that the extent of the meeting. Dr. Grant said from what he gathered, that was pretty much it. Commissioner Taylor said that had to be agendaed so Board could come together and look at some of suggestions so they could vet what was being said.

Chair Viegbesie said that would be addressed Friday when they meet to update the Emergency Resolution. He asked to add that to part of the discussion to the revisions to the current Resolution for Friday.

Commissioner Taylor asked to also have someone from EMS and Sheriff's Office online.

Chair Viegbesie said they were fortunate to have the Director of Emergency Management, the Major, in the Office of the Sheriff and he was one that pulled together to have monthly meetings. He asked Dr. Grant to have Major Woods and the EMS Director be a part of this conversation to address these items and concerns of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor asked about Animal Control and said there was room for improvement. Several people have called and have had issues with effectiveness of that Department. She added she was unsure if more training needs to be held in that department or what the answer was.

She asked where they were with interviewing Administrators, she knew the Board had given direction that applications be made available to the Commissioners. Dr. Grant asked if they had received the applications and was told no. Chair Viegbesie stated he was having issues with his computer but had not received the applications.

Commissioner Morgan said he received an email from Mrs. Butler on June 12th that had the applications in a shared folder.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mrs. Butler, she said the applications were scanned and emailed in a shared drive as Commissioner Morgan stated. She also stated staff was trying to work out issues since they were not open to the public.

Commissioner Taylor asked for hard copies.

Summer Employment

Commissioner Taylor said she requested a list from the Administrator of employers who felt using young people for employment was something they did not want to entertain and when received the list, she also received a statement she did not remember hearing that stated there were some that did not want young people working at their agency and then some that were never contacted. She asked for a list of who was contacted and who denied having these young people come.

Public Information Officer

She asked if there was two or one and was told there was now one.

She asked the attorney to look up something for her, a personnel clause with term green in it that relaxes some of rules when comes to hiring people, and asked for an explanation on how that works.

CARES Project

She said she received an email from the Administrator asking for ideas. She liked the idea of distribution of masks and also said they should consider hiring people and liked the idea of doing that County-wide. She said she would like to see them get a massive number of masks, hire people to help distribute masks throughout County and if they could work with Talquin and other agencies to help with some of utility bills on hardship cases.

She asked the funding source for the software for Easy-GOV and Dr. Grant stated it was being reallocated from the Building Department.

Dr. Grant informed the Board that the agreement was signed today by DOM and they could expect an allocation from the CARES Act by the end of the month.

Commissioner Holt said when they are talking about volunteers and others that may be working for the County, they need disclaimers signed because of the virus.

She asked for information on permits and said she had a person contact her about clearing and permits and did not have money for both and it was from Hurricane Michael.

She asked if he had knowledge of any County employees filing complaints with the State of Florida and he said no.

She spoke with a couple of grant writing companies and will get with the Administrator, and added they can work on a percentage basis.

Regarding the budget, she stated they need a Budget Director, documentation was very important. They also need a Building Department Director and a Planning Director. She said Commissioner Hinson has been bringing up Broadband and she agreed with him.

CARES Act Money

If able to provide Broadband, she said they need a meeting ASAP with Synergy and need to get their projects in.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Taylor for their comments.

With Broadband, they should have something in place in two weeks and have something from a company. He said his big push was a homeless center.

He then said he wanted to address three concerns in District 1:

- 1) EMS being moved from Havana to Dogtown and was unaware and reached out to former Administrators;
- 2) EMS in Midway, he asked the Administrator if there was an update when service will be available to the citizens; and
- 3) Asked for an update and completion date for the bridge work on Brickyard Road.

Chair Viegbesie said he also heard rumors about EMS moving to Dogtown and asked where that was coming from? He asked if the Administrator could confirm it was a rumor. He added he was unaware of conversations going on with EMS, Fire and Paramedic services.

Dr. Grant said the first he heard about this was when Commissioner Morgan asked him, followed by Commissioner Hinson. He was told by the EMS Director that there had been discussion about Havana needing someplace to go because they could not continue to work in the facility that they were currently located in. They thought the fire station might serve as a temporary location being 5 miles from Havana until they could get better quarters. He added nothing has been planned, it was just conversation. As far as Midway, they were working on

an Interlocal Agreement and as soon as attorneys agree on language, they could proceed. He added that Midway did not want services to start until October 1st.

Commissioner Hinson said the comment did not come from Commissioners, he talked with the Mayor and other Commissioners and they said they did not make that recommendation. It came from the City Manager. He also said the October 1st date was not accurate. City Commissioners told him personally, on different days, that date was far-fetched, they wanted EMS there now.

Dr. Grant said he had not been in negotiations with the City Council and did not know their wishes, he had been talking with the City Manager. Commissioner Hinson said he just received a text from a Commissioner and they want EMS there ASAP.

Commissioner Hinson said they have an Emergency Meeting on Friday and they did not need to wait. They need to have a meeting next week if they sign this.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:51 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor said they need to reach out to the City Administrator and get a formal letter. She added she was glad of the explanation of EMS moving to Dogtown.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:53 p.m.

She added they had a very headstrong EMS services, they move 10 steps ahead without asking and they have to adjust themselves to what they are doing. She added she was unsure how he could reel that in or if he could reel that in, but felt they needed dialogue with EMS Services to make sure any directions, visions, ideas are brought to the Board before putting it in the community IF that was how the information got out to the community.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Updates

Mr. Knowles said to answer Commissioner Taylor's question from Friday, if they do need to scale back their re-opening plan, they could, there was no preemption of the statute other than they could not go above what the Governor has said.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

19. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan had no comments.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

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

Chair Viegbesie asked that everyone make sure they returned their census forms so the County would have access to more monies, funds in the Revenue Sharing to enable them to provide some of the services.

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 8:00 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

Nicholas Thomas, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 10, 2020 AT 1:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Chair, District 2 - Absent
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1 - appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3 - appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5 - Absent
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND VICE CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
VICE CHAIR HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	NOT PRESENT

MOTION PASSED 3-0

1. Approval of Participation in the Application Process for the FFY-2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	NOT PRESENT

MOTION PASSED 3-0

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Shelia Shellman (sent 2)

“Commissioners mandating obstruction of breathing by Their citizens’ right to live and to breathe clean oxygen are committing an assault on our Basic rights to enjoy Life, Liberty, to pursue happiness and be rewarded for industry~ A continuation of this unlawful mandate is a a breach of their oath to our Florida Constitution and we demand an end to the illegal unconditional mask mandate”

Second email:

“I am writing to urge you to do your part to make sure that mask-wearing is voluntary, not mandatory.

Many jurisdictions are basing their face mask policies on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC has flip-flopped its position on face coverings several times since March but is now recommending that everyone wear a mask in public. This recommendation is not supported by strong empirical evidence. Though there is science to support mask-wearing, there’s also a preponderance of science showing that masks can cause considerable harm and are ineffective in preventing the spread of coronavirus. There is also no science supporting the use of masks by healthy individuals. So emergency orders that are being issued to help protect public health are actually hurting individuals’ physical and emotional well-being – and violating their basic human rights, constitutional rights and religious rights.

Evidence that masks reduce the transmission of viral respiratory infections within community settings is equivocal at best. A recent meta-analysis (bit.ly/2VHaubd) that included nearly a dozen randomized, controlled trials and 10 observational studies found that there was no clear clinical or laboratory-confirmed evidence that masks prevent infection. Even the U.S. Surgeon General has noted that masks ‘are not effective in preventing the general public from catching the coronavirus.’ (bit.ly/31Dgdm5)

In terms of harm, studies show that wearing a face covering reduces blood and tissue oxygenation – which can be deadly – while increasing carbon dioxide levels. The use of masks can also increase the risk of infection and the spread of viral illness (particularly cloth masks), hinder detoxification that occurs through exhalation, impair the immune system, and cause a wide range other physical and psychological issues. (bit.ly/31Epv1e). Moreover, some masks have been found to contain known carcinogens, which put people at risks from inhaling toxic chemicals and having them come into contact with their skin.

There is no science to support the use of masks by healthy individuals, and the World Health Organization backed this up when it said, “WHO stands by recommendation to not wear masks if you are not sick or caring for someone who is sick.” Forcing healthy individuals to wear face coverings is a completely unnecessary intervention that dehumanizes their interactions with others. More important, it eliminates their right to make informed decisions about what risks and precautions they are willing to take.

It is unethical and unconstitutional to subject healthy, law-abiding citizens to measures that can result in physical and emotional harm and that impinge on their ability to move freely throughout society. For those with deeply held religious beliefs, mask mandates violate their ability to abide by natural law and follow their convictions to walk in faith, not fear. As such, the decision to wear a mask is a highly personal one and should not be universally mandated; measures that are meant to protect the community as a whole are not effective if they hurt individuals in that community.

Mandatory medicine and mandated interventions such as social distancing and mask-wearing have no place in a free society; citizens want to maintain the right to make responsible decisions about what is best for themselves and their children based on their own unique circumstances. I urge you to do the right thing, stand for choice and protect all individuals by encouraging – not mandating – the use of face masks in the community. This policy can be bolstered by asking at-risk populations and those who are sick to self-quarantine, with society taking the best care of them possible.

Thank you for your continued leadership during these unprecedented times and for upholding the health and the rights of your constituents.”

Penny O’Connell, Quincy Main Street

“Dear County Commissioners and Administrator,

Hi, I’m Penny O’Connell with Quincy Main Street. I’d like to discuss activities on the square for the remainder of the year. Before Covid-19 we were hosting Food Truck Friday every second Friday. We would also like to hold one large event, either Quincycfest or Holiday on the Square, before the end of the year. What are your thoughts on this matter, do you see it happening?

At Food Truck Friday, people have always been socially distanced, tables have always been more than 6 feet apart. We’d have to make sure everyone wore a mask and were distanced in line for the food trucks. We were averaging about 200 people at the event before it closed due to Covid-19.

As far as the larger event, it’s harder to socially distance and you could have large crowds with people in close proximity of each other. I realize those events will be more risky.

I just wanted to get your thoughts on public activities between now and the end of the year. Personally, I’m very cautious due to the fact that my 83 year old mother lives with me but I wanted to see if you’re allowing any events at this time.”

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Approval to Purchase COVID-19 Supplies

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to purchase Covid-19 supplies, marketing supplies and marketing cost to assist the citizens of Gadsden County during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Vice Chair Holt asked what the supplies were and Dr. Grant responded masks and disinfectants.

Commissioner Morgan asked who did the assessment to who determine what needed to be purchased and the fiscal impact to the County. Dr. Grant said no assessment had been made, it would be applied to the CARES Act. Also, this was in reference to what the Board had instructed Staff to do in reference to disinfecting of the buildings they maintain. Commissioner Morgan stated he was not going to approve a broad expenditure for something there may be no need for.

Vice Chair Holt said at a previous meeting, Board members agreed to order masks, Commissioner Morgan asked how many was ordered and Dr. Grant said 5,000, with each Commissioner receiving 1,000. They also purchased hand sanitizer.

Vice Chair Holt said they could be reimbursed from the CARES Act. Commissioner Morgan said those dollars could be used elsewhere and there was no reason not to have an assessment of what this was being spent on.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MASKS ONLY AND THEY COULD APPROVE THE HAND SANITIZER NEXT WEEK AND VICE CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. VICE CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	NOT PRESENT

MOTION PASSED 3-0

3. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-038

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Dr. Grant said Major Woods wanted to present some items.

Major Shawn Wood appeared before the Board. He said yesterday they had 524 positive cases in Gadsden County; 73 hospitalizations; 7 deaths and 34 positives yesterday. He said they have 30 days to make a generational decision. He said they will reopen schools in 30 days and will be judged on decisions they make or do not make.

He said the Superintendent has received a mandate that if he does not open the schools, the Federal and State funding will be cut and the School system will not receive money from the Florida Department of Education or from the Federal government. He stated the School system is one of largest employers in the County.

He said they have 30 days to make a decision. He wants the County to champion in the decision they make. They need everyone to come together, with no politics and come up with sound and great decision.

He read a letter aloud that he wrote to Superintendent Roger Milton (will be scanned in behind final minutes).

He hoped the Commission could reach other bodies and have a collaborative meeting to get into an in-depth discussion about what going back to school meant.

Commissioner Hinson echoed everything Major Wood said. He said the mask was not to protect one's self, but to protect others.

Commissioner Morgan had no comments but appreciated that Major Wood presented the information.

Superintendent Milton appeared remotely before the Board. He said he appreciated the support from everyone over the years. Originally school was scheduled to open August 11, now it has been pushed back to maybe the 24th or 31st. His recommendation is to open with parents' having a choice. At end of the last school year, they were able to have one device per home, now they have one device per child. He added, however, some homes may not have internet connectivity and they have been working with providers to ensure the connectivity was as successful as possible. He said with the increase of cases, they were finding it hard to believe that they were being mandated to open schools in those conditions. He said funding was being threatened if they do not open. When they do open, CDC rules and guidelines will be followed as close as possibly can, and they will be working closely with the Health Department. He said it was important they all work together, safety first. He asked that they be supportive of each other and they would do the best they could until November 17th.

Vice Chair Holt said she always wanted to work with the School System and as a school teacher, she could not see students, especially small ones, keeping masks on.

Mr. Knowles said the original Resolution has no changes with exception to the date. He said in the meeting with the Chiefs, they were asking that civil citations be levied instead of punishing citizens criminally.

Commissioner Morgan asked for the specific agenda item and the fiscal impact. Vice Chair Holt said they could put that on the next Agenda.

Vice Chair Holt asked about the fine. Commissioner Morgan asked about going back to what he has mentioned the past several weeks in changing it to strongly recommend rather than mandating the masks. He felt more folks would comply with that and it would be more efficient.

Commissioner Hinson recommended to go with the officers' recommendation.

Vice Chair Holt asked the attorney if they had to make a recommendation.

Mr. Knowles suggested for each offense, the Commissioners give him an amount they were comfortable with and he would write that into the Order for summation. He said for each individual... Commissioner Hinson said before he made a recommendation, see what all five Board members made that decision. Mr. Knowles asked if the Motion was withdrawn and Commissioner Hinson stated yes. Vice Chair Holt stated it did not receive a second so it died anyway.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 10, 2020-Emergency Meeting

Vice Chair Holt asked if they wanted to make this an Agenda item? Commissioner Hinson stated yes.

Vice Chair Holt asked about the Resolution as stated.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem to adopt with the language they had in place last week with the change of the mandate to "strongly recommend" and motion died for lack of second.

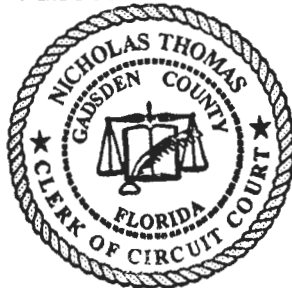
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED LAST WEEK AND VICE CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. SHE ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	NOT PRESENT


MOTION PASSED 2-1

MOTION TO ADJOURN


THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:50 P.M.



GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA


ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 17, 2020 AT 1:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4 – phoned in late
Eric Hinson, District 1 - appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3 - appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Viegbesie read aloud the Covid-19 statement.

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadscdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion with The Integrity Group Regarding the CARES Act

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and announced there was a workshop scheduled for Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. before the regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Yates appeared remotely if there were any questions.

Chair Viegbesie said he had no questions since there was a workshop scheduled.

Commissioner Holt phoned in.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

July 17, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

Commissioner Taylor asked if they had received a list from the Commissioners concerning their individual “wish list” and if there were any concerns from the list. She wanted to find out what they would be offering the County.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Mr. Yates wished to respond.

Mr. Yates said they received excellent ideas for projects and expenditures from multiple sources around the County and will provide a draft package Monday morning that they could use for the upcoming workshop. They will see a number of projects grouped under the CARES Act funding; the FEMA/COVID-19 Assistance and the third piece would be related to COVID-19 and Infrastructure and would be the Block Grant/Disaster Recovery Grant. He stated their task order from the County is to serve as staff to facilitate and assist in management of all those opportunities. He pointed out there will also be some opportunities to provide businesses and families in the County grants through the CARES Act and will be a significant amount of money for use for expenditures going back to March 1st of this year and moving forward with the CARES Act. He said that could be used for anything that was related to COVID-19, had to be something that was unbudgeted and money has to be spent by December 30 of this year. He said they were based in Tallahassee, have been doing disaster recovery work for 12 years, their background is law enforcement and understood State and local government that everyone was facing every day in the challenges in this disaster.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they were looking at reimbursement and might need more than one person assisting in that department. Dr. Grant said all would be laid out at the upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Holt thanked Dr. Grant for having them present on Zoom. She said under the item of Community Grants, there were a lot of people were “mom and pop” and would not know about the grant process. She also said there were several ones that rented out homes and did not get money back and did not want what happened in Leon County to happen here. She said Integrity will help get funding but they needed to make sure they were specific when it came to granting money because larger entities always received the money. She said it was very important to get community people involved.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the \$8 Million was entitlement or competitive and Dr. Grant said it was certified for Gadsden County. Dr. Grant said was allotted to the Counties and if improperly used, the County had to pay it back.

Chair Viegbesie said he had a conversation with Mrs. Cicchetti and Antonio Jefferson and the same concerns were expressed.

Commissioner Holt said they only chose Integrity, they did not choose another entity, it needed to be brought to Board and Board decides on that. They need to make sure they choose who they want and how they want them to do it.

Commissioner Morgan wanted to mention regarding Mr. Yates comments, any information that Integrity has, he asked to receive it prior to Tuesday so they would have time to review it. He asked Dr. Grant if they have reached out to each municipality and received anything back? Dr.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

July 17, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

Grant said no, he had talked to most of them and they have been in on the economic end of it and was why the workshop was so important.

Chair Viegbesie dittoed Commissioner Morgan's comment, if they could send a synopsis before the meeting on Tuesday; his other concern was all municipalities should be aware of the ramifications or restrictions and limitations that CARES Act has with the participation and the kind of things they should be thinking of in advance.

Commissioner Holt said they were right where they needed to be; those managers need to get the information; also, if need to, schedule a Saturday morning or afternoon (meeting) to discuss and make sure they have what they want and get whatever was needed. They also need to look at healthcare because of in the event schools open and there is an outbreak.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the money would have to be spent or could they be ear-marked? She said they may want to build-out the hospital because they feel this COVID may require this hospital to have more room available and was a project that may not complete itself until March, 2021. Would that be an acceptable project to funds being spent as of December 31, 2020?

Mr. Yates said the answer was with the CARES Act, the transaction had to be completed, the payments incurred and good received. They could not go into any construction past the first of the calendar year. But there are opportunities of funding with FEMA for those longer-term projects. He added they would see more on Tuesday.

Commissioner Morgan said Mr. Yates answered his question. Tuesday workshop was to focus strictly on the CARES Act money. On the communication with the municipalities, he did not know if Integrity had someone on their team that might want to reach out along with Dr. Grant to the municipalities on Monday to make an introduction and felt clear communication would help along those lines.

Darryl Cox, Integrity Group, explained little of what they do.

Commissioner Holt said some of cities' projects and County's would be same thing.

Chair Viegbesie suggested (inaudible) be distributed based on the County's population, whatever the municipalities get should be based on the population of each of the municipalities.

Commissioner Taylor concurred and did not want to give pretense, her was more along the line of whatever portion, and with that being said, they said they were willing to reach out to the municipalities at least to get the conversation started.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to put the emphasis on the homeless population, as well as infrastructure, broadband and preventative services to keep families from becoming homeless.

Dr. Grant said he had been in contact with many of the cities but did not encourage them to put forth any projects because it was the County's decision if they wanted to share the money with them. He added he did not know how much liability the County wanted to talk on at this time and wanted the County to make that decision as to how much funding they were going to share with the Cities; because if the money is not spent right, the County has to refund the money to

the State. He said it was up to the County as to how they wanted to share in those funds with the municipalities and not increase their liability in doing so.

Chair Viegbesie said they should conclude this discussion at this time.

2. Approval to Purchase COVID-19 Supplies

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was in connection with the request made to them by law enforcement and assistance with implementing their demands in the Resolution.

Commissioner Holt asked that he repeat and speak into the microphone. She could not hear what he said and he did so.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Commissioner Taylor asked what the supplies included and Dr. Grant said masks, sanitizer, gloves and bags for the kits for a total amount to be \$35,000.

3. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-039

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of the COVID-19 Resolution.

Chair Viegbesie said last Friday a couple of the Commissioners were unable to attend and the civil citation of the Resolution was postponed. They have a “full house” today and could now be discussed, along with any other revisions or additions.

Commissioner Taylor said one concern she had with current Resolution, was 50+ gathering (of people), given what has happened with the County, they have almost doubled in cases in the last two weeks and gone to 749 testing positive. She said they need to look at other avenues other than just masks because if they were telling people they could gather at 50 or more and they know precautionary measures were not being met when those size gatherings were happening, she asked that the Commission look at that number of population again because of what was happening nationwide. She said she did speak with the Chief of Police in Havana in detail and asked why they were not willing to meet or at least have a conversation on Zoom with regard to some of things they were coming across and his response was no-one had asked them. She said she was a little perturbed because they were told that they did not want to meet and she wanted to meet so she could have an understanding of what they were facing in the community. She said she was more than willing to approve what was being proposed, she understood there were two different proposals with regards to fines and fees that the Sheriff has set and the municipalities has set. Dr. Grant said the Board needed to make decision of which one wanted to

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

July 17, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

go with. Commissioner Taylor said that put the Board in a precarious situation because they wanted to be able to work with both the Sheriff and municipalities.

Chair Viegbesie said they have suggestions coming from both the Chiefs and the Sheriff. If the Sheriff is more lenient than the Chiefs, he suggested they incorporate the Sheriff's recommendation, which was less severe. She concurred they go with the lesser fee. She thought they should try to get one or more on-line at the next meeting and did not want to do fines or fees at all.

Commissioner Holt said if they have an average of 700 people infected, they could multiply that by 5%; they have to do something. She did not want to fine anyone either, but was for the lesser of the fine. She said they have to listen to law enforcement because they have to enforce it. They need to invite them to the meetings every Friday so that way they could tell them how it was going. She said they need to have their opinion and need to have something in place.

Commissioner Morgan said, as he has mentioned many times, thought the mandatory face mask usage was not the best way to encourage others to follow the strong recommendation to wearing a mask and the benefits. He felt most folks in the community was already doing this. The ones not were not going to do it and he certainly was not in favor of charging civil fines to a community that already has been hampered with not only Hurricane Michael but also Covid-19. Many businesses and individuals have taken a hard-economic hit and they certainly did not want to do that. He added they could not effectively and efficiently enforce so having law enforcement concentrating on this rather than other things that should take priority. He strongly recommended they give this thought and was opposed to any civil fines and again recommended regarding masks was to change the mandate to strongly recommend.

Chair Viegbesie said if they recalled, at the beginning, he was not one in support of the mandate but with things getting bad, things have changed. He said there was a mandate regarding a safety belt when riding in an automobile; a mandate to prohibit smoking in public buildings and all were for public safety. He said this was a situation that was actually out of hand. If you were a member of one of the families of one of the nine that have already died, maybe then you would feel the need to preserve the lives of those around you and the need to keep the citizens safe. If so, do the right thing, and you would not be cited \$25.00.

Commissioner Taylor said people were still out there with 50+ gatherings and she wanted to know if they should roll back the amount and asked if they have opened the County back up? Dr. Grant said no, they were back to Phase 1. She said that was her position and what she wanted to change and adopting the Sheriff's recommendation. Said heard the Sheriff should utilize their time on more serious crimes, but she did not know of anything more rampant than this virus. She said this was a serious situation that everyone should be giving note to, not one that could calmly pass by with numbers increasing the way they were, this was not passive, they all needed to be on-board trying to work to resolve this. She asked the Board if they would consider reeling back to Phase 1, go back to 10 people or less and the minimum amount of fine.

Commissioner Holt agreed with Commissioner Taylor. She spoke with Dr. Cooksey, because of the rise they were having, the County will have the same problem they were having employees coming to work. The same thing was happening at other facilities causing people to become infected, they were not allowed to come to work and will stagnate the whole system; it will affect

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 17, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

Road and Bridge and other departments and they will not be able to do the job that they were paid to do. She said it was happening at Correctional facilities and all other governmental organizations. Other Commissions had to stop their meetings altogether because one of their Board members was infected. She asked what would they do if they do not tighten up and try to reduce the numbers. She was in favor of rolling back to Phase 1.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SO MOVED AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.
COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to see both entities work together and create a common language from both municipalities and the Sheriff's Office and the Board would know that the recommendations were supported by both entities. He said this was a serious issue in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Morgan asked that the motion be restated.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID HER MOTION WAS TO MOVE BACK TO PHASE 1 AND WOULD INCLUDE THE ROLL-BACK OF TOTAL NUMBER OF GATHERINGS TO 10 AND ADDING THE FINES FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (CIVIL CITATIONS) AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. HE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1 COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:17 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A DISASTER RECOVERY WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 21, 2020 AT 4:00
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-appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the workshop and called it to Order at 4:05 p.m. He asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CONSENT

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud the process of citizens requesting to speak during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were no emails received from the citizens.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Opening Remarks/Goal for Today

Gary Yates and Tim Moore, Integrity Group, appeared before the Board. Mr. Yates said they were very happy to be working with the County over the next few months to achieve maximum recovery from the COVID-19 disaster as well as some future options related to Hurricane Michael, the HUD possibilities.

He said there was \$8.3 Billion appropriated to the State of Florida and 55% of the money was being allocated to the Counties; the top 12 Counties with a population of 500,000 or above received 100% of the allocation directly from the US Treasury and Gadsden County had not formally received their 25% yet but DEM should be processing that post-haste.

He said the FEMA Public Assistance program was another funding source for COVID-19, began January 20 and was on-going. He added that HUD was the other large pot of money and should be able to apply in September for money from that.

He said the CARES Act money was March 1 – December 30, 2020 and the County has to incur the expense and receive the goods or services by December 30th.

He added the documents provided were draft documents and whatever the County desired, changes could be made.

He further stated that with the CARES Act and HUD money, it was 100% federal money and was no local match, the FEMA money required a 12.5% match. He added that they would be working with the applicants to figure out how to mitigate the local match amount.

3. Overview of Funding Available (CARES Act, FEMA, HUD)

Darryl Cox, Integrity Group, appeared remotely before the Board. He had a sample letter that would be submitted and said the \$1.9 Million was 25% of \$7.9 Million that was allocated for Gadsden County. He said the funds could be used for anything that was related due to the public health emergency of COVID-19; the expenditures had to be unbudgeted and had to be from March 1 – December 30, 2020. He provided a breakdown of a proposed breakdown of expenses. The largest expense could be for Public Health expenses.

He said the GCDC in conjunction with Gadsden Chamber of Commerce and Big Bend Minority Chamber could work to help get the word out for a Small Business Working Capital Grant Program; Small Business Working Capital Loan Program and Gadsden Worker Training Program and help with applications.

He further explained that with regard to the loan programs, after the loans were paid back to the County, the funds would have to be reverted back to the Treasury Department.

With the Community Rapid Response Program and said there were a lot of possibilities with ways to help the citizens and general public and explained the grants available.

He said the last part would be a passthrough to the six municipalities.

He added that the Plan could be amended and if they allocated funding for something and turned out to not cost what they thought, it could be re-allocated and used somewhere else. They just had to make sure that the funding was used by December 30th.

He mentioned the other document was a breakdown in a spreadsheet format of the program and they have been collecting information of some larger, capital projects that may be eligible for funding from sources other than CARES Act, such as FEMA projects and Hurricane Michael related Community Development Block Grant projects that they would be assisting the County in draft applications for.

Mr. Yates re-appeared and said the spreadsheet and the financial details were organized by funding types and would be handy and was a good working document. He added that the focus

today was the CARES Act and the plan they suggested that be submitted to DEM did not have to be perfect; it could be changed as needed.

Chair Viegbesie said the document was very explicit even though it was a work in progress. He then asked if the plan had to be submitted by a given date.

Mr. Cox said did not have to be in by certain date. He said the letter and plan was to show the State that there was a plan to utilize the funding so they could get the State to send the additional 75% of the money. It could be operationalized, build out the grant programs for the businesses and citizens but originally, they were told, just never written anywhere, if the County submitted a plan, that could be used to get the additional 75% funding. They were getting word now that with the 75% allocation, a request could be submitted for reimbursement. The money would have to be spent upfront but there may be an opportunity for the County to submit a request for advanced funding for the 75% in order to fund the grant program or some of the other expenses. He added that the money had to be spent by December 30th or it would be lost.

Commissioner Holt said the County was responsible for Healthcare and wondered if between the Board and the School Board, if they go back to school and there is an outbreak, they will send them home and the County would have to move quickly. She asked if they knew what they might be doing with the CARES Act money.

Mr. Yates said the School Board would be receiving their own CARES Act appropriation. He said they would have one year to spend their money. He recommended that the Board work with the School Board and Superintendent and they would be happy to facilitate that because there would be an over-lap.

She asked with the \$3 Million for health care expenses, what out-of-pocket were they looking at for services. Mr. Yates said that was identified in the draft and spreadsheet; it was a variety of costs. She said what she was asking was how they would be paid and he said they would be paying them out of the CARES Act money; between 11 – 12%. He said they would be providing staff in the office to handle the applications from the public if the County chose to go that way; a portal has been built and would be handling the processing of what comes in, processing those and making sure everything was appropriate and recommending approval of the applicants that apply.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the payment to Integrity was coming out of the \$7.9 that was appropriated for Gadsden County. Mr. Yates said they already have the task order and suggested they County pay them out of the CARES Act money. He added the money was 100% federal and there was no match required.

Chair Viegbesie said his question was looking at the breakdown of the programs, that came to a total of almost \$8 Million. Where would the money come from? He said it would come from the \$3 Million for the County costs.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad they were helping; they need comparables; match money to get FEMA and HUD money. He said their service would be to all three areas, CARES, FEMA and HUD.

She said her question would be for the other sections in the document; the loans and grants, etc. She added that she did not want to see their money going to the big businesses because they had more opportunity to get money.

Mr. Yates added that was why they built the portal for the businesses.

Commissioner Morgan said they needed to follow the lead of Integrity Group and let them guide them through the process. He asked if their designation as a fiscally, constrained county would benefit them in any way as far as helping them receive the other 75% of the funds.

Mr. Yates said did not think the status as a fiscally constrained county technically weighted the scoring but could help in the reason for meeting the events and thought it should be included in the letter. He said to the first point, it was noted. There was going to be a balance between making the criteria easy enough for businesses and citizens to be eligible and to receive the funding but the other side was the County was still ultimately responsible. If the County did not have at least a somewhat good control on who was eligible and who was not and what type of mechanism used to show they had expenses or damages related to COVID-19, it could come back on the County. He said he did not want to jeopardize the funding and have U.S. Treasury or DEM come back on them.

Mr. Knowles asked how DEM and Treasury would verify everything.

Eric Miller, Integrity Group, responded and said the County would be subject to the Single Audit Act since the (inaudible). The Chair asked that he slow down so he could be better understood. He said the conditions that were imposed in Section 5000 of the CARES Act, that was what allowed the \$150 Billion dollars to go to the 50 States and territories of the United States. As long as the three conditions that were previously mentioned were met, being an unbudgeted need for COVID related expenses that occurred between March 1 – December 30th, then there would not be any disallowances or fallbacks. He said that was communicated by the U. S. Department of Treasury. He added that the most recent clarification came out as recently as July 8th and as long as they adhere to the three provisions they would be in good shape.

Mr. Yates said in response to Commissioner Morgan's comment about fiscally constrained counties, it is said in the letter that they were requesting immediate disbursement of the total funding, that "the initial plans to handle this program through the FEMA-style reimbursement process *will not work* for small, fiscally-challenged counties like ours" because this county could not afford to spend \$8 Million and wait six months for reimbursement; the cash was needed up-front.

Commissioner Hinson said he would like to see a sample plan for the Case management for the CARES Act funding and wanted to see more information regarding the turn-around time for giving funds and/or case management follow-up.

Mr. Yates said they could provide more details; it really was the task order they had been provided and what had been approved.

Mr. Yates said once the Board approved the categories, amounts and criteria that was anticipated for business loans or grants, their job would be to write protocols and policies. He said the first step was to figure out the ballpark wanted and if they wanted to do a residential grant, business

grant, business loans or what they wanted to put in the effort and it would be staffed out and write out what Commissioner Hinson was referring to.

Commissioner Taylor said she had concerns; if they take 10-12% of \$8 Million, they were talking about somewhere in the neighborhood of \$790,000 that would be paid in consulting fees and that was a lot of money. She said she looked at the proposed layout and most of it was redundant. She said there was a couple of areas that has IT on it twice, couple of areas that have Public Safety three times and areas that talk about training 2 – 3 times on the same sheet of paper. She said what she could appreciate with regards to the public health expenses, was to be able to go back to March, 2020 and start recouping what has been spent with regards to healthcare and COVID. She added she could not see spending money on something already being done. She further said most of the items on the list had already been rendered, already been done, could they utilize additional IT, yes. She had concerns of some of the things on the sheet. She said they did get an alert today that 200+ new cases in one week and was now at a tad under 1,000. She wanted to see something go towards the build-out of the hospital; this virus was getting out of control and they could utilize the dollars from the Public Health expense to look at a build-out. She felt their fee was too much. She added that she was glad to see GCDC and the Chamber working on this. She said she would like to see the Small Business Working Capital Grant and would like to see the amount increased and added that she was scared of the loan because of the pay-back process and the fact that the County was responsible. She said she would like to see their fee renegotiated.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:15 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had surveyed local municipalities about their needs and asked to conduct a need assessment from local municipalities, faith-based and non-profits because they were the boots on the ground during this unprecedented time. He said there were a lot of things he had heartburn about. He said they needed to have a meeting every Friday until they were able to get this together. They need to address homelessness and mental health needs and need to look at broadband. He said they needed to meet again and bring a wish list to the table.

Chair Viegbesie said for them to understand this money was for COVID-related and anything prior to March 1st was not eligible. The timeline was for from March 1st to December 30th.

Commissioner Taylor said this was for the gentleman that spoke after her spill. He talked about the effectiveness of their group with regards to the funding that was coming to the County. She said the \$8 Million was an entitlement and the County would have gotten it no matter who was standing there. She said Broadband was previous to COVID but because of the stay-at-home measures, it has become a necessity because of COVID. She said she was hoping from the Chair's synopsis, it would be included in the initiative moving forward.

Dr. Grant said he wanted to clarify some on the projects. The projects listed was in response to what they requested from Department heads, Constitutionals and the County Commissioners. Something of the things referred to by Commissioner Taylor was things that have been done and were on the list for reimbursement, not on there to be done.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to reiterate Commissioner Taylor's comment about broadband.

Commissioner Holt said they need the company to go after the funds, they did not have staff nor the capability to do it. They were going to have to have more meetings.

Chair Viegbesie said they will have another workshop and now that they had the document, they could start making notes before the next meeting.

Chair Viegbesie asked that the municipalities to join in.

Jack McLean, City of Quincy, appeared remotely before the Board. He said they did submit a letter of things they thought should be looked at. One thing was: building beds for the hospital; building capacity for non-profit organizations was a good thing, whether for the Health Council in terms of helping renew the commitment and enforcement of the Executive Orders of the County Commission as well as the Cities throughout the County in terms of mass and social distancing; on the educational front they had learned a lot but this was education on how to comply and keep distances open without having to talk about staying at home; look at training with GTI; do the Broadband; how to open back up the Chambers, need PPE's and other things so that they could open up meetings and have the public come back in; Public participation and spending money from a technological standpoint on how to increase public participation and to mimic what they used to have; agreed that they could reduce the costs if they were to look at contracting out or looking at other entities. Some people already have a platform so they would be able to do it. He said the cities would also be subject to a single audit as well and on the reimbursement before they receive the money. He said they have already spent \$600,000 already, and they need to be reimbursed for that to be able to spend more.

Antonio Jefferson, City of Gretna, appeared remotely and said the only thing of concern for him was if they were going to allow the cities to participate, it would be helpful if they could get a clear understanding of the amount of money they will receive.

Lenwood Herron, City of Midway, appeared remotely and said they have submitted their documents to Integrity Group.

Commissioner Holt asked since they were under an emergency order, did they have to abide by advertising. Mr. Knowles said he would do research during the brief intermission.

Chair Viegbesie said they needed to schedule another meeting.

- 4. Timeframes & Major Objectives**
- 5. Draft Plans for CARES Act funding-Achieving 100% of Allocation**
- 6. Discussion of Recommended Funding Needs & Desires**
- 7. Presentation and demonstration of Gadsden Grant Application Portal**
- 8. Staffing & Support from The Funding Group**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 21, 2020 – Disaster Recovery Workshop

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:48 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 21, 2020 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 – appeared remotely
 Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He then asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and afterward, asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant said he would like to pull Item 7-Midway Station Location and the Integrity Group presentation and add Item 8a Procurement of Infection Control EMS Units.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a reason that they were pulling Item 7. Dr. Grant said they had not received the Interlocal Agreement from Midway, their attorney was making some changes. Commissioner Hinson asked to add it to the Emergency Meeting on Friday.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- ~~1. Integrity Group~~**
Item pulled

Chair Viegbesie read aloud the COVID-19 statement.

CONSENT

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CHAIR
VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

- 1. Ratification Memo**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-84 Triple H, Salem Road, Havana, Communications Tower Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan with deviations (SP 2020-03)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a 250' tall, self-supporting communication tower requesting three deviations from setback requirements of Section 5800 Communication Towers of the Land Development Code.

Mr. Knowles said the attorney representing the applicant was not on-line and he was reached by phone. (There were technical difficulties earlier.)

Jill Jeglie, Interim Growth Manager, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She then gave a brief synopsis of the item.

Commissioner Holt asked to hear from the attorney and the property owner.

Robert Volpe, Esquire, appeared remotely before the Board. He said they reached out to Mr. Donahoe, the neighbor that had concerns, and spoke with him at length and took the application back to Verizon. They looked at other locations where the tower could be placed. He said the towers are designed to federal, state and safety regulations.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud an email from Larry Ganus to Mike Dorian opposing the tower.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud an email from Mike Dorian to the Planning Commission opposing the tower.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud an email from Stacey Rasky in support of the tower.

Chair Viegbesie asked how the modification would change the effectiveness of the coverage range for the service. Mr. Volpe said it would not affect the coverage range, it would still have the same coverage range and the modifications were improved engineering for safety purposes.

Commissioner Holt asked if they had any other calls from people in neighborhood and was told no.

Commissioner Holt then asked Mr. Volpe the coverage range on the tower and he said a few square miles to the northwest and would improve performance about a 3-mile radius. She asked Ms. Jeglie if any would be used for the emergency towers. She said that was a question for Mr. Volpe.

Leslie Steele said Marion Laslie was appearing remotely and wished to speak and the attorney said because she sat on the Planning Board she could not.

Commissioner Taylor disclosed an attorney did reach out to her today.

Commissioner Hinson echoed everything Commissioner Taylor said; he spoke with some of the residents in the area and supported the Chairman.

Commissioner Holt said the attorney called her and said she never agrees with anyone, she just listened.

Mr. Volpe said he reached out to his client and they said EMS could use the tower at no charge if they chose to do so.

Commissioner Morgan said what he had heard so far, the concern with safety, better location, he heard there was no better suitable location without adding additional towers to provide the service for the folks where there were currently limited services available. Mr. Volpe said that was correct. Commissioner Morgan said anytime they could improve services, they needed to do so, but what concerned him was when the Planning Commission voted unanimously to deny and asked why.

Ms. Jeglie reappeared before the board to address the question. She said the major concerns were addressed with safety, the location and with the length of the tower and Commissioner Morgan said he was told there was no other suitable location.

Chair Viegbesie encouraged the Commission to add to the motion that Emergency Management has access to the tower.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to make sure that Mr. Donahoe was ok and there was a buffer in place between the tower and his place. Chair Viegbesie asked if Mr. Volpe heard the concerns. He said a vegetative buffer will be installed.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A BUFFER IN PLACE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

3. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2020-035 for FY 2020

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2020-035 and authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director and the Sr. Management and Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to adjust the Fiscal Year 2020 BOCC Budget.

The Clerk was present and said earlier it was mentioned there needed to be a number of budget amendments to correct some things with the budget and to bring forward a number of grants from the old year and account for some grants and revenue received since the current fiscal year and one of the main things addressed was the AG Center. He said it fixed a number of issues that were time-sensitive.

Chair Viegbesie said he had no public comments.

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

Commissioner Holt said she had not seen that many before and asked if it was an increase in the adjustments. He said a lot of the amendments were for grants that were brought forward like money for bridges and SHIP money. In the future, they should be more timely done.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was any reason for them not being brought forward. He said he was not giving an excuse.

Commissioner Holt said the numbers needed to be carried forward in the appropriate areas and they could not run short or move money at the last minute for the AG building.

Commissioner Hinson asked about budget amendment 200099 for Public Works and asked if they had budgeted that. Mr. Thomas said they voted to purchase some equipment outright during the fiscal year and they financed some equipment.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Approval of Millage Rate for TRIM Notification and Set the Date, Time and Place for the Public Hearings to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Gadsden County Budget

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and this was for approval of the millage rate for Truth in Millage notification and established the September budget adoption public hearing dates in order to provide this information to the Property Appraiser's office by August 4, 2020.

Commissioner Taylor asked how they set the millage rate before they set the budget.

Mr. Thomas said they have to set the initial tentative millage rate because the Property Appraiser needed that to send the Notice to Property Owners.

Dr. Grant said this has to be sent to the Property Appraiser by August 4th.

Commissioner Holt said if they do not intend to raise it, it was fine but they had to know they could not do it later.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1, TENTATIVE COUNTY-WIDE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9064 MILLS TO BE INCLUDED ON TRIM NOTIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SCHEDULE THE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR ADOPTION OF THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AND ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. IN BOCC CHAMBERS FOR ADOPTION OF THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1 WITH COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSING.

5. Cochran Road SCRAP-Professional Services

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Task Order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the survey and design of Cochran Road SCRAP resurfacing project.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked where it was located and Commissioner Morgan said in District 3.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

6. 2020 County Paving Bid Award

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the 2020 County Paving Project to the low bidder and the low bidder was Peavy and Sons, Inc.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was any reason why District 1 did not have streets or locations listed.

Dr. Grant listed the road names.

Commissioner Holt said the names were on the attachment.

Commissioner Hinson said if the citizens looked on-line, they could not see it. He asked if there was any road other than Lake Yvette or MLK in Midway being done.

Commissioner Holt said they took money from Commissioner Hinson's paving and this was spending it now.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

7. Midway Station Location

Pulled

8. Motorola Solutions Change Order Number 5

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of the Motorola Solutions change order number five for materials, labor and services associated with civil work required at Prime (Jail), Midway (American Tower) and Peavy (SBA) sites. He added this was to include site work, fence, grounding, slab for shelter (to be provided by County) and/or the generator (provided by County), electrical, telco, grubbing and rock, where required, ice bridge and crane.

Commissioner Holt said once they received the information, they were looking at how much the item would take if they bid out the part that the County was to do. She asked Dr. Grant if they looked at any options.

Dr. Grant said County staff was doing three of the towers because it was not that much work, but if they did the other three with the present County staff that they had to do it, it would be 2027 before they were done. She pointed out they did not have any bids on there and did not know what the contractor would charge to do it. He asked if they wanted to bid that out.

Commissioner Morgan reiterated the importance of completing the project they had been working on for 2 ½ years. He added the original costs was \$2.3 - \$2.4 Million and it was reduced because previous staffing that was on board was going to be able to do some of the work and they now did not have the staff to do that. He further stated that even with the most recent change orders, they were on track for the total amount of the initial contract value. He urged the Board to complete the project and said there was no other more important project that needed to be completed to provide safety for the entire responders and the citizens.

Commissioner Holt asked the Manager if there had been any problem contacting Motorola and he stated no.

Mrs. Debbie Giles, Motorola, appeared remotely before the Commission. She said she understood the need for wanting to put this out for bid, but these were three major sites, the County had purchased the shelter and generators and there were additional services that assistance was needed with and they have contractors that could complete the project and was waiting on stand-by. Once they received the go-ahead, it could be knocked out within a couple of months. She added it included all the work that needed to be done plus bringing in cranes and a project manager so the County Staff would not have to stay on-site.

Commissioner Taylor said the enclosures were easy to do. Dr. Grant said those systems were pretty much intact and there was not a lot of work to do. She said she respected the urgency of getting this done. She added the County had contractors in-house, like Cook's Construction, someone that was on a list that the County uses. She stated they could bring this back Friday and vote it up or down.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he had been asking for a workshop on this so he could get a clear picture of what was going on.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION FAILED 3-2

8a Procurement of infection Control EMS Units

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for approval for the procurement of four (4) Frazer Infection Control EMS Units under the CARES Act funding.

Keith Maddox, Gadsden County Emergency Services Chief, appeared remotely to explain the item. He explained the units have built-in UVC lighting systems to help decontaminate the units and would help with the antiquated fleet.

Commissioner Taylor said after going through the CARES Act list, it referenced purchasing 2 emergency vehicles, was this part that was already listed as a possible expenditure from the CARES Act? He said this was part of that, they were asking for 4 total, 2 that was listed in the original proposal and 2 additional from the CARES Act. Commissioner Taylor said that was over-reaching for her. She said EMS was given an extra \$1 Million in their 2020/21 budget for salaries.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding that the vendor that provides the equipment, this was a time-sensitive item. Dr. Grant said they have to place the order by Wednesday morning in order to receive them before the December 30th deadline.

Commissioner Holt said if she was not mistaken, in the CARES Act, it said they had to have a purchase invoice and not the money spent and asked they check on that. She asked Chief Maddox on the UVC lighting system, they did not have an individual system that could be retro-fit? Chief Maddox said he was not sure.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked regarding the motion, was it to approve the purchase of two and why not go ahead and purchase four with the CARES Act money? Commissioner Morgan said CARES Act would be appropriate to use for this.

Chair Viegbesie said the motion was to purchase 2 ambulances and called for the vote.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CLERK OF COURT

9. Updates

Mr. Thomas reminded them of Hurricane Michael money and said they still have quite a bit of housing money left. He said Hurricane Michael still has \$2.3 Million and another \$200,000 in the Disaster funding for a total of about \$2.5 Million and had \$550,000 in the regular SHIP Program. He reminded the Commissioners they had approximately \$3 Million in housing.

Commissioner Hinson said with the SHIP Program, they could not do housing within the city limits. But with the \$2.5 Million, could they work on housing within the city limits?

Mr. Thomas said he would have to answer that question first thing in morning.

Commissioner Hinson said there were too many homeless people out there and too many that needed assistance with housing and they needed to push the issue with housing. He also added he must give credit to the SHIP person; she was working hard and they needed to make sure they helped the seniors.

Mr. Thomas said earlier they mentioned the bond money from 2014/15, Commissioner Hinson had \$415,000 left, Commissioner Morgan dedicated his to the Juniper Creek Road, Commissioner Holt had \$117,000 and Commissioner Taylor has \$84,000.00. He added there has

been some interest earnings that was not included and would need to be sorted through but that money needs to be spent.

The Clerk elaborated on the millage. The Board has not raised it in several years and the Budget was not truly balanced.

Commissioner Taylor asked with what they did tonight with TRIM, were they locked in? Mr. Knowles said they could go down but they could not go up. Mr. Thomas responded that the roll-back rate was 8.7% and meant to bring in the exact same amount of tax they had the previous year (inaudible) and with the costs of the values going up, there would be a little more money. He said "technically, when you put your ad in the paper it will probably say a little bit of tax increase simply because the assessed values would have gone up". Commissioner Taylor said she voted against that because she felt they needed more time to look at the budget to see if they would be able to generate enough money to balance because, he was right, balancing a budget on Reserve was not a good fiscal practice and that was what they had been doing.

She then had questions about the CARES Act. She said they (Integrity) were asking for \$800,000 to do what he did; watch the flow of money, documentation, and whether or not his understanding of the CARES Act expenditures, or what was within statutes, could he monitor the money to see if they stay within guidelines so when it was time for reimbursement, they could get it, because she knew he monitored it with FEMA; because he told them with all the salaries they advanced would be difficult to have documentation to support, which meant they would not get those funds back; and they did not.

Mr. Thomas said the CARES Act was a whole, new ballgame for everyone. He advised that they had someone helping on the front-end. He added that before they cut checks on the back-end, they will ask questions and might need answers because if the Treasury Department determined that it was not legit, it might have to be paid back.

Commissioner Holt asked regarding the gas tax and sales tax, could they get a synopsis on what that money could be used for. Mr. Thomas said on the gas tax; it could be used for transportation, roads and bridges. Whenever they take the Public Works Department and have them do something else that was not dealing with transportation, they need to bill that department, whether it be Parks and Rec or whatever, to be fully reimbursed.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Updates

Dr. Grant said he had two things:

He will be bringing an agreement for more money for housing; and they have not even issued do's and don'ts yet, to have a webinar on the next day regarding that. He said this was the first payment of that money and the amount was \$240,000.

He said the Budget notebooks were ready if they wished to pick them up and the Budget workshop would be Thursday.

Commissioner Taylor asked on the Friday meeting regarding the curfew, they may want to look at going back to 9:00 p.m. and may want to go back to that.

Animal Control

She said there had to be some got to be some best practices out there. They needed to research and find them. She said when the cats become “cage smart”, they had to find other ways to get them.

She asked to see a schedule for the interviews for the County Administrator positions in the near future.

She asked to see an organizational chart. She said they had people with great talent in the Departments; a licensed contractor, etc.

She said they should really tap FAC, they needed to tap that source regarding the CARES Act. Leon County received \$51 Million for CARES Act, we only received \$8 Million.

She said they needed to figure out another way for the PIO to not interrupt meetings with the messages, currently it was more of an interruption than a help. They need to figure out a way that she can communicate with the Chair to not interrupt the meeting. She said the way it was currently being done was definitely interrupting the flow of the meeting and was not professional.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

11. Updates

Mr. Knowles gave an update on the Green factor and read it out loud. He said the main three factors were: nature and gravity of the offense; the time that has passed since the offense conduct and/or completion of the sentence and the nature of the job held or sought.

He said they did have a case where TMH had sued them regarding some final remains, it has been resolved successfully. They will split the costs of that and no precedence set; will cost between \$500-600 and the Commission had already allocated \$1,000.

He said they will be reviewing some of the older policies and Ordinances to see what needs updating.

Chair Viegbesie said Ordinances review and updating needed to be taken very seriously and some from the 1970’s and 1980’s has changed drastically and asked that the Attorney and Administrator work on pulling all the Ordinances and then work on bringing them up to date.

Commissioner Taylor said her question was about the green clause and asked for information regarding that.

She said when the Clerk mentioned earlier about the excessive money in the Housing program, one thing the Coordinator had an issue with was heir property. She recommended or suggested to the Board, if that number has set precedence where it was high in volume where there was a large number of applicants that have that situation, they need to come up with a solution to get

those people to be single homeowners so work can be done. Mr. Knowles asked if this was with the SHIP program. Commissioner Taylor explained the problem was with that program, a person would not qualify when the property was considered "heir property", they had to be the sole owner of the property.

Mr. Knowles said probate and partition was, unfortunately, the only way and absent the County providing Legal Services of North Florida with a certain amount of funding and perhaps, outsource some of that, and having an expedited process through the County, did not know if it could be done in-house. He said there were ways they could assist citizens with it, they just could not do it here. Commissioner Taylor said they do fund Legal Services, or had in the past. She said she wanted to know what they could put in place because it was an issue and needed to be put into the proper format so they could help.

Chair Viegbesie said just before Covid struck, they were discussing organizing a workshop on that and maybe one of the things they could do to educate citizens.

Commissioner Holt said on the situation with probate, it was a long, expensive process. FAMU does a workshop on this or did at their center in St. Johns. She said her concerns were, it had been stated by health care officials when someone comes in contact with COVID, they should go into self-isolation. She added they may need to look into staff having sign-in sheets regarding the sanitary cleaning so they know things are done.

On the Housing issue, they still need more people in that Department, they have 3 now. Commissioner Holt said money was not going to move if they did not have staff to move it.

If they have people out because of the virus, they need to look at temporary workers because grass was still growing and things needed to be cleaned. They needed to look at quick-turn-around tests through CARES.

Chair Viegbesie said they need to have metrics for cleaning.

Commissioner Holt said regarding Housing, on some of the programs, they will allow, if people own the house and property, will sign off and that would be for modular housing.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not know how frequently they send or expose SHIP Department personnel to conferences and meetings so they know what others were doing to help expedite the projects they do and was something they needed to look into, professional development for the different departments, especially the Housing Departments.

Commissioner Holt told the Administrator to look into hiring some more people to help move the money.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

12. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said Dr. Sandra Thompson with FAMU was who to contact.

He added that mental health was very prevalent, for everyone to be careful and stay positive.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

No comments.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she had no other comments.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor had no other comments.

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

Chair Viegbesie said to the Administrator, they need to develop a continuity operations plan, a COOP Plan. He added it was a plan that was a FEMA requirement and addressed emergencies.

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 8:50 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK

**AT A SECOND BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD
IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
JULY 23, 2020 AT 4:00 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 – not present
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
Jeff Price, Sr. Management & Budget Analyst
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

THIS WORKSHOP WAS HAD DURING THE COVID-19 SHUTDOWN.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 4:03 pm Chair Viegbesie called the Workshop to order and asked for Silent Prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020. This allows adequate time for comments to be made part of each meeting’s Official Record and considered carefully by Commissioners and staff. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

None were had.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Overview and Summary Highlights (Henry G. Grant, Ph. D., Interim County Administrator/Jeff Price, Sr. Management & Budget Analyst)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and asked Mr. Price to give the complete overview.

Mr. Price said the itinerary for this meeting would be:

- **Discussion and Direction on Revenues for both FY20 and FY 21 budget years.**
- **Discussion and Direction on the Constitutional Officers Budget Request.**
- **Discussion and Direction on other expenditures.**
-Will need to update Personnel numbers once Medical Insurance 2021 rates are provided.

- **Discussion and Direction on the Non-Profit requests.**
- **Announcement of Public Hearings.**
- **Goal= Balance Budget**

Mr. Price said the first thing he wanted to talk about was Revenue. He started taking the taxes and seeing what the COVID Virus had done to what would have been received this year and see how it would affect next year. State Revenue Sharing was cut in half. County Revenue Sharing prediction estimate from the State was 15% lower than last year based on what may happen with the virus. To get the numbers, he used April and May as the months that the County knew and had information for the virus and compared them to last year and get an idea of how much it had gone down. He stated there was a big unknown and the County was about \$800,000 short in the budget. The State should give all percentages and estimates by tomorrow.

Commissioner Holt asked if it would not be more prudent to do the estimate throughout the year instead of for 3 months. Once the budget was set, it would be for the year. She stated if it was a 15% downturn, where would it be this time next year. That was what estimates were needed. If programs were funded, the County needed to know what money was going to be coming in.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Price if the Board should adjust to make it annually, not quarterly.

Mr. Price said yes, as the months came up with June and July (before the end of September), he would get the best numbers and work it out for the whole 2021 fiscal year.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Price, with that being the case, by September, money had already been put into categories for funding. The Board needed to know something before money was placed in those areas. She asked for just a projection based on what was known now, before the next meeting.

Commissioner Morgan stated it was hard to hear Mr. Price and he may have missed something. He asked if the 15% for the entire fiscal year or just a period of time.

Mr. Price said 15% was the estimate from the State of Florida and it represented taxes and their average. He said he would redo the numbers as more came in.

Commissioner Morgan said the County could not wait on numbers and they needed to look back and project numbers for this year. He further stated to go ahead and project the Budget and if an amendment had to be made, it could be.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Price if there was a trend in the State that the Board could look at that showed the way Revenues were going for gas tax or tourism or anywhere the County would get Revenue from and if he would provide charts or graphs for the next meeting. She asked him to do the 15% projection.

Mr. Price said yes.

Mr. Price said the next topic was Constitutional Officers.

Commissioner Morgan stated the Constitutional Officers' Budget was self-explanatory. He agreed with the recommendations.

Chair Viegbesie agreed and asked if there were any other questions.

Commissioner Holt asked what the increases were for.

Mr. Price said the Clerk had personnel increases and an upgrade of computer software. The Sheriff needed more deputy and vehicles. He further stated the Constitutionals themselves would have more detail.

Commissioner Holt asked if Information Systems was technology. Mr. Price said yes.

Commissioner Holt asked if any of those increases would be paid for with the Cares Act money. Mr. Price-said he would look at that.

Commissioner Holt asked if the line that read Detention was for the jail maintenance or Employees.

Mr. Price said it was for raises.

Commissioner Holt asked if anything was turned in for COVID from Corrections/Detention.

Mr. Price said not that was noted. He was not sure if it was asked for but he could go back and ask.

Commissioner Holt asked what the increase was for Court Services.

Mr. Price said it was for pay increases for bailiffs. He did not think they were asked about the CARES Act money either.

Commissioner Holt had a question for Clerk Thomas. She stated for the employees, she always tells the Board the Finance Department was funded under the BOCC budget, she asked if there was a State Statute saying Finance was under the Clerk.

Clerk Thomas said of course. He further stated sometimes, over the years, the Board made that argument but the answer is you are wrong on that.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were funded out of the BOCC or the Clerk budget.

Clerk Thomas said the BOCC was the Governing body and responsible to fund part of the Clerk's budget just like they fund the Sheriff or the Property Appraiser, but (the Board) does not say 'Sheriff those are my debt fees' or 'Property Appraiser, those are my appraisers'. The Clerk is the Comptroller and constitutionally have duties that the BOCC is required to fund. He further stated that she had made statements over the years that were wrong but he did not want to argue with her. There was a mistake about his request. He stated he was not asking for 2 positions. First, he wanted to say, as Clerk, he would accept the recommendation to hold all the Constitutionals flat. He further stated if the BOCC was doing that, he would not make an argument for additional money if they were holding everyone flat. He wanted to go on the record saying "yes, there was a \$40,000 request for upgrade of finance software and operating with out of date finance software was a potential audit comment and want to go on record and make sure I made that request to you." Clerk Thomas further stated the request was wrong and he was not asking for 2 people in IT, the Statute was being stated that required the BOCC to fund the Clerk's IT. In the original request they were, but has stated he would accept the recommendation to stay flat. The original request recommendation up in Finance dealt with Tax Deeds, this was something the BOCC had gotten a freebie from him over the years. His Assistant, whom the BOCC did not fund, had been doing the Tax Deeds for the County for years. He stated it was a full-time job in itself. It helped the entire County, the Board, School Board and other municipalities as the process to keep property taxes, in conjunction with the Tax Collector, to keep the County earning money off property taxes even when people did not pay them. He further stated, at a previous meeting there were inaccurate statements about his requests. The only part about his request that dealt with personnel was to help with the Tax Deed process which has become huge and was a job in itself and was so important to the County, School Board and other municipalities getting that revenue. Clerk Thomas wanted to go back to the point of he would accept the recommendation if all Constitutionals were being held flat. He stated that would a cut for him because it did not include money for health insurance that went up every year and did not include money for retirement. In the past they have held Constitutionals flat or at least the Clerk. That means the Clerk's office had to absorb the increase in costs and that was problematic because they usually do not hold their own County Departments, they cover their increases in insurance and retirement. Just a point for the record he wanted to make and stated again that if every Constitutional was held flat, he had no choice but to accept that.

Commissioner Holt stated the debatable point was whether Finance Department should come out of the County budget or the Clerk budget. She was saying the County Budget should be separate from Constitutionals. She was asking for clarity.

Clerk Thomas stated concerning the funding off of interest, the Legislature ended funding from interest years ago so that was a non-issue. The Clerk funded part of the Finance Department that deals with the Clerk. The Clerk had a budget, BOCC funded a part of that. Court was the biggest part; it was fee based and one and a half employees worked that. The Clerk did a lot for the Felony board. They do the Supervisor of Elections books and Property

Appraisers books. The BOCC was required to fund that. The request was about what the BOCC was required to fund.

Commissioner Holt stated she had no problem with that. If 15% was cut, she did not mind cutting everyone else 15% as well. She further stated she asked about Finance for a reason, and stated they could discuss it after the meeting.

Clerk Thomas stated the Clerks' Budget was very complicated and Finance was a big part of it and it did not even come before the Board, it went before the State.

Chair Viegbesie stated to Mr. Price, was there anyone who worked in the Clerk's office that would be in the Personnel budget for the County, like the Budget Director. He asked if she was an employee under the County or the Clerk's office. He heard in the conversation that the Budget Director was an employee under the County and not the Clerk. Commissioner Holt corrected him and said it was Finance not Budget.

Mr. Price said she was a Clerk employee.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that expenditure was part of the Clerks requested Budget, and it was.

Clerk Thomas stated the BOCC had Mr. Price and the clerk had their own. Part was funded by the County.

Chair Viegbesie stated he did not understand that, but he knew the conversation had come up at some point during discussions and that was why he was asking now. He further stated he was glad the clerk had entered into record a clarification of what the Office of budget and Management did and what the Finance Director did and what organizational structure the Finance Director was under.

Commissioner Holt stated if it was the Clerk's employee it should be funded out of that department.

Clerk Thomas said a small portion of the Clerks' Finance Department, 1.5 FTE's was funded out of the Clerks' State portion of the budget who deals with just clerk issues, the BOCC does not fund that 1.5 FTE's.

Mr. Price said next was the Other Expenditures page and was what was looked at each year. County Auditing and Attorney went up with the virus. Medical Examiner went up about 5% the others were standard and did not go up except Medicaid and Senior Citizens went up a little due to insurance on the building. Concerning Non- Profits, Mr. Price stated there were applications received after the deadline if the Board wished to include them.

Chair Viegbesie said he had a recommendation. He asked the amount North Florida Legal Services asked for because he did not see it on the handout.

Mr. Price stated they did not hand in an application asking for funding.

Chair Viegbesie stated with this year, the County needed to support NFLS but they did not turn in an application. He was also looking at GCDC/Economic Development. He suggested that GCDC get bumped up. He stated the GCDC building (County building now) used to have traffic and now that building was abandoned and the BOCC needed to figure out how to add a little to GCDC.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with the first page of Non-Profits. He further stated it was inappropriate and unfair to the Non-Profits who submitted the application on-time to consider those past the deadline. When the Board was looking at a 15% reduction in revenue, he asked the Board to not consider increases to additional non-profits this year because it was going to be a rough revenue year.

Chair Viegbesie also supported not giving after the deadline has passed if the application was not in. He further stated he still thought NFLS should be funded some even though they did not submit an application.

Commissioner Morgan stated the CARES Act would have money for GCDC and the Chamber, and they would be okay.

Commissioner Holt said if Non- Profits were coming out of the CARES Act Money it should be no more than they would get otherwise. She was not in favor of Legal Services of North Florida getting funding for the deed situation for housing. The County did not need to be involved in that. With heir property, they were talking about going to court and the County could not afford to take cases to court for heir property. She further stated the citizens would need legal advice on things and would not be able to use the County Attorney for everything. She said sometimes you are not looking if they applied on time, but the need of the county. Legal Services may be a need instead of a want for the County. The County had \$2 million to move in housing, you have the people to move it, but when they stall, then it would have to be first come first serve on those programs, but not to take care of heir property situations.

Chair Viegbesie said since legal services did not turn in an application, but given the cause, they have families with heir property and other problems. He stated he would support giving to Legal Services. He questioned what that would do to the others who had not submitted applications and Mr. Price just said there was an organization that submitted but it was past the deadline.

Commissioner Holt stated Commissioners were for people, not to just look at programs. If there was a need for the people, the Board should step up. A Non-Profit just came and applied. If there was a need, then it should have support.

Chairman Viegbesie asked Mr. Price about Summer Youth Jobs. Chair Viegbesie said he understood \$50,000 for FY 2020 was there on reserve without any revocation and whatever was approved for FY 2021 would be added to the 2020 for the FY 2021.

Mr. Price answered, if that was what the Board wanted, yes.

Chair Viegbesie stated that was the understanding and that was what was agreed upon. If it was agreed upon at the end of the process and approved it would be \$100,000 plus the \$50,000 from 2020.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the total funding for FY 2021 would be \$100,000. That was what he understood and what he agreed to.

Chairman Viegbesie stated if that was what the Board wished, but no, he was saying \$150,000 total. He asked Mr. Price how he had it set up.

Mr. Price said it was handled that the unused \$50,000 would be added to the \$50,000 for FY 2021 for a total of \$100,000 unless the board wanted to do more or less.

Commissioner Morgan stated that was also his understanding.

Commissioner Taylor stated the projected revenue was asked about and she saw a revenue sheet with gas tax, tourism tax.

Mr. Price stated Commissioner Holt wanted detail.

Commissioner Taylor thanked the Clerk for his explanation. She stated the Constitutional Officers staying flat was the way to go. She further stated looking at other expenditures, the Attorneys increase could be absorbed by the CARES Act. She thought others could be as well. She asked if the Medicaid bill could be absorbed under the CARES Act. GCDC was asking for too much in the CARES Act. They were asking for \$100,000 each. They stopped the after-school program in January of 2020, so she did not know how B&G Club had pulled dollars down, if they just pulled the full amount down whether the services were rendered or not. There were only 4 months of B&G Club so she did not know how the money was spent but questioned if the County needed to fully fund that particular organization because they did not know when school would start back. She stated she agreed with looking at contractual services with North Florida Legal Services but also wanted to see something happen with housing because there were too many people that had issues with having a clear deed. She asked Dr. Grant to take a look at how to take the CARES Act money and look at some items, they may off set some items. The Sheriff needed a reason to use COVID dollars. She said the Attorney, for sure, could be paid with CARES Act dollars.

Dr. Grant stated all of the reimbursements had already been submitted for reimbursement through the CARES Act. Some things in the budget may be covered but would not know until the County had a plan to submit.

Chair Viegbesie stated EMS was in the Budget and the ambulances approved on Tuesday could fall under the CARES Act and come out of the budget.

Dr. Grant explained the County could not pull things out of the Budget until the County approved a plan to submit.

Commissioner Taylor stated Mr. Price said some things could come out of the budget and they were increased because of COVID and could be covered by the CARES Act.

Dr. Grant stated an acceptable plan was needed and submitted to be approved before things could be pulled out of the budget.

Commissioner Taylor stated the County already knew they could get reimbursed as long as it was billed between now and December, so to say there was no plan or nothing was in place was incorrect. The County knew what the CARES money could be spent on. She asked why the County could not say this was due to COVID and not be entertained in the budget. She said she did not support GCDC or the Chamber. She stated the amount of money going to different people was ridiculous. Use the money to offset the budget. The Clerk was asking for \$40,000 for IT (software), make sure he had what he needed, he would get a large sum of the CARES Act money.

Commissioner Morgan stated the Administrator and County Staff were in a tough spot. He had to plan a budget like there was no CARES Act. The Integrity Group would lead. After an initial plan was submitted, the BOCC could go back and make adjustments, but not until.

Commissioner Taylor stated there was \$8 million guaranteed money and an Interim that was aware what it could be spent for and a budget there was a shortfall in. She further stated it was a given to look to see where could be compensation made. The County just spent money on 2 ambulances with no plan, and it came from CARES Act money. This was a time sensitive issue and the BOCC would be spending the next month on the budget. The BOCC had to talk about both at the same time. The Integrity Group was waiting for the BOCC to tell them what was wanted. The Budget was a road map to know how the CARES Act money needed to be spent.

Chair Viegbesie asked the County Administrator and Budget Director to take a look at what Commissioner Taylor said and the BOCC could then do what they needed.

Commissioner Holt said The Integrity Group was supposed to sit down with the board first, then the board would know if CARES Act money could be used to balance the budget. If you could not, it was not worth talking about. The County was asked to hand in projects, that was

not what the BOCC was supposed to do, they were supposed to study the document first and then make a plan. She further stated she did not agree with paying some of the people in the document received the other night or with some of the amounts. She said she asked EMS about the need to disinfect their vehicles. She asked if the Sheriff needed that too and stated no one knew because the BOCC had not talked to the Sheriff's department, the Manager did, not the board. She further stated the BOCC needed to meet with Integrity again tomorrow and again next week to finish up.

Chair Viegbesie said the BOCC could not use CARES money to balance the budget.

Commissioner Morgan said the BOCC needed to approach this budget session like there was no CARES Act money available. It was two separate pots. He further stated the board could still approve a Budget, assuming there was zero dollars from CARES. Today's meeting would have zero to do with CARES Act money. The BOCC was wasting time talking about CARES Act dollars when an upcoming budget was trying to be put together.

Attorney Knowles stated as part of his contract, 10 hours per month were pro-bono, and the board could direct him to use that on citizens to help with probate. He would explore that and see if that would work while not costing the County any more money.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Knowles to check with North Florida Legal Services about intake. Mr. Knowles said he would.

Mr. Price said the next Budget workshop was Aug 20; Sept. 10 was a Public hearing and another September 21.

Chairman Viegbesie suggested the Aug 10 Budget Workshop should be to clean up the Budget, after that was a Public Hearing and he would not encourage the BOCC to use a Public hearing to add and subtract.

Commissioner Holt said this budget needed to look at holding everyone flat, and that would only work if the BOCC could stay flat. She stated more info was needed from the Budget Department before Aug 20 showing what the revenue looked like.

Mr. Price said he should have something by August 15th

Commissioner Holt did not see funding programs like last year. Quincy Shuttle needed a fogger to disinfect with.

Chair Viegbesie said he had discussed a fogger with the County Administrator this morning for disinfecting vehicles and buildings.

Commissioner Holt there was a liability if the county did not disinfect buildings and vehicles, and have sheets to sign off on that they were cleaned.

Dr. Grant asked if the shuttles were under the County Jurisdiction.

Commissioner Holt stated the county was funding them and should get with them and find out. This building needed it anyway and anything else the county had any say so over.

Dr. Grant said as far as the building, he was working on that. Librarians were brought back and trained by EMS to do temperature checks and other items as people come in the building. Also, a sheet to sign off on disinfecting rooms/buildings.

Commissioner Morgan stated everything discussed was CARES Act dollars and not to do with the budget.

Commissioner Holt said the county was responsible today whether there were CARES Act money or not. She was talking about not being prepared.

Commissioner Morgan stated the BOCC knew what was being received and everything being talked about was covered under CARES Act dollars.

Commissioner Taylor stated the Spreadsheet in front of her was documentation of expenditures and could be used for reimbursement. She stated the County was not responsible for the shuttle disinfection, but could it be off set and get it out of the budget.

Dr. Grant stated he would look at anything the board wanted.

Chair Viegbesie stated the County could provide citizens services they needed and still be able to afford other services.

Commissioner Holt said she was talking about the liability part. Where the money came from was different. If the County was funding a form of transportation and something happened to the people, the County would be on the hook. If transportation needed something, the board needed to know if the County was liable. She further stated what she did not see in the Budget was Temporary workers. People were calling in because they had to go to quarantine. The county may need to look at something in the Budget on how the County was going to handle that. If people were out for weeks, the jobs still needed to be done. If Road and Bridge had 10 people out, those roads did not get cut.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Price if the book handed out was a workbook.

Mr. Price stated it was a workbook and the next one to come out would be more final and those could be handed in.

Commissioner Taylor asked the attorney if there was a Hold Harmless Clause in contracts that eliminated the County from being liable.

Mr. Knowles answered most of the time it was up to the individual contracting authorities and he would address that moving forward.

Commissioner Holt wanted the Attorney to also look at that for the Summer Youth and Non-profits.

ADJOURN

Chair Viegbesie adjourned the meeting at 5:31 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE PH.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 4, 2020 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 - appeared remotely
 Gene Morgan, District 3 - appeared remotely
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5, - arrived late
 Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 6:02 P.M. with a quorum present, Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order, asked for everyone to bow their heads in prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant asked to add to the Consent Agenda, Item 8a, Approval of a Letter of Support for Opportunity Florida;
8b, Approval of Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan.
8c, Approval of a Letter of Support for M4MM Sow the Land Co-Op, Inc.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

1. **Ratification Memo
(Clerk of Court)**
2. **Approval to Sell Surplus Equipment/Vehicles at Auction
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director)**
3. **Approval of Minutes
July 2, 2020-Emergency Meeting
(Clerk of Court)**
4. **Gadsden County Wildflower Program Implementation
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
5. **Approval of the Gadsden County Designated Receiving System and Behavioral Health
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
6. **Gadsden County Public Works Department Warehouse Roof Bid Award
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
7. **Approval of Federally-Funded Sub-award and Grant Agreement Z2313 with the Florida
Division of Emergency Management Agency
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
8. **Gadsden County Mosquito Control Agreement
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director)**
- 8a. **Approval of a Letter of Support for Opportunity Florida
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
- 8b. **Approval of Title VI NON-Discrimination Policy Plan
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**
- 8c. **Approval of a Letter of Support for M4MM Sow the Land Co-Op, Inc.
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 4, 2020, Regular Meeting

A Dan Hunter
Read into record

6:07 Commissioner Taylor arrived

B Jim Roberts
Read into record

C Benjamin Bass
Chair Viegbesie stated he had read this comment at the last meeting and it was already on record.

D Leilani Osmin
Read into record

E Charles Osmin
Read into record

F. Samuel Bass
Read into record

Chair Viegbesie, after reading the Citizens to be Heard comments, stated this was an item with urgency and was presented for vote at the previous meetings. He said he was in the minority of the vote that did not pass and suggested the majority voters give input on how to handle the item with regard to bringing it back as an agenda item as soon as possible.

Commissioner Holt said she had worked on both sides of the issue. She stated she took offense to the letters because the Commissioners were not delaying, the employees who were going to do the fix were gone. The County needed to either rebid it or get someone who would do it. She further stated the BOCC made sure there were extra fire stations, trucks, equipment and they also had cell phones, as they said and the \$2 million in change orders were already put out. She stated she was one of the people who put the training in place for the Firemen, EMS and cross training. She said the Board was trying to get it taken care of.

Commissioner Taylor apologized for leaving abruptly last Friday. She stated it was not professional in serving the County, and would do better moving forward. Her understanding of the Motorola system in place was the new board was up, new equipment installed and everything was in place. \$444,000 was needed to put three fences up around some towers and she did not understand how that was stopping the use of the system. She further stated this was a campaign for the Volunteer Firefighters. Commissioner Taylor asked the Manager to get Motorola back in to give more clarity on what was being asked for from the \$444,000. She said \$1.5 million was spent and the Board was very motivated on finishing. She said fiscal responsibility was also a job of the BOCC and she did not think spending \$444,000 on three fences was being responsible. She needed to know why the system was not up and operating. She stated a fence should not stop the system from working. She would like to see an update and an agenda item at the next meeting. Commissioner Taylor stated she had spent 12 years trying to help the County and the Board was told what was needed for the \$444,000 and it

sounded ridiculous. She said she knew a professional who had built towers and told her to erect an entire tower was less than \$45,000 from the ground up.

Commissioner Morgan stated the towers were an important project. He said the BOCC knew how much it was going to cost and had not exceeded the entire scope at this point. He further stated the answers heard so far could be defined by looking at the definition of "Red Herring". Commissioner Morgan stated Ms. Giles, the vendor, was on the line and would be happy to explain what the County lacked in completing the project.

Chair Viegbesie said he would rather bring the item back to the agenda as an action item. He said he would not recognize anyone for comment because the item was not agendaed, he had read comments because of the pressing need. He further stated the Board would take an explanation of the \$444,000 when it was on the agenda and all concerns would be addressed.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to bring in other vendors when it was agendaed who could also take care of the project.

Chair Viegbesie asked the legal opinion from the Attorney with regards to an item that was bid-worthy that had already had a provider and now bringing in other potential service providers to a discussion if that item had not been repeated.

Attorney Knowles included the Procurement Policy in an email and in packets that were before the Board. He stated the Board should follow the Procurement Policy pretty much to the letter. He further stated he would be comfortable if things were sped up a little, but the Board should look at either an RFP or RFQ from other vendors to make sure there were enough and should do that in all Procurements. Since it was over \$25,000, it could be either a Competitive Sealed Bid or just proposals. Provisions for a Sole Source Bid were highlighted based on questions he had on other issues. He stated again, the Board should stick hard and fast to the Procurement Policy.

Chair Viegbesie said the next meeting, which was August 18, which was election day and not all Commissioners may be able to make the meeting. Chair Viegbesie stated he was on the Canvassing Board and would not be able to attend the meeting. He further stated other Commissioners were running for office and he was not sure whether all Commissioners would be involved in their individual campaign and may not be able to make it to the Commission Meeting that day. He asked for the Board to consider what they were going to do with the August 18th meeting and stated it may need to be canceled and that would give more time to RFP/RFQ for the Communication Towers and other service providers could be brought to the discussion along with Motorola.

Commissioner Taylor agreed to no August 18th meeting and said she would like to reschedule if possible. She asked if there could be a Special Workshop to hear the items. She suggested the day after or day before the Tuesday scheduled meeting to keep the County business moving.

Commissioner Holt thought the Public Hearings had to be on a set date at 6 p.m., but other parts of the meeting could be moved. She said it could be a Thursday.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL TO MOVE THE MEETING TO MONDAY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED TUESDAY MEETING OR THE WEDNESDAY AFTER, PREFERABLY MONDAY.
MOTION DIED WITH NO SECOND.**

Chair Viegbesie asked for the Attorney's opinion before he gave a second.

Attorney Knowles said he thought the Board needed to schedule the meeting like Friday Emergency Meetings, replacing the regular Commission Meeting and cancel Tuesday.

Chair Viegbesie said there would be a public hearing with action.

Attorney Knowles suggested the Board advertise like any Emergency Meeting as long as proper notice was given to the public pursuant to Florida Statutes.

Chair Viegbesie stated he understood a Public Hearing did not have to be scheduled for a Tuesday of the Regular Meeting.

Attorney Knowles asked if there would be a Public Hearing separate and apart from the actual action items or if it would be one meeting.

Commissioner Holt said do not schedule the Public Meeting for that day.

Attorney Knowles said put it as an action item at a Regular Meeting. Just reschedule a separate Emergency Meeting, cancel one and schedule a second.

Commissioner Morgan stated Public Hearings are only the first meeting of the month so it should not be a problem with the Board.

Dr. Grant said August 20th was a Budget Workshop.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

Commissioner Hinson asked for the meeting to be Wednesday instead. Chair Viegbesie told him the motion and second were for Monday and asked to vote and if it failed there could be a motion for Wednesday and he would be glad to second that.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-2 COMMISSIONERS HINSON AND HOLT OPPOSED.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the item would be the Communication System agendaed for that meeting and Chair Viegbesie answered yes.

Dr. Grant stated there was a conflict on Friday, August 7th, with the Attorney and Chairman.

Chair Viegbesie stated on Friday, August 7th, the Emergency Meeting was at 1 p.m. The Canvassing Board was meeting to count early votes at 1 p.m. on the 7th, and the Attorney was required to be present in case of challenges during vote counts. Chair Viegbesie suggested the Board moved the meeting to 10 a.m. on Friday, August 7th.

Commissioner Taylor stated she would appreciate advance notice when changing the time of a meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

**9. Approval to Confirm the Growth Management Director
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Lonyell Butler, Human Resource Manager)**

Dr. Grant gave an overview of the above item and stated Ms. Quigley was on the line if any question were had for her.

Commissioner Taylor said the County could not hold anyone in this position past two years. She stated because of the history that the County had in regards to getting someone that would stay, hiring for this position should be done in a different way, but she was hopeful it worked this time. During her time on the BOCC, she saw 5-6 different Growth Management Directors. She stated there was nothing to do but confirm. She further stated she did not know what the issue was about keeping someone in that department.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MOVED TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH A SECOND FROM CHAIR VIEGBESIE, WITH A QUESTION FROM COMMISSIONER HOLT.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Quigley if she had any experience working in Rural Counties.

Ms. Quigley answered No, mostly medium Urban some Rural.

Commissioner Holt told Ms. Quigley Gadsden County was different. She further stated there were extremely poor communities here that were spread out and Gadsden County was looking for improvements in those areas. She welcomed Ms. Quigley and told her everyone wanted to improve Gadsden County and the Comprehensive Plan needed revamping since it had not been not re-done in almost 20 years.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES

COMMISSIONER MORGAN YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE YES

MOTION PASSED 4-1 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED

Chair Viegbesie welcomed Ms. Quigley to Gadsden County. He stated he prayed her presence would change the way things were done in the Growth Management Department. He further stated the County needed changes, and he hoped her experience would help move the County in the right direction and he was looking forward to a productive working relationship with Ms. Quigley.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant why Planning and Zoning and Building Inspection were together. She said Planning should be looking at the map to see how the County could improve, and Building Inspection should be looking at individual homes and building projects.

Dr. Grant stated he understood they were separate, just in the same office area.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make sure, from the way they were operating right now, Commissioner Holt stated she knew they were not separate. She wanted Ms. Quigley to be aware of that and those things need to be separate.

Chair Viegbesie stated with Commissioner Holt's concern, find a way to physically separate them in their locations, and asked Dr. Grant to look at that.

Commissioner Taylor told Ms. Quigley the County had come to a halt in growth and development and a lot of developers looked elsewhere before coming to Gadsden County because of some of the difficulties and the process that was put in front of them with regards to projects getting up and underway. She further stated there had to be better structure and organization so developers wanted to come and felt supported once they were here. She believed that someone should have a vast amount of experience that could oversee the entire division. She stated separating out caused two different visions and that would cause conflict. Growth Management and Building Inspectors should be one vision. There should be one objective and one goal. She further stated when you set up two departments with two different heads, they go in different directions. She stated the Board was looking at reorganization and hopefully that would be underway during the budgeting period.

Chair Viegbesie stated the Board members were policy makers and elected officials. He stated to Dr. Grant, he had heard the BOCC concerns and it was Dr. Grant's place to develop an organizational structure that would enhance the effective implementation of the policies without Commissioners getting their fingers and noses into the running of the Government. He said the Commission made policies and the Administrator executed the policies made. He further stated there was a separation of power in the U.S. Constitution, National, State and Local. He further told Dr. Grant to do what he needed to do to make the County Government work well to service the citizens.

CLERK OF COURT

10. Updates

Clerk Thomas said he wanted to follow up on one issue from the last meeting and that was about SHIP Housing Funds. He stated SHIP Housing Funds were available to be used County wide, including municipalities. He said there was about \$500,000 in regular SHIP Housing funds and \$2.5 Million in the two Hurricane related funds. He wanted to emphasize those funds were available to be used and maybe consider roof repairs, as he saw a lot of blue tarps as he traveled the County.

Chair Viegbesie said he spoke with the SHIP Director, Sonya Burns, and she said they had spent \$500,000 of that on broken houses. Chair Viegbesie asked the Manager to tell the SHIP department to spend that money and blue tarps need to come off and damaged houses needed to be repaired.

Commissioner Holt asked the Clerk when he was looking at that if he saw anything that said the Cities could apply for their own funding. She encouraged Managers and Boards to apply. That would give the programs more money. She further stated it was not co-mingled, they apply and get their own funding, then the BOCC would apply and get their funding, it was two separate governments and more work could get done.

Clerk Thomas said the Hurricane money was for Gadsden County, SHIP was a State program created in the early 90's. He stated there was an ordinance and it may need to be reviewed. He further stated he thought the funds were available to be spent County wide.

Commissioner Holt said she knew that and she was talking about the ability to apply as a separate Government and stated they had done that in the past when applying for State and Federal funding for housing. Clerk Thomas said he did not research that.

Commissioner Holt said she hoped the County would help the municipalities apply if they needed help. She further stated with some of the programs, they would not let you do one thing unless you got the house back up to a certain standard.

Commissioner Taylor stated her opinion with regards to the City utilizing some of the funding was she thought they should have access. She did not think the BOCC should get involved too much in the SHIP organization. She got her information from the Clerk and he said money was available. She did not see the funding agencies sending more money over when there was money available for both Cities and Counties. She further stated the goal was to reinvest money into the houses so they become tax based, which would benefit the County as a whole. Commissioner Taylor stated she did not want to say "go get yours, we got ours" she wanted to utilize the funds and make sure the people who had access were ones that qualified, (Special Needs and Senior Citizens) get the money spent and the houses rebuilt. She said if there were still blue tarps on houses this money needed to be utilized no matter where the houses were.

Commissioner Holt agreed the money should be spent, but she was saying sometimes you can match one program against another to get more funding.

Clerk Thomas wanted to clarify, what he was talking about was people within municipalities, county wide can apply through the County's program and that was understood by Commissioners.

Commissioner Taylor said there needed to be a way to get people to know this money was there. (PSA) She stated the Clerk had said this money was available for some time now and she was looking at a way to get it out of his coffers. She had talked with a Housing Inspector and the concern was finding enough contractors to do the work. She further stated the County needed to do more than what had been done so far.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, Dr. Henry Grant

11. Updates

Dr. Grant proposed to the BOCC possible dates for the County Administrator interviews which HR, and himself came to the conclusion that it should be Zoom rather than in person. The dates suggested were August 26 and August 27 or September 2 and September 3, starting at 1 pm.

Chair Viegbesie said his full-time job started Aug 24. He needed to look at his teaching schedule to determine which date and time would work best for him. He asked Dr. Grant to email him the dates and he would find a time and day that fit for everyone.

Commissioner Taylor said concerning the time of day, past history showed it would be best to schedule around 3 pm. She further stated if each applicant was given thirty minutes, the BOCC would be able to get 6 interviews done between 3pm and 6pm.

Dr. Grant said the interview allowed 1 hour, but could be shortened if the Board wished to do so and have three one day and four the next day.

Commissioner Taylor did not see that one hour would be necessary. She said in the past, there were specific questions asked, the responses received, and then they could say in their own words why they applied for the position.

Commissioner Morgan said either days were good with him. He would like to wait for the first part of September, but either was fine. He asked to not start late in the afternoon (5pm-6pm) so it did not interfere with daily professions.

Commissioner Holt asked if after the initial Zoom meeting, the BOCC would see the applicants in person and Dr. Grant answered that would be up to the Board.

Commissioner Holt stated the BOCC did not want to hire someone over Zoom and stated any date was fine with her.

Ms. Butler stated there was an hour allotted for interviews and there were designated questions set. Time ran short when they were scheduled for 45 minutes and that was why each applicant was given one hour. She stated it would take more than 30 minutes for sure.

Commissioner Taylor said in the past, 1 hour was because it was the top 3-5 candidates. This was all applicants submitted and she thought there were 12 applicants.

Dr. Grant said there were 7. He further stated the BOCC requested to look at all the applications, but 7 were marked.

Commissioner Taylor said the BOCC did not say that would be the seven to be interviewed. She understood they were supposed to look and come up with a phone-in interview.

Dr. Grant said it was 7 that met the qualifications.

Commissioner Taylor asked why the BOCC would get all the applications to take a look at if the BOCC was not giving their opinion on who they wanted to interview. She knew 7 were marked as top candidates but all 12 applications were asked for so the BOCC could make their choice.

Dr. Grant said the applications were given to all Commissioners because they were asked for.

Commissioner Taylor stated it was so the Board could go through and make their own decisions on who the top 7 would be.

Dr. Grant said HR went through the applications and marked the 7 that met the minimum qualifications.

Commissioner Holt told Commissioner Taylor she had asked to see all of them.

Commissioner Taylor agreed because she wanted to make her own choice based on what she saw from the 12 applications. She further stated the BOCC would do the Human Resource's 7 instead of the Board 7.

Commissioner Morgan stated Dr. Grant and Ms. Butler had done what Board requested them to do, which was to present to the BOCC all of the candidates that met the minimum qualifications. He stated that was what the Board directed the staff to do, and that was what they had done.

Dr. Grant had no further updates.

Chair Viegbesie told Dr. Grant he saw there was something called a UV Sterilization Fan, for open meetings and it killed viruses, including COVID-19 if it was in the air. Chair Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant to investigate and look at the effectiveness of it.

Commissioner Holt stated the only way to see the effectiveness of that device was to have a way to detect the virus. She told Dr. Grant she wanted to walk through the hospital to see what the buildout would look like, along with a couple of architects that dealt with hospitals. She said for Building Inspection and Planning and Zoning, she wanted to see ideas from Ms. Quigley about the Comprehensive Plan and the same with Building Inspection. She said the County would have to look at Economic Development closely and that came from Planning and Zoning. She further stated the County needed a PR plan in place for "self-shelter" in case of a hurricane. She asked Dr. Grant to talk to broadband people quickly and asked the other Commissioners to give suggestions to Dr. Grant about a shelter. She closed by saying Bill Rutherford's firm did an initial architectural drawing for the hospital and she was not sure if someone did a second one or if it was needed during the buildout for what was done so far.

Chair Viegbesie stated those who had suggestions that had to do with disaster management during emergencies, the BOCC could not engage in that discussion without the involvement of Emergency Management with Ms. Whaley and Captain Wood who were needed to be a part of.

Chair Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant to take the ideas to be explored to the Emergency Management Department, they could work with the County as policy makers to incorporate their plan into how the County could effectively provide those services to the citizens. He further stated the Board should not by-pass, overlook or marginalize the relevance of Emergency Management Department decisions in regards to providing Emergency Services to the citizens during an emergency disaster. He asked Dr. Grant to take the ideas the BOCC had and bring Emergency Management into the conversation and the hospital walk-through and anything else the BOCC wanted to do in regards of Emergency Services.

Commissioner Hinson asked Dr. Grant if there was an update on the bridge between Midway and Quincy.

Dr. Grant said no, he had no update for the Commissioner. He thought Ms. Robinson was on-line but there was no response from her.

Commissioner Hinson said Ms. Robinson called him and said the bridge would be completed tomorrow at 12 pm. He also asked if there was an update about the EMS truck and when it would return back to Midway.

Dr. Grant said he did not have a date, but the Interlocal Agreement was not completed by Midway, and at this time EMS was overwhelmed because Florida State Hospital had closed their EMS Unit. He stated they had 6 trucks in service and 3 were down.

Commissioner Hinson said the instruction of the Board still needed to be followed. The Board wanted the EMS back in Midway. He stated the largest population was on the East side of Gadsden County (Havana, Midway and part of Quincy) and they only had one truck on the East side of the County and that was why the Board decided to move another EMS truck under a company that used it all. He stated the County just purchased 2 additional trucks. He also asked Dr. Grant what the number was of ridership not in Havana with Big Bend Transit.

Chair Viegbesie said that question needed statistical data and asked Dr. Grant to get that answer.

Commissioner Hinson asked for Big Bend Transit to come before the board and make a presentation one day.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the CARES Act Plan was submitted to the proper funding agency and Dr. Grant said yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked Dr. Grant to tell her what was in the plan that was sent and Dr. Grant said the Commission voted on different broad categories on what the money would be spent on. He did not have them in front of him but said he would get it to her.

Commissioner Taylor asked if it had been confirmed they received it and Dr. Grant answered no, but he would call and find out.

Commissioner Taylor said the Board was supposed to go through the list and discuss it.

Chair Viegbesie told her the Workshop/Special Meeting was at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Dr. Grant stated to Commissioner Taylor if she checked her email, she should have all that information including the plan that was sent.

COUNTY ATTORNEY, Clayton Knowles

12. Updates

Attorney Knowles stated his only update was the Procurement Policy and he sent a copy to everyone. He thought Commissioner Taylor had questions.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to the Procurement Process and the CARES Act Money, she was asking would the County be able to forgo that process, could this Board look at voting on a procedure that could have the Manager identify someone to take over the responsibilities or provide services and not go through the full procurement process because of our projects being extremely time sensitive in regards to getting the CARES Act dollars spent between now and December 30. She wondered if there was a procedure or motion the Board could vote for that could eliminate the processes in place with regards to the bidding process.

Attorney Knowles explained he would not advise **any** substantial deviation from the procurement process except to speed it up. He further explained the Procurement Policies were in place to insure a fair and impartial process. If there was an emergency, there was a procedure for dealing with emergencies. He said a Sole Source Bid had provisions (5.10.1). His reason for not advising to go against the Procurement Plan was the County would get audited at the close of this.

Commissioner Taylor stated Broadband and Hospital were an emergency with hurricane season and the need to have a place to isolate COVID-19 positive citizens and to help families and businesses because they were in their current situation because of COVID. She asked the attorney again for a process the BOCC could go through to defend themselves.

Attorney Knowles said when doling out CARES Act money, there was no Procurement process. With regard to Broadband and the Hospital, in 5.11 of the Procurement Policy, there was Emergency purchases and it was listed how to do that. He stated he would not give legal advice to go outside the procurement process. Shortening was okay, but he would not advise, based on what he read, to award to any bidder without going through all procurement processes.

Commissioner Taylor stated there was an emergency portion that allowed movement forward if a project was deemed an emergency. She asked Mr. Knowles to look at the process closely and also resend the Procurement Policy to her.

Commissioner Holt said to look at general circulation papers for ways to put bids out in a shorter time. She stated the County was going to use the money and was not sending it back. For assistance to citizens, Commissioner Holt said if people or companies that had received money before, came back in for this funding, it would not leave any for small, poor people. She asked if it could be looked at if they were funded before because some people had not gotten anything.

Attorney Knowles said that would be a question for The Integrity Group at the meeting the following day. He thought there would may be a question citizens and small businesses answer when they apply. He stated there would be swearing and affirming under penalty of perjury that they did or did not receive other funding and asked if that was a pre-condition that was wanted on the portal, it could be looked into. He stated he would like a chance to look into that on a legal basis because there were rules and did not want to discriminate against people because of it. He further stated he would get back to the Commission the next day, at the workshop, with a better answer.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1-

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for voting to complete the project in Midway on Martin Luther King Blvd. He stated he hoped the Board could respect each other more and stay calm through this storm for the community.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan reemphasized to the Board what the Attorney was saying. He stated he understood the urgency of getting projects done, but said there was a Procurement Policy in place, even in an emergency. The steps of the process had to be taken in case there would be an audit. He further stated the County needed an RFP for any of the services or products that would be invested in with the CARES Act money. He did not have a problem with speeding up the process, but not to deviate from the Procurement Policy in place. He said the County had put an RFP out in regards to a radio tower bid and the County was waiting on a bid to come in. He closed his comments saying with the CARES Act money, the BOCC must be certain they were listening to the advice of the Attorney and Integrity Group and asked the Board to let them lead the County through the process.

Chair Viegbesie asked it be put into record and promised he would file an ethics violation, if he thought there was any impropriety of any allocation of money in this County. He further stated there was a Procurement Policy and the BOCC would be governed by it to ensure equity in the allocation and expenditures of projects.

Commissioner Taylor stated no one had any intentions of doing anything that would undermine the processes in place, which was why her question was to the attorney. She was concerned with the deadline of December 30th to spend the money so the County citizens could benefit. She was asking how to get the dollars spent and get agencies in to get the job done. She stated she had the right to ask those questions without being made to feel like she was doing something illegal. She further stated she would not compromise the integrity of the Board or herself. She further stated the County needed shelter and broadband and she asked the attorney a question for legal direction on how to get that done.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney about 5.11.1 in the Procurement Policy under Emergency purchases, it said "when there exists a threat to public health". She stated the virus was a threat to public health. She was saying that, not to change the procedure, but to follow

the Policy. She did not want to wait for Emergency Management to bring things to the BOCC. She stated the Board should research before coming to the meetings and it was not up to Emergency Management to bring things to the Board. She further stated the Board was going to have some open meetings and they may need a larger arena for distancing measures to meet with people.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she thought Emergency Management and the Sheriff Department needed to be involved with regards to this project (CARES Act, FEMA and HUD money) at a better level than they were. She said the rules came out on Friday and the Board expected them to be implemented but the Board did not know the challenges of the Sheriff or municipalities because they were not at the table to talk with the Commissioners. She stated she had asked for a meeting and received a letter. She stated the Board needed to be consistent with curfew, and she wanted to hear from the Sheriff about it. She also wanted to hear from Emergency Management and ask them why the hospital needed to be built out and what were their intentions. She stated they should be present tomorrow, for the workshop, as well as Emergency Meetings. She agreed with Commissioner Hinson about being respectful. She said the COVID numbers were going up and there needed to be a different plan or figure out what needed to be done to get the numbers down in this County. Speaking about the \$3 million in SHIP, she stated the Board needed a plan of action with goals. Commissioner Taylor stated she needed to read agenda packets better. With regards to employees and testing for COVID, she understood those who have a sickness stay home, she asked if they were required to take a test.

Dr. Grant answered they were required to test and Commissioner Taylor asked if there was rapid testing. Dr. Grant answered yes, with rapid testing you had to go 5 days after you think you were exposed. The County was not doing that because you had to make an agreement with the organization and was \$160. per test.

Commissioner Taylor understood employees had to stay out a certain number of days because of exposure and had to wait on results and were paid for the days they were made to stay home. She asked how to best fit that so they were not out so long and know results sooner. She asked Dr. Grant if that should be looked at it in the budget.

Dr. Grant said the County could not tell an employee where to go get tested, just that FAMU would have 48-hour results and the Health Department was 7 days.

Commissioner Taylor said there should be something in the policy to show a timeline, so not much of the workforce was out. She asked if there was a policy that could be set by the Board to get the workforce back doing their jobs and getting results in their hand.

Attorney Knowles stated there were Federal rules on what the County could and could not do with employees.

Commissioner Taylor asked the attorney to follow up on requests she made and stated he should be mindful the Board worked as one and he worked for the Board not the individuals.

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

Chair Viegbesie stated the curfew times come from law enforcement. He said Col. Collins, Lt. Hightower and Major Wood were always a part of the Resolution development at Thursday discussions and suggested the times. He stated the County was working with the Gadsden County Health Council to improve the COVID-19 spread campaign. He further stated soon there would be PSA's and lawn signs all over the County with regards to the need to wear masks. He told Dr. Grant the law enforcement community requested a standard citation document to issue to violators of the Emergency Regulatory Mandates as a non- criminal citation. (civil citation)

Attorney Knowles said he was meeting with Col. Collins about a citation form for approval from the Commission.

Commissioner Holt said it would have to be a two-copy type document. She asked if law enforcement had books and if they could just write in "failing to wear a mask".

Attorney Knowles said law enforcement would like the BOCC to make the form since the BOCC made the mandate.

Commissioner Holt said she was just trying to speed it up to make it effective.

Commissioner Taylor said a lot needed to be done with law enforcement and they needed direction about what to do when people were not following the mandate.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

WITH NO OTHER COMMENTS TO BE HEARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:16 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A SPECIAL WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,
FLORIDA ON AUGUST 5, 2020 AT 2 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Gene Morgan, District 3- absent
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1- appeared remotely

Staff: Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

1. Welcome

At 2:02 p.m. Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the Workshop/Special Meeting on Disaster Recovery.

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie asked everyone to bow their head in prayer, he then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 2:04 p.m.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to Citizenstobeheard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. This allows adequate time for comments to be made part of each meeting's Official Record and considered carefully by Commissioners and staff. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

A Marion Lasley- Read into record by Chair Viegbesie.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 2:07 p.m.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Review and Consensus of Spending List

Dr. Grant stated the review had to do with the funds for the CARES Act, and the Board could proceed with items 2-5.

Chair Viegbesie opened the floor to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt asked for Integrity to review while the Commission looked at the list to see if everyone was at the same point.

Gary Yates, Sr. Partner for The Integrity Group, stated the plan had been submitted to the Division of Emergency Management and he had not been notified that it had been assigned out to be handled and a contact would advise when that happened. He said the spread sheet showed FEMA and HUD for context, as well as CARES Act. He stated many items on the spreadsheet could be funded by FEMA or CARES, and the longer-term projects were HUD projects.

Commissioner Hinson asked that this meeting be only about CARES, not FEMA or HUD.

Chair Viegbesie said yes, the meeting today was on the CARES Act and he asked Integrity to focus on CARES Act money only.

Mr. Yates gave an overview of requirements outlined by the U.S. Treasury for CARES dollars. He stated the focus was for the Board to determine the most critical items and to see if the amounts needed to be modified. He stated Frederica was taking notes of suggested changes requested. He said he would start at the top of the list.

SMALL BUSINESS:

Mr. Yates read from the handout regarding the Small Business Assistance Grant Program.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to find out if the same people were being funded over and over when some have had no funding.

Mr. Yates said he could build that into the application process and ask if a company had received PPE or a Business Grant, and he asked if it was a disqualifier.

Commissioner Taylor said her position was, if the County went through the process and found those who had not received any funding first and there was still eligibility funding available, she thought it was not a disqualifier, but a priority to fund others who had not been funded yet. She stated she had a different amount. She asked if anyone knew what the majority of employees was at a business in this County, and asked if it was 1-15 or 16-24. That answer would help her narrow down if the amounts needed to be increased.

Chair Viegbesie said the Chambers would have those numbers.

Mr. Jefferson from GCDC said the 1-5 employee range was the majority in Gadsden County and some businesses the program should target was 6-10.

Commissioner Taylor said 1-15 encompassed both groups. She wanted the heaviest impact on small businesses. She suggested 1-15, \$7,500 and to stay at \$10,000 for 16 and up and she put \$1.4 Million in that line item. She was fine with rent payments for \$3,000, and fine with the GIG for \$2,000.

Commissioner Hinson said he agreed with Commissioner Taylor for 1-10 at \$7,500 and then 11-24 at \$15,000.

Commissioner Holt said on the sheet, 1-15 was already \$7,500 and she asked Commissioner Taylor if she was asking to keep the 1-5 and 6-10 give \$7,500. Commissioner Taylor said yes and Commissioner Holt asked her what her numbers were for \$15,000. Commissioner Taylor answered she stayed at \$10,000 and Commissioner

Holt replied it was at \$15,000 on the form. Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with the \$15,000.

Chair Viegbesie asked Integrity to provide what was discussed today with a more concrete overview on what the Board discussed.

Mr. Yates said that should be able to be provided the following day, Frederica was taking notes and making changes on the document.

Commissioner Taylor thought the BOCC needed to know as the meeting progressed, and asked Dr. Grant to get staff to walk the numbers with the meeting and make sure they stayed within the budget.

Mr. Yates said they would have a number. He asked Commissioner Tylor if she bumped Small Business Grants to \$1.4 Million from \$1.2 Million.

Commissioner Taylor answered yes, she said 1-12 for \$7,500 12-24 for \$10,000 and \$1.4 Million on that particular item.

Commissioner Holt said larger business had probably already applied for money the first time so there may be more money in this category than any others because the larger business were apt to have had capability to apply for money than the small businesses. She wanted to get money to individuals. She stated she was fine with small business staying at \$1.2 Million because she thought there would be money left there because some large businesses had already received money and she was fine with the residence assistance too.

Commissioner Taylor stated she went up to \$1.4 in small business because she increased the \$5,000 to \$7,500 and wanted everything covered.

Commissioner Holt stated on the worksheet, the amount was \$7,500 at 1-15, not \$5,000 and she thought \$1.2 Million would work. Commissioner Taylor wanted to stay at \$1.4 Million.

Commissioner Hinson said he could live with \$7,500 and \$1.4 Million if that was the will of the board. His amounts were 1-10 \$7,500, 11-24 \$15,000.

Chair Viegbesie said he would take whichever the Commission wanted. He wanted to make sure the County was equitable in communication of the projects and the expenditure.

Dr. Grant asked for clarification for 1-10 \$7,500 and 11-24 \$15,000 and bumped up to \$1.4 Million and Chair Viegbesie said that was correct.

RESIDENCE:

Mr. Yates said \$1.8 Million was to provide households of 5 or less \$3,000, and 6 or more \$5,000.

Commissioner Taylor said a good percentage of students wanted to return to school and she did not agree, she reached out to find out why there was such a high interest in getting the children back into school and she found the parents could not afford kids to

be home. She stated there needed to be as much money in this line item as possible but also needed to concentrate on some areas that were impacting the ability to provide a safe environment for children. She said utilities, rent, food, household items, clothing and transportation. She thought that serious consideration was needed for how the County could help and make sure what the County did for them could help make it easier for the children to stay home. She stated it had not panned out well for a lot of places when they opened the schools and daycares. She said the Board needed to go higher than \$1.8 Million and she was open to listen. She stated with this item the Board would need to be creative on how the money went out with direct payments to utility companies and landlords. She further stated SNAP was doing well as far as food was concerned.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Commissioner Morgan was on the line, Ms. Steele said she did not see him.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem right now. She asked if the \$1.8 Million was an estimate per population.

Mr. Yates said the \$1.8 Million was a number based on an anticipated population.

Commissioner Holt stated things had to be virus related and that may be difficult to prove for some people and the Board may need to visit this item again after the process was started because there would be money left over in this category. She said people had to provide data that their request was COVID related. She suggested to go up to \$4,000 and \$6,000.

Chair Viegbesie asked approximately how many households this \$1.8 Million might cover.

Mr. Yates said the requirement was people had to show need and a couple of Counties made that mistake and just handed out money and were now catching a lot of heat because there was no demonstrated need and that was why evidence was needed to be provided with documentation.

Commissioner Hinson said during Hurricane Michael, young people received \$400-\$500 in SNAP benefits while Senior Citizens were getting \$19.00. His humble opinion was to put an emphasis on a group that made a certain amount of money per year and give to seniors and the disabled.

Chair Viegbesie stated if people were on a fixed income, then COVID-19 did not affect their income, he said the CARES money was not a way to give money to people to adjust for cost of living expenses. He further stated the money was for people financially impacted by COVID-19.

Commissioner Hinson said a lot of seniors took care of kids while parents were at work, and they were affected and directly impacted by COVID-19.

Commissioner Taylor said she was ready to move on the item. She said the \$1.8 Million was good, she thought the \$4,000-\$6,000 was great but it needed to state "up to" \$4,000 and up to \$6,000. She further stated some citizens may just need help with utilities and being involved with the school system, she knew the average house size would be 5 or less with regards to children.

Commissioner Hinson stated he agreed with Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Holt said she was good with those categories.

Mr. Yates said there were 17,000 households in Gadsden County and if the Board was awarding \$5,000, it would cover 360 households, and if providing \$3,000, it would cover 600 households. The County would be looking at 500-600 households that would be touched by this.

Commissioner Taylor stated that would be only if they were awarded the full amount.

Mr. Yates questioned how to determine the amount awarded.

Commissioner Holt said she had the same question and thought it could be done in tiers, which would have to be set up in the portal.

Mr. Yates stated the challenge would become how citizens demonstrated they were behind on rent, utilities or mortgage and then how to determine what else they would get. He asked if citizens just said "I need food and \$1,000 for household expenses." He stated determining how much they would get was tricky.

Commissioner Holt said it would be tricky no matter how it was done. If the amount was on the application that was a definite. If rent or mortgage had taken up that amount there may be nothing left. From March until now, rent and a utility bill would most likely eat up that amount. She did not think it was going to be a problem that they would get up to that amount.

Mr. Yates stated Integrity would explore options on how that could be done.

Commissioner Holt said if the landlords were able to apply for the funding out of the other amount of money (small business) and cancel those two out.

Mr. Yates said it was the recommendation of Integrity that payments to utility, mortgage companies and landlords would be a two-party payment that could not be spent other than that particular need.

Commissioner Hinson said people had borrowed money from others to get by. He thought the Board should look at that to see if they could get paid back as well.

Commissioner Taylor stated during the intake process, specific questions would be asked to determine what was needed. She questioned if money borrowed by family was between family or if they were treated like a lender. Her concern was whether or not the funding agency was okay with this money being given to a family member that lent money to make a mortgage payment.

Mr. Yates said a two-party payment could be done.

Chair Viegbesie said with the two-party payment, he wanted to make sure the County would not get in trouble and there would need to be proof of helping family, but needed to be very sure or the County had to pay it back. He was worried these kinds of payments

would get an audit and said this money should not be used as a means for people to just draw from.

Commissioner Holt said the Board would have to look at the money being spread out too far and an evaluation of it coming back.

Mr. Yates stated it was all in the documentation. He further stated there was a landlord that did not receive rent and a tenant who needed money to pay the landlord, it needed to be certain the landlord would get the rent payment. If a family member loaned money to pay rent, his personal opinion was it would be difficult to defend a payment because they were not involved in the actual transaction between landlord and tenant.

Commissioner Taylor said in that situation she wanted the legality on it and stated that families helping each other happened in small rural counties.

Commissioner Holt said she did not want to get involved in paying family members. She was for helping but thought it would be trouble getting involved with paying family members that had helped. She further stated she wanted to make sure the County had a set standard and made sure it worked. She said to stay on track and help as many people as possible.

Mr. Yates said there was \$240,687 from the Florida Housing Finance Corp. and the SHIP office and the County would administer payments but it was strictly for late mortgages and rent.

Chair Viegbesie stated that he had previously said not to mention any money but CARES.

BROADBAND:

Mr. Yates said in the last meeting two-phases were talked about; an immediate phase and long-term phase, and there was an opportunity for a much larger project through HUD CBDG DR money.

Chair Viegbesie said the spreadsheet was just Phase 1, and was what CARES would provide the County and he wanted the focus on that first phase.

Commissioner Holt said the amount for Broadband went from \$1 Million to \$800,000. She said the Hospital buildout would have 3-4 Phases and that would not help the County now. She said nothing in the document would help curve the numbers today and that was not a healthcare issue and the Hospital would not be ready as a shelter. She said there was a need for something to drive numbers down. She further stated the communications deal was where the CARES would work to get Telemedicine. She thought without telemedicine the sick people would stay home and the cases would go up, not down. She wanted \$1.5 Million for Broadband.

Commissioner Hinson said he had Broadband at \$1.8 Million at one time and thought the number should be \$2 Million just to do towers because the kids started school soon and needed internet access.

Chair Viegbesie asked what the Commissioners wanted, \$1.5 Million or \$2 Million.

Commissioner Taylor said kids needed options instead of going back to school. \$1.75 Million was her number and she thought every household in the entire County needed to be connected to the internet.

Chair Holt thought \$1.5 Million was reaching but said to get it started and it would be done in phases.

Chair Viegbesie said the School Board was having some of their CARES money going towards this particular part of the discussion. He said to work with school districts with the \$1.75 Million because they would be one of the users. His amount for Broadband was \$1.7 Million.

Commissioner Taylor agreed to \$1.7 Million and said the school had \$2.3 Million and she did not know if it was all allocated. She was hoping to see some of the \$1.7 Million come back in collaboration with them.

Commissioner Hinson stated the amount should be \$1.75 and the other Commissioners agreed.

Mr. Yates reminded the Commissioners the money had to be spent and services delivered by Dec 30th and the \$1.75 Million would have to be spent by that date.

Chair Viegbesie said if the County met the service provision qualifying criteria the money should be spent easily and Commissioner Holt said she did not think there would be a problem and stated the categories were flexible.

Chair Viegbesie agreed and said if the \$1.75 Million was not all spent or more was needed, money could be moved.

HOSPITAL/TEMPORARY SHELTER BUILDOUT:

Commissioner Holt stated it took a specialty group to say the County could do some build-out in a hospital because the County had a drastic need right now for a hospital. The building could not be renovated as a shelter, but could renovate as a hospital that the County used as for a shelter until the hospital was up and running. She did not know if \$600,000 was enough to start. She asked for \$1 Million in order to get it started. She stated ACHA had to do four different inspections as the project went along.

Commissioner Taylor agreed to \$1 Million but thought the County needed to move forward with something because what was in front of the BOCC was having a shelter available for people who tested positive. She wanted to move forward and let the architect know it was needed first as a shelter to isolate and to keep in mind the County wanted a full hospital at some point and to be mindful as to where some equipment needed to go. She further stated hurricane season was coming and there were a large number of positive COVID cases in the County, and there was a need for housing in case they needed to evacuate.

Chair Viegbesie said his estimate on the worksheet was out of \$7.9 Million, \$5.95 was allocated, and cities and others were left.

Commissioner Holt asked to schedule a time to walk the Hospital as a Board with Administration and an Architect and look at the facility.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to put as much into the hospital as possible. He was willing to put more than \$1 Million into it. He stated the top 3 things he was focused on were the Hospital, Broadband and the Homeless.

Commissioner Taylor told Mr. Price there was a funding that had \$10 Million (Endowment Fund). She stated there were other projects in the CARES Act that needed attention. She asked if the Board looked into doing more than the \$1 Million could buy, and asked if the County could use another source of funding to build-out a project that was using CARES Act money. She stated \$1 Million could come from the Endowment Fund and be placed with the project, but she did not want to cross hairs if another funding pot was used.

Mr. Yates stated to be careful for no duplication of funding, however, it could be set that different funding could be leveraged together.

Commission Taylor confirmed the County could spend money initially from CARES Act and then what was left to be done could come from the Endowment Fund and Mr. Yates stated he believed that was correct.

Commissioner Taylor asked Dr. Grant to collaborate with the Clerk and whoever else to get the endowment. She agreed with \$1 Million and tapping another funding source as well. She stated things could not be bogged down because the hospital needed to be up and running.

Commissioner Holt said South Florida used the school rooms for shelter in some situations. She said if a hurricane hit next week, the County would have nothing ready. She told Dr. Grant to have Emergency Management look at that possibility. She further stated normally the Red Cross would approve the facilities, and that was fine until the virus hit. Now that the virus hit, all that was tossed out and the County needed a place for people to go. She further stated something needed to be in place, even if it was temporary.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that meant creating another category of expenditure and Commissioner Holt said no.

Dr. Grant said between the Sheriff and the BOCC helping to fix wings at the high school, they could help but did not have a generator back up for the system. That was put in, to have generator units on those wings to be used for COVID.

Commissioner Holt said that was why she was pressing to get the Red Cross to walk through any of the facilities (Stevens School Project) or any other projects the County may be able to use in case of an emergency.

Commissioner Hinson said the East side of Gadsden County had Old Havana North Side High School and he thought of maybe adding funding there.

Chair Viegbesie said the Board was talking about \$1 Million for the hospital, and now were talking about working with the high school and now Commissioner Hinson was asking to consider adding Havana North Side High School. He asked if the Board was look at spending more CARES money on those or should be coming out of the \$1 Million for the hospital.

Commissioner Holt stated she did not say anything about spending money, she just wanted a walkthrough with the Red Cross.

Commissioner Hinson said he was trying to be proactive and wanted to prepare now to be ready.

Chair Viegbesie stated they were at \$5.95 Million out of \$7.9 Million so far.

NON-PROFIT OUTREACH:

Mr. Yates said this was to hire temporary workers to do outreach and provide PPE, disinfectant spray, applications, and evacuation plans to the communities and that was based on 12 residents doing that job at the cost of \$100,000 over 3 months.

Commissioner Taylor said there were 7 or 8 things in this category that did not make sense. They were the \$100,000 and then the 2 or 3 IT items and more disinfecting equipment, she said she looked at the plan that was sent to Tallahassee and shook her head. She stated the same thing was being said over and over with the repeat of columns. There were also legal fees, risk assessment, kiosks for body temperature, remote equipment, she did not understand why \$75,000 for risk assessment was necessary. With the exception of the EMS fire trucks, and what the Sheriff was asking for (not included), she put \$900,000 under the County and the County would take care of the things on the list and some other side things. She did not think food distribution needed to be funded here, she said it could be taken care of in the money that was being given to residents and anything with the County Health Department would fall under the County Administration Office helping out. She wanted \$900,000 or \$1 Million and that would leave \$1 Million to take care of the ambulances (2) and the cities. She thought the County should be given a pot of money to take care of some things. Concerning the Attorney fees of \$50,000, she asked if it was from March-December or March-August.

Dr. Grant stated the list was from March to today's date.

Chair Viegbesie said if all the money was not needed it could be moved. He asked the Commissioners if they agreed on \$100,000 for Gadsden County Outreach.

Commissioner Taylor said she had questions about the amounts that were put in front of them. She stated the PIO was \$34,000, and she asked why a Lobby Administrator needed \$63,000 when that department closed down when the virus hit. She further stated IT was \$91,000, Extension \$79,000. She said that was a lot of money and she had questions about them. She wanted to see a breakdown on how the numbers were decided. She said instead of all the knickknacks she put \$900,000 under the Administrator and he would spend the money, with invoices, and the County would reimburse, with invoice, back into the coffers from using the CARES money. She noted the \$900,000 was for the jail, PPE equipment, disinfectant, cleaning equipment, foggers, videos, equipment, software, website, technology, legal fees, County Health Dept, Public Transportation, Courtroom PPE, body temp kiosk, etcetera.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to look at the homeless population as well, and add another \$25,000 to make \$100,000 and \$150,000 would be better. He further stated he had purchased masks and sanitizer and gave it to people just walking around.

Chair Viegbesie stated if the Board jumped to homeless, that would cause the Board to skip 5 categories of CARES funding that was still in front of them. He stated he would rather let the citizens listening know what each item was and deal with each one in order.

Commissioner Holt said for Outreach, there were people out there testing and it should be used to help. She stated they were testing every Saturday and they gave the information back. She said the Board put this group together years ago for healthcare because the healthcare issue was important to the county. She further stated the \$100,000 needed to stay and more may be needed.

Chair Viegbesie asked what everyone thought about the \$100,00 for the Gadsden County Community Outreach.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought \$60,000 for the Gadsden County Health Council (GCHC) was fine for 2 months. He thought the Board should give to just one organization and let them be responsible for it.

Chair Viegbesie said GCHC was not the only organization doing community testing, other non-profits were working with GCHC to facilitate the testing process.

Commissioner Holt said the GCHC was part of the group and were working together. She further stated the Health Department was also working with them, GCHC was not just members, they were groups that provided all the outreach from diabetes to heart conditions and she wanted to keep them working.

Commissioner Hinson agreed with what Commissioner Holt stated but thought the funding should be \$60,000.

Commissioner Taylor thought \$60,00 for the Health Council. She believed it was best spent if that particular part of the funding was put under County Administration and if there was an event conducted, they could send invoices to the County Administrator office and he would pass it to the Chief Fiscal Officer and the money would be processed that way.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the Commissioners could settle at \$75,000 and they agreed for now, \$75,000 was fine.

AMBULANCE:

Chair Viegbesie stated \$416,970 was for the Ambulances.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant if he checked with EMS about adaptive equipment to disinfect other ambulances. She asked him to get back to her about it.

DISINFECTION EQUIPMENT:

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant since the County had all the facilities, was equipment going to be ordered for use at all facilities. She was looking to bundle the cost and order for everyone and use all the equipment at all facilities.

Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Taylor to go through her list.

Commissioner Taylor said County Office and Jail protective measures= \$50,000, Risk Management= \$75,000 to include; Legal Fees, kiosk for body temperature, remote courtroom video equipment= \$3,500. She said she did nothing with the \$150,000 from the business development and did not touch homeless population because she thought that should be separate. County Health Department was included in the bundle. She did not include the food distribution because she thought it was covered under Residents Assistance. She stated four things for the Sheriff were new and she asked Dr. Grant if the Motorola bill was from before March so it could be recouped, so she did not put those four items from the Sheriff's office in either. Technology at \$471,000 was brand new from the Property Appraiser. She stated the Constitutionals were not in her bundle total, she looked at the items on the list and took out duplicates along with Legal service fees and the County Health Department. She looked at the \$900,000 and thought it should take the County from March 1 throughout December.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the handout was up to today's date or if it was projected to December.

Dr. Grant stated they were expenses for reimbursement that were already incurred.

Attorney Knowles stated his law firm had not incurred \$50,000 in additional legal fees and that was the only one he could speak to. He understood the legal fees for him were from March through December and if there was an overage it would go back.

Dr. Grant stated all but the Attorney were expenses for reimbursement that were already spent.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the amount shown was for the current PIO or during the time the County had a contract with Mr. Brown.

Dr. Grant stated it was from Mr. Brown.

Commissioner Taylor said the BOCC needed to look at his time to make sure, because it was a high amount.

Dr. Grant stated that was what the County agreed to pay him.

Commissioner Taylor said Mr. Brown had been gone for a couple months and wanted to make sure the \$34,000 was accumulated between March 1 and when Mr. Brown left.

Chair Viegbesie stated Mr. Hall brought Mr. Brown in and asked Mr. Grant to look at the contract to justify that expenditure.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted to go through the County expenses on the handout. She asked what the costs were for in the different areas.

Dr. Grant said he could email her a break-down of all the sheets because they were the expenses the departments submitted.

Commissioner Holt said she was asking because not everyone would get what they wanted out of this money.

Dr. Grant said he submitted the eligible expenses for reimbursement to the County and if the Commissioners did not want the County reimbursed that was their decision.

Commissioner Holt asked if someone at the Library was laid off, would they fall under the citizens getting reimbursement.

Dr. Grant said the money Commissioner Holt was asking about was not going to a person, everything under #6 (Administrative leave) was money already received and that money would be coming back to the County.

Mr. Yates said looking at the \$550,000, \$300,000 of it was easily FEMA reimbursable. He said he was not sure about what the departmental expenses were, and were they directly related to COVID. He further stated most would be reimbursed by FEMA.

Commissioner Holt said the Board needed to cut somewhere because new ones were just added. She wanted to fund shelter, broadband, hospital and allocation of funding to businesses and residents. She stated the BOCC needed explanations for some items and where the money was coming from.

Commissioner Taylor said she looked at the list again and the PIO amount was way off. IT was covered and she asked for the CARES budget to be fine-tuned. She was comfortable with \$300,000 and asked if invoices would be submitted to the Clerk's office.

Dr. Grant answered they would be submitted to Integrity to determine the criteria but the Clerk cut the check.

Mr. Yates said Integrity would make sure things were COVID related.

Commissioner Taylor asked if Administrative leave had to be COVID related and if the documentation was leave sheets.

Dr. Grant said the leave was not taken by their own desire, they were either positive, exposed, or furloughed.

Commissioner Holt asked why furloughed.

Dr. Grant said not furloughed, people who were either positive or may have come into contact and had to take the 14 days off.

Attorney Knowles stated some was from during the full shut down, people were sent home.

Commissioner Holt said definitions were needed if people were sent home, she asked if they were reassigned to do work in the County in areas that needed work to be done.

Dr. Grant stated once reassigned, they were not on Administration leave.

Mr. Yates said Administrative leave as well as the attorney fees were refundable from FEMA.

Commissioner Holt agreed with the Sheriff, Property Appraiser and some others, but not all of the amounts. She said the money may be needed but may not come out of the CARES money. The plan said EMS needed attachments for the vehicles that would disinfect 6-7 vehicles. She stated the County needed a shelter and the County should apply under other programs.

Commissioner Taylor said she was comfortable with \$350,000-\$400,000 to cover for now and the rest could go into another category. (FEMA or HUD) She said she was seeing duplications, especially IT and Legal Services. She stated she was good with \$750,000 under the Administrator to cover the bundle she listed. She asked again if the list was through December or August 4, and Dr. Grant answered it was through August 4, except the Attorney.

Commissioner Taylor said what was happening between August 5 up until December 30 should either come out of HUD or FEMA. She was ready to move on. She stated it was \$416,000 for two ambulances and asked if that was a firm price.

Dr. Grant stated the ambulances had already been purchased and the price was reduced by \$8,000.

Commissioner Holt said for the Sheriff and Property Appraiser, she took 75% of the amount requested and that gave the Sheriff \$568,093. She asked Mr. Yates if anything could be moved to FEMA.

Mr. Yates answered many of them could be and he thought the issue would be some departments needed to get the budget balanced by the end of September, and FEMA would not come for a couple of months after the claims were filed.

Commissioner Holt said the Property Appraiser would be at \$210,262 if it was cut to 75% of what was asked for.

Mr. Yates said the Property Appraiser technology and cost, Integrity asked for more info about what was purchased to make sure it was COVID related, and further stated some may not be eligible based on what he was looking at in the terms of what was purchased.

Commissioner Holt said that would go for any of them.

Mr. Yates stated the Sheriff's office was solid. He stated some purchases for the Property Appraiser may be something that would become available for other uses if they did not fit the criteria for COVID-19.

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to the Sheriff, she thought if the Board would take 2 of the 4 and fund fully as well as municipalities. She said if they took the vehicles as well as communication tools, it would be \$328,000. She thought that was a good initial start and if they fell under FEMA or HUD, put it where the County would get money the quickest. She further stated if the Board took the other two items for \$350,000 overtime and the \$70,000 and put them in the category where the County would get funding the quickest.

Mr. Yates stated FEMA was quicker (8-week wait for money)

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Yates when he had first sent in a reimbursement request to FEMA and it then went to D.E.M in Tallahassee, how long was the process before a check got back to the County.

Mr. Yates said he was not sure; he had seen FEMA payments in 7-8 weeks and was not sure about D.E.M and if they expedited their process. He said there was no inspection of buildings or anything. He further stated the County could get the money moving and add additional items as they came up instead of waiting until the end of the incident period and asking for reimbursement.

Commissioner Taylor said she was okay with 75% or taking two of the four and submit them under CARES Act so the Sheriff's office could get money immediately.

Chair Viegbesie suggested to look at how giving 80% would impact the amount left for others. He said for Municipalities requests it was Quincy \$375,000, Midway \$11,428, Chattahoochee \$19,000, Gretna \$75,000, and there was the FEMA Match for \$588,976, He asked what the Program Planning was and asked Mr. Yates if it was part of the Integrity cost.

Mr. Yates said the last item was Integrity's cost and would be split between FEMA, CARES and HUD.

Commissioner Hinson asked how the Board got that number for Midway.

Chair Viegbesie apologized and said Midway was actually \$39,428.

Commissioner Taylor said someone from the city of Midway asked for and was getting almost \$120,000 from FEMA. She had Midway at \$130,000 under CARES but someone moved it to FEMA and that was where most of the money was. She further stated she had talked with someone from Quincy about the \$300,000 that she had heartburn with doing because she did not think it needed to be reimbursed because they did that trace program and would reverse her decision and now and she supported giving back the \$300,00 because she understood there were more projects that could get done with the \$300,000, if it was given back, that would improve the city of Quincy and she did not want to delay improvement to the city.

Chair Viegbesie said anything that had to do with the CRA, was something that the Commissioners should not even bother to talk about because it had to go through the Legislature and he understood the \$300,000 was something the CRA spent during COVID and was asking for reimbursement.

Commissioner Holt said she put everyone at 75% and said a lot of money was spent on masks. She asked Mr. Yates if the County was accountable for how people/municipalities spent the money.

Mr. Yates asked Mr. Eric Miller, Sr. Partner from Integrity, to speak about accountability. Mr. Miller said for FEMA reimbursement under the Stafford Act they would be required to have documentation; he said the Federal Government required that and DEM would require that as well. On the CARES Act passthrough, it just needed to meet the three criteria's in public law 116-136, within the time period related to COVID-19 or its affects and was unbudgeted, and it would be cleared.

Commissioner Holt said right now the Board was going on what Integrity told them. She further stated it did not matter what they told the Board as far as getting the funding, because if one County's population was 8,000 and put that they needed to get \$20,000 and someone else had a population of 5,000 and they needed \$40,000.

Mr. Miller stated as the awardee to sub-recipients/municipalities, if there was a claw back, the County was responsible.

Commissioner Holt stated when they said that about the County being responsible, she wanted to be sure there was documentation to the County in order to get the money.

Mr. Miller said the County should require documentation and for that documentation to be retained at least 5-years to withstand the audit period. He said the additional legal fees put in by Integrity (for \$50,000) was less than 1% of the \$7.9 Million. Other counties were having greater legal expenses associated with the contracts for the subawards going to the municipal governments and the other awardees, including individual assistance grant recipients and business recipients. He stated the County would need to have attestations, documentation to protect the County from a claw back and would put an initial burden on the legal staff.

Commissioner Holt said the Board need documentation before numbers could be narrowed down. She stated some may or may not get what was requested if there was not proper documentation.

Commissioner Taylor- stated it was obvious that documentation was needed and should need to be in the language. She asked where Integrity was responsible if they sent out an expense that was not good.

Mr. Miller said FEMA prohibited contingency contracts and fees could not be based upon approval. He stated the County had to incur the expense in good faith to respond to the emergency and have had the proper documentation to back up the expense. Integrity ran it through a qualification protocol to determine if it was an eligible service, delivered by an eligible entity, within the time period covered by the emergency event, and it was directly related to the emergency event or the effects of the emergency event. Once processed, the County would then be eligible for reimbursement once it was obligated by FEMA. He further stated the CARES Act was a different process because the money was funded to the County, it was not a reimbursement. The County had already gotten 25% and would get the other 75% when DEM accepted the County plan. CARES money was not a reimbursement program like FEMA, it was emergency financial assistance.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the County was the only one on the hook because Integrity would be looking at the invoices and making sure the criteria was met.

Mr. Miller said invoices received for expenses were being done through normal businesses processes through the County and the County was not asking Integrity for approval before the money was spent.

Commissioner Taylor said she was talking about the \$8 Million in CARES money.

Attorney Knowles said if an invoice bounced back two or three years from now for any of the projects and was approved by the County and Integrity, does the County go to Integrity.

Mr. Miller told the Board they could sue, and that was why Integrity carried general liability insurance and why, in the contract, the County required that insurance.

Chair Viegbesie said he had talked with the Sheriff's office in regards to the expenditure, and one concern was having appropriate documentation and their office stated every expenditure they asked for reimbursement or payment for, they had proper documentation for but Chair Viegbesie had not spoken to anyone at the Property Appraisers office about their documentation.

Commissioner Holt talked about expenditures already taken place, and she wanted to make sure everyone could be reimbursed.

Chair Viegbesie asked for the rough grand total and added it up.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to move on to what the cities would be funded. She gave totals for Quincy at 75% would be \$250,000- Midway at 75% would be \$29,550.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not agree with cutting Midway, because it was a low request. She wanted Midway to stay where they were at and bring Quincy down to \$300,000.

Commissioner Holt said she was going by the numbers on the handout and it was up to the Board to go up or down. Chattahoochee \$14,250- Greta \$56,250- Greensboro \$10,000 but there was not a request put in. She further stated the Board could look at what the City asked for and give them that, or do a percentage across the board, that was usually fair.

Chair Viegbesie asked to add cities with what they requested and see where the numbers were and then add the numbers with 75% of the request. He understood the amounts that were being put down now were not carved in stone and the Board could draw from another category if necessary and Dr. Grant said yes.

Mr. Yates said the total including the cities was \$9.462 Million with only \$7.9 Million to spend.

Mr. Miller said without the city's requests, the Board was \$9 over CARES Act Appropriation.

Commissioner Holt said this would need to be workshopped again.

Mr. Miller said that included \$750,000 for the County Administration, 75% of the Property Appraisers request and 75% of the Sheriff's Office.

Chair Viegbesie said cuts could be made somewhere else but would need to schedule a workshop to finish completely. He suggested the portal needed to be ready for small businesses and families to apply.

Mr. Yates replied it was ready to go when the BOCC was.

Chair Viegbesie said there were no changes to the amounts the 1-10 and 11-24 but they may need to take from broadband if needed.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Board could come in early Friday. She asked for Integrity and Dr. Grant to see what the Board had come up with so far and also talk with the Sheriff's office and Property Appraiser and ask them what they could do without for right now. She also wanted the Property Appraiser to tell if the technology they were asking for was COVID related (\$200,000) She did not want to take from major projects, but if she had to, she would. She further stated to look closer at things for the County. She requested to have the Board meet early next week to say yea or nay.

Chair Viegbesie said he spoke with the Sheriff, and they were willing to see if some money could be moved to come from another funding source. He wanted cities to get as much as possible and stated at the next workshop the Board would look at municipalities.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to start the RFP or RFQ for Broadband and see what was out there.

Attorney Knowles asked Commissioner Holt to explain what the RFP would be for.

Commissioner Holt answered to get started to put in hot spots. When discussing the timeframe, people did not know the County was doing any of this.

Chair Viegbesie did research on broadband and asked the Board what kind the County wanted. (digital subscriber line, cable modem, fiber, wireless, satellite, broadband over powerline, etc.) He listed a number of providers and told Dr. Grant to reach out and tell them what the County wanted with the RFP/RFQ.

Commissioner Holt said put an RFP out and anyone who wanted to answer, would answer.

Attorney Knowles said it depended on what the County did. He thought the RFP/RFQ would be advertised and people would apply, he did not think it was prohibited to contact them to be proactive.

Commissioner Taylor asked if a motion could be made to do the emergency purchasing. She stated it would streamline it because there was language in the purchasing binder so the County could go into emergency purchasing mode and that would eliminate the time it took to go out and secure the bids.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR EMERGENCY PURCHASES FROM 5.10 AND 5.11 IN THE PROCUREMENT POLICY, WITH A SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER HOLT.

Attorney Knowles said the County's Emergency Procurement Policy would entitle Dr. Grant to purchase indirect of department heads or designee to make the purchases. He said if the County was going with that, it would be Dr. Grant making the decision on his own based on information he had either through a non-competitive bid process or a

competitive bid process and that was what the policy said and he asked if that was what the Board was enacting.

Commissioner Hinson said no.

Chair Viegbesie stated that was why he asked, for clarification to exactly what the motion was and what procurement process the County would follow, the traditional or the emergency policy because there was a document that governed how things were done.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted the approval to be left to the BOCC.

Attorney Knowles stated the policy said it was up to Dr. Grant.

Commissioner Holt said a Commissioner would put in a motion to alter the policy and add the BOCC. She asked the Attorney for a yes or no. Attorney Knowles answered no and Commissioner Holt asked why.

Attorney Knowles said he thought, with a single audit coming up next year, the Board should not substantially violate the procurement processes.

Commissioner Holt asked if that was not more insurance to make sure the process-

Attorney Knowles said he did not think there was an emergency.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney if the policy could be changed under an emergency situation. She asked what the process was if the County needed to change the emergency process.

Attorney Knowles answered there would need to be a formal meeting about changing the Procurement Processes with a full board. In looking at 5.11.3 of the Procurement Processes, it said "a standard requisition form with a detailed explanation of court material attached if applicable within 10 work days after the event occurred", he then stated that the event occurred in March.

Commissioner Holt stated she had asked if the BOCC needed to change the policy, and stated the attorney said the Board needed to advertise in order to change the policy and procedure.

Attorney Knowles replied saying legally, he believed the County should have a competitive bid pursuant to where it was sped up that was congruent with the County policies in place, present.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed except when saying the manager was to decide. She said this was not the same as Hurricane Michael, this was a situation where people were dying over a period of time, we never had a pandemic or we would of wrote the Policy and Procedure. She further stated the County needed communication in the countryside and asked how the Board could change the policy in order for it to fit.

Attorney Knowles said it was is in place for situations like hurricanes. He said COVID was a different animal than any other emergency ever faced. He could not, in good conscience, say the purchase of an emergency shelter, purchase of broadband and

other things listed, would constitute an emergency that would cause the County to **a.)** go wildly against their Procurement Policies or **b.)** Alter the Procurement Policies in any way. He said that because when the single audit happened this year, they would look at what the Procurement Policy was and if it was changed or altered, it could get everyone in trouble. He stated he thought the County needed to stick with the Procurement Policy.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Attorney was saying the County probably would not get audited if the Manager chose the company.

Attorney Knowles said yes, because the Board would be following their Procurement Policy.

Commissioner Holt said she did not get this at all.

Chair Viegbesie said he was not understanding correctly. He read 5.10.1, page 27, from the Procurement Policy, Sole Source Purchases and asked if that was something different than what he understood.

Attorney Knowles explained a Sole Source Purchase needed to be looked at differently from an Emergency Procurement. Sole Source Purchase could happen in an Emergency Procurement, and it dealt with that because it said "all measures reasonably possible under the circumstances shall be taken to assure the maximum cost benefit to the County." In 5.11.3 it said "a detailed explanation, if attached within 10 days. Emergency purchases that exceed the competitive sealed bid thresholds shall be approved by the County Administrator after-the-fact." He said it was putting the burden on the County Administrator in the Emergency Procurement section. He further stated if you look at the section that deals with Sole Source Procurement, that was a different provision.

Commissioner Holt said she saw no safety net in the Procurement Policy.

Attorney Knowles said that was the point, there should be a very limited set of circumstances when using public dollars for emergency procurement.

Commissioner Holt stated she would be talking to other attorneys within the hour. She said the County was in uncharted waters with the pandemic, and people were getting infected even as the meeting was being held. She asked if there was a way that an emergency document, in a situation where the County had ever had this emergency before, could be changed.

Attorney Knowles said he said he was advising the BOCC not to do that. Commissioner Holt said she just need to talk to another attorney and Attorney Knowles told her she might need to.

Commissioner Holt said the information needed to be out there and she thought it would be unwise of the Board to put that type of County dollars behind one person no matter what the document said.

Commissioner Hinson asked what were the minimum number of things needed to be current with the policy.

Attorney Knowles answered the standard was reasonable notice, and there were no set days in the County's Procurement Policy. That was why he stated it could be sped up and he did not think the Emergency Procurement should be used in this matter.

Commissioner Hinson said to speed up the process and give RFP and RFQ 1 week.

Attorney Knowles said the best idea would be to make sure that the County advertised 2 weeks (or 1 week) and give them a week to respond and vote on whoever it was after that would get his legal blessing.

Commissioner Hinson asked if within the current policy, there was no amount of days the RFQ/RFP had to be out and Attorney Knowles said correct.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board could speed the process up, go through the process, and give it 1 week.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the Board could go through the same process but have it sped up and the County Administrator, with his team, would now bring the Board vendors selected, the BOCC would pick one. It was the same process but the BOCC would expedite and do it in a week. He said the County Administrator could reach out to non-vendors as well as advertise it. The County would go through the process but the selection of the vendor, upon the calculation of the RFP's should be brought before the Board for the BOCC to determine who the vendor should be.

Commissioner Taylor said there was a phrase in 5.11.1, that made this a valid process for the Board at this time and it said, "a threat to public health" she stated there were currently 1,600 people that had tested positive for the COVID virus and there were 47,000 plus people in the County, this was now a threat to public health for the people who had not tested positive. She asked if a purchasing item could be amended, and answered yes, it could. She said there was a process and a place to amend anything this body had in writing. She further stated the legal advice should have been shared when asked "what can we do to still fall under the Purchasing Policy we have in our manual." She was **NOT WILLING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH HER MOTION ON THE FLOOR.** She stated the legal attorney had taken a position and dug in, the BOCC needed to back up because there was now worry if the County was covered under the law. She said she would rather take 7-10 days and go through the procurement process. She told Dr. Grant he may also want to put notices on County buildings regarding the bids to advertise and the Board could then choose. In the RFP, she stated, would be hot spots in every household in the County so citizens could do Telemedicine and Distance Learning. She wanted the RFP out ASAP and be back before the Board on August 17.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:35

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITHDREW HER MOTION

Commissioner Hinson said he would send the Administrator information or tell the Council Friday about how to better use broadband services.

Chair Viegbesie asked him to send it to the Attorney and the County Administrator so Sunshine was not broken and they would pass it along.

Commissioner Holt returned 5:38

COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER SECOND.

Chair Viegbesie asked for prayers for Commissioner Barber, in Liberty County, who had just passed away from COVID, and also prayers for his family.

Dr. Grant asked for clarification on the RFP and asked if it should specifically state hot spots, or just internet service.

Commissioner Holt said hot spots were the fastest way to get communication out there and would be a first phase. She closed with an apology to the attorney.

3. Review and Consensus on Resident and Business Grant Eligibility Standards

4. Next Steps

Begin implementation of approved items not requiring procurement.

Begin necessary procurement steps, consistent with Federal 2 CFR 200 and FDEM Contract.

c. Initial Gadsden Residents/Business Grant Applications (Portal & Paper.)

Establish monitoring and reporting processes.

5. Adjourn

Chair Viegbesie adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL. ON AUGUST 7,
2020 AT 10:00 A.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Gene Morgan, District 3 – Appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5- Arrived late
Eric Hinson, District 1- Appeared remotely, late
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

At 10:03 a.m. Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked all to bow their heads in silent prayer, he then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to The U.S. Flag.

Commissioner Taylor arrived 10:05

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

Consent

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

1. Approval of 2021 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)

2. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP)**
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Sonya D. Burns, Housing Program Coordinator)

3. **Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Liens- State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) (Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program)**
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Sonya D. Burns, Housing Program Coordinator)

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Paul Mazzotta, Chattahoochee

Read into record by Chair Viegbesie

Commissioner Morgan asked if it was a requirement to read the disclaimer regarding the Citizens to be Heard and Attorney Knowles answered yes, to be safe, it should be read.

Chair Viegbesie read the disclaimer into record

General Business

4. **SHIP HHRP Housing Rehabilitation- Bid Recommendation and Award**
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Sonya D. Burns, Housing Program Coordinator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not see this item online and he needed a breakdown.

Attorney Knowles gave a breakdown of the above item and asked Ms. Steele to pull the item up on the screens.

Chair Viegbesie asked for a minute for the Commissioners to read the above item attachment.

Commissioner Hinson arrived by phone at 10:13 a.m.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

**5. District 5 Striping Project
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

**6. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-042
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item

Attorney Knowles said the citation form was added but did not print well and would be fixed. He stated he worked with Col. Collins to make the citation. He stated a few tweaks were made, and listed them. He said Internet Cafés were illegal and recognized as such in the Resolution and detail was added on how fines would be collected. Attorney Knowles stated the Clerk and Law Enforcement had questions on how fines were collected. He said if a fine was levied in an unincorporated area, those funds would go to the County, via the Clerk. If the violation occurred within a municipality the payment would go to that municipality. He stated he gave all Commissioners bullet points, via email, on the Resolution. He further stated Citation Books would be printed and given to each law enforcement agency in the County.

Chair Viegbesie said the Sheriff represented the citation form and it would be in triplicate. Chair Viegbesie spoke with the Clerk on how the citation should be set up and made enforceable.

Commissioner Morgan said he had reviewed the Resolution and was opposed to the citation and mask mandate. He stated the neighboring counties were having trouble trying to implement such mandates. He thought the BOCC was complicating law enforcements job by having them focus on things other than what was causing most of the issues in the community. He stated he had not seen an issue with the wearing of masks, for the most part, and thought the community was very compliant. He thought there would be better compliance if there was a strong recommendation rather than a mandate, which was causing more harm. He further recommended wearing a mask

without a mandate to do so and stated the curfew proposal of 5:00 a.m., he had no problem with but would like it to start at midnight instead of 9 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MOVED APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION AS STATED WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor said if the Board was closing the Internet Cafés, other business needed direction as well. She gave examples: 24 hr. stores that stayed open was inviting people to be upset. She stated some other businesses questioned why could some stores be open with a curfew in place. Commissioner Taylor asked if businesses selling gas had a legal right to stay open longer. She stated something needed to be imposed to meet the BOCC standards with regards to curfew and limiting access to all others, besides essential items. She further stated she was in favor of the 10 p.m. curfew and said she tried for the 5:00 a.m. curfew. She further asked citizens to call the County office to get her best email address, because she tries to respond to the community when they had reached out to her.

Chair Viegbesie stated the attorney had a case management on the face mask lawsuit at 12:00 p.m. and time was pressing for this meeting.

Chair Viegbesie suggested to accommodate those who got up early and asked the attorney if it would be appropriate for the BOCC to add to the Resolution that law enforcement should have discretion in regards to understanding there were people who exercised or went to and from work that law enforcement should recognize and not ticket or harass those and stated it was just a suggestion.

Attorney Knowles said 9pm-5am was curfew and as far as gasoline was concerned, there was an exemption for those businesses selling gasoline, and they could stay open. (Section F). He further stated the Internet Café was not a decision made by the BOCC, it was made by the Legislature, and they said the Internet Café's had to close. The State Government made the Internet Café's illegal and law enforcement could take the prize winnings pursuant to State Statute. Barber shops were not mentioned in the Resolution and Mr. Knowles stated he would look into it and get back to the Commissioners.

Chair Viegbesie said gatherings was the problem in the parking lots. He stated there was still a 10-person restriction and thought maybe a citation would break the gatherings up.

Commissioner Hinson stated in regards to the fine, he had heartburn about it and said he needed more information. He also said he had a problem with the 9:00 p.m. curfew and suggested it be 10:00 p.m. He said he understood why, just not how the citation would be given and stated he would not approve the Resolution with the fine.

Chair Viegbesie told Commissioner Hinson he could look at how the fine was to be imposed in the Resolution.

Commissioner Holt asked attorney to explain how, in the draft, the fines would be imposed.

Attorney Knowles stated fines were set up as follows; 1st - \$25.00, 2nd - \$50.00, 3rd and more \$100.00, and the amounts were suggested by law enforcement. Attorney Knowles stated the amounts could be changed if the Board wanted that. He stated law

enforcement could issue a citation or give a mask to the person to comply. The citation would be issued with one copy to the individual, one copy to Law Enforcement and one copy to the Clerk. He stated the BOCC needed to deal with how long citizens had to pay the fine and other provisions to remove or reduce the fine.

Chair Viegbesie stated a question the Clerk asked was how long they had to pay.

Commissioner Holt said the Board had discussed how long they had to pay before the amounts were put in the Resolution. She stated the Board had decided, because the officer said warnings would be given, but Col. Collins was on the line and could say what he thought. Commissioner Holt asked Col. Collins how it was going with the enforcement of masks and gatherings.

Col. Collins assured the Board the 9:00 p.m. curfew aided with keeping large gatherings and house party's down. He said before the fine was implemented, law enforcement was not ok with it being a misdemeanor/criminal violation and issuing a citation instead helped that. He suggested the time limit to pay the citation 30-days with an extension allowed.

Commissioner Holt said she thought this process worked and would continue to work as the numbers slowed down. She said 2 weeks were needed to see results. She further stated the BOCC needed a marketing campaign of "Save A Life, Wear A Mask". She further stated law enforcement was not bothering workers, they were stopping the gatherings at store parking lots. She said she was ready to vote.

Commissioner Hinson said he believed in not making an impulse decision. He said he had just received the paperwork and needed time to ponder before making a decision.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO ADD 30-DAYS TO PAY FINE AND OR 30-DAY EXTENSION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-2

Commissioner Taylor stated she had some things for Mr. Grant and stated Broadband expediting talk, should also be done with the hospital and put it out for bid and have it back on the agenda Monday, August 17. She said during the Integrity Workshop, she recommended the County Administrator's office get \$750,000 to take care of PPE, technology, legal fees, kiosk and everything under his Administration obligation. She asked for a line item budget before Monday, to make sure there was enough. She stated there needed to be a meeting with the Chief and City Managers to talk about the pandemic and Resolutions. She stated she was tired of emails with insulting comments about the towers and she asked for clarity on the \$444,000 to know what it was for. She further stated someone stood in front of the Board and said it was a fence for 3 towers.

To the Chair she said he had a meeting with the School Board, Sheriff Department and other people and asked where his direction was coming from.

Chair Viegbesie said there was not a meeting with them in regards to policy, it was to come up with priority, and he wanted to go to each commissioner to come up with legislative priorities for development for packaging before COVID-19 came. He said it was ground work to come together with one voice to meet with the Mayor, City Managers and the County Administrator and the Chair would come back to each legislative body to see what the legislative agenda would be. He then stated Monday was a COVID meeting.

Commissioner Taylor asked Chair Viegbesie in regards to the School Board, to see how much money they had, find out the percentage of kids going back to school versus those staying home. She also wanted to know what their plans were with the \$2.3 Million and could they share in the broadband cost. She also asked when the final meeting with Integrity was.

Dr. Grant answered the final meeting should be this Tuesday but he was not given a time.

Chair Viegbesie said that final meeting was open to the Manager to schedule. Chair Viegbesie stated anytime Tuesday, Aug 11. would work, he thought it was 2 p.m. He also stated he received 3 packets form Integrity via email with what the Board had proposed and adjusted with a zero balance. Commissioner Taylor said she did not receive that and asked Dr. Grant to make sure she received a copy.

Commissioner Holt stated the County needed a marketing for "Wear A Mask, Save A Life.", and stated it needed to be wide spread. Dr. Grant stated it was coming.

Commissioner Holt said citizens comments were welcome. She would love for them to be positive comments but welcomed all comments. She stated the PPP loans were still out there and businesses could call Prime Meridian Bank 850-907-2301. FAM U Credit Union also could handle the application.

Commissioner Hinson asked Dr. Grant when citizens could apply for the CARES Act funding. He said he thought it was approved and there was another meeting to finalize the plan.

Dr. Grant stated the next meeting with Integrity was Tuesday.

Commissioner Hinson said small business were hurting. He asked the Board to think about expanding the \$1.2 million to a little more. He had a question about the bridge being open between Midway and Quincy. He stated it was open now and asked if it was a secret.

Chair Viegbesie stated it was not a secret and it was responded to by the Director of Public Works.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the director responded to the Chair or the Board.

Dr. Grant said Ms. Robinson responded to Commissioner Hinson.

Commissioner Hinson said she called Tuesday telling him it would open Wednesday. Regarding the next meeting, Commissioner Hinson said Tuesday would be a bad day for him.

Dr. Grant stated the meeting could be scheduled for Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Commissioner Holt told Dr. Grant to look at the RFP and pull up the old data on the hospital. She told him also to speak to Ms. Butler about things she knew from the hospital build-out.

Motion to Adjourn

At 11:03 am Chair Viegbesie called the meeting adjourned.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH. D, Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A SPECIAL CARES ACT MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON AUGUST
12, 2020 AT 2:00 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 1- appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3- appeared remotely
Brenda Holt, District 4- arrived late
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

Absent: Dr. Henry Grant- Interim County Administrator

1. **Welcome**
(Anthony O. Viegbesie, Ph.D., Chairman)

At 2:04 Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the Workshop/Special Meeting and called it to order.

Chair Viegbesie stated Dr. Grant was out for health reasons and he would run the meeting according to the agenda.

Invocation and Pledge

Chair Viegbesie asked everyone to bow their head in silent prayer, followed by leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Commissioners Taylor and Commissioner Holt arrived at 2:07 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan asked for the Board to approve the agenda but it was not on the agenda to do so.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Citizens requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to citizenstobeheard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. This allows adequate time for comments to be made part of each meeting’s Official Record and considered carefully by Commissioners and staff. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Chair Viegbesie said there were no citizens to be heard.

General Business

2. Review and Consensus of Spending List

Chair Viegbesie asked Integrity to give a review of the spending list and said he hoped the Board could come to a consensus today.

Mr. Yates said the spreadsheet reflected the work the Board did at the last workshop. Integrity recommended modifications to get within the \$7.9 Million budget. He stated the goal was going line by line and to make any modifications and then the application process would be implemented.

Chair Viegbesie said there were some inequities with the municipality passthrough. He stated Government Managers were on Zoom and he would recognize each one in the conversation. He stated the budget was over the \$7.9 Million that the County was getting in CARES Act Funding. He further stated the budget could be taken one by one and he would leave it to the Commission to discuss because a consensus was needed today.

Commissioner Hinson said Small Businesses had suffered and he thought the BOCC should show them more love because they were hit the hardest. 4 things top on his list were Broadband, Hospital, Small Business and the Sheriff.

Chair Viegbesie said he had met with the School District yesterday and they gave him a plan for reopening which included make connectivity available to students of Gadsden County. He suggested either the Attorney or Integrity kept a running total as the items were discussed. Chair Viegbesie stated Commissioner Hinson wanted to keep \$1.4 for Small Business.

Commissioner Morgan said he recommend to focus on CARES projects. He said some projects and requests were only avail through CARES dollars and some could get multiple funding sources. He stated there was limited funding and a lot of requests. He thought anything eligible through FEMA and HUD should free up CARES Act money. He said people had money paid out they need reimbursement on, like the Sheriff and it looked like they were getting cut 25% and keeping things in CARES money that could be funded by HUD or FEMA. He further stated Chattahoochee only asked for \$19,000 and he had asked them 3 times to make sure it was the correct amount, and now they were only getting \$14,000. He wanted to lock in things that were already expenditures. He said Broadband qualified under another bucket and that would free up \$875,000. He did not have a specific number in mind.

Commissioner Hinson said kids were starting back to school. He thought the Hospital, 5G and Sheriff needed to be taken care of. He said he was big on homeless but homeless could wait a week. He wanted a bid out for Broadband and the Hospital and within a week they should be back in front of the Board and that would show a solid number.

Chair Viegbesie asked the number of households in Gadsden County and Mr. Yates answered 17,000

Commissioner Holt asked what the final number on the back sheet on the table was representing. (\$9,195.00 in red)

Mr. Yates said based on the last meeting of 75% of what was requested.

Commissioner Holt confirmed the second column was requests.

Mr. Yates said the first column were revisions from the last meeting and second column was the requested amounts and he did not include 100% of what the cities asked for, it was split up between CARES and FEMA.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem doing a percentage. The County would not get all their money back, and would need to take a lesser amount. She asked how much the County portion was and Mr. Yates said not including the Grants was about \$781,000. Commissioner Holt said the County would not get all theirs either, unless there was a good Grant Writer. She stated if there would be cutting done, she thought the BOCC should start with page 1 and keep going. The Board could adjust up or down as needed. She thought 75-80% of what was asked for, cut others and keep going. She further stated the Board was running out of time and something was better than nothing, which would happen if the Board kept stalling.

Commissioner Taylor had specific numbers. She said she would not touch Small Business because it was an avenue that could stimulate the economy. Residential \$1.5 Million. Broadband \$1.5 Million, some money would come from FEMA. She would not touch the Hospital. Community Outreach would be left for now. \$250,000 off of the \$750,00 for the County. She asked if the Manager had rapid testing as part of the County Budget and said he should set aside at least \$30,000 in the money allocated. She said GCDC kept coming back to the tune of \$150,00, she thought the Board said they were not going to fund that particular one with the CARES Act money, as well as the Big Bend and the Chamber. She would fund the City of Quincy \$200,000 for now. She said she was not interested in giving to a food distribution or child care program (\$80,00). \$1,210,000 saved and balanced if you take those particular items off and move forward. She said she did nothing with homeless and the Sheriff should get all that was requested. (\$568,000)

Mr. Yates stated Commissioner Taylor's CARES numbers were accurate. Several Items requested by the City of Quincy had been put into the FEMA column and the City wanted items covered because they had to balance their budget before September 30. \$1.2 Million would cover all cities and the Sheriff from CARES.

Commissioner Taylor said the Board wanted to provide for all, but \$8 Million would only go so far. She stated they could get money from FEMA when it was FEMA time. She stated next week was back to the drawing board with FEMA and suggested to put the items that could not be funded up front.

Chair Viegbesie said his take on the discussion was \$1.2 Million for Small Business- \$1.2 Million for Residence Assistance- \$663,000 Broadband. He stated the School had broadband that would provide services to the citizens on 15 buses that they would park in the county to provide households with internet access. There was a Jet Pack that would provide hot spots for households and it could connect 15-18 devices in a household without impairing connectivity for about \$39.00. He said it was paid by the CARES Act. When the CARES Act expired, he asked how the County planned to keep connectivity, and said the County may need to include that in the County budget to make sure the County stayed connected. He was more concerned with effectiveness and efficiency as to how to provide 5G.

Commissioner Holt said she had asked for the Board to have a meeting with the School Board and Superintendent and had not had one yet. She stated there was no input from the BOCC. She

further stated the BOCC did not have the school's plan because there was no meeting as requested a month ago. She wanted to work together to come to a resolution. She further stated if the County offered Broadband and the citizens wanted it, they would pay the provider. She thought the process was backwards and needed better planning.

Chair Viegbesie said what he was saying was his own exploration with the school and the Manager had not been able to schedule a meeting with the school. He further stated yesterday at 2 p.m., the Health Department and Emergency Management called a meeting and at that meeting was where the School District made a presentation and that was how he got the information, he was just sharing what was in the presentation.

Commissioner Holt said in this case, being an Emergency, the County, School Board and City Managers needed to sit down and go to work and that did not happen and it slowed everything down.

Commissioner Morgan asked the meeting to go back on topic, and Commissioner Holt stated it was on topic.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not think any local boards were trying to avoid meetings or working together and everyone had their hands full and the BOCC should encourage everyone. He stated the Jet Pack would only be as effective as the connection that was available in that area and each one would have a continued monthly bill. He further stated Broadband was not an immediate solution and it was going to take time and could be covered by FEMA.

Chair Viegbesie said he disagreed with Commissioner Morgan that Broadband was not an immediate solution. He said the Jet Pack may be temporary and with more permanent Broadband services, it could mean long term. He said there were people who worked from home and students who need connectivity to work and the Jet Pack was the temporary expenditure that needed to be considered. He stated connectivity was an emergency during COVID-19.

Commissioner Hinson said 55% of students in public school were staying home. With the Broadband RFP, he asked to look at what was best for Gadsden County. He said the Board should be voting on someone to serve the County next week. He asked the Board to stay focused and reminded them school would start August 31st. He asked the Board to approve Small Business, Broadband, Sheriff and the Hospital. He stated almost \$1 Million should go to EMS, and also cover the Sheriff.

Chair Viegbesie said items were skipped on the Agenda and asked to go back and stay in order. When on Item 4, Chair Viegbesie stated the Director of IT, Kembrew Jackson, would give his discussion with Dr. Grant on the Broadband RFP and the Hospital RFP and how they would expedite them. He said City Managers that were on the line and would be recognized to speak were; Quincy- Jack McLean, Gretna- Antonio Jefferson, Midway- Linda Dilworth, Chattahoochee- Robert Presnell, Havana- Brad Johnson, Greensboro- Dennis Henderson.

Commissioner Taylor yielded to the City Managers.

Jack McLean, Quincy appeared remotely and said he was looking for what was already spent and that was \$722,683.03. He said they had spent mom and pops money and could get the request down to \$422,000 and the City had already spent money on rapid testing. **Now asking \$315,000.**

Gretna, Antonio Jefferson, appeared remotely and said \$312,000 was the original request. **Now asking for \$56,000** with a request to reprioritize money.

Chair Viegbesie said as long as the money that went to municipalities was spent within the legality of the CARES Act the municipality had the discretion of what they wanted to use it for.

Midway, Linda Dilworth, appeared remotely and said they looked at items already expended by the city and there was a need for PPE equipment and supply reimbursement and also emergency trips for the police and fire department. She said the original request was \$156,000. She stated for the record an initial request was sent with items for the listing of CARES Act details that could be revised to be more strategic with the things needed for the safety of the citizens and any considerations would be appreciated.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was a compromise on what the City could work with. He stated they would not get \$156,000 and if it was all or nothing, they would get nothing.

Linda Dilworth stated they looked at the numbers again and they could find another alternative. She said they were now asking \$121,800.

Chair Viegbesie said the passthrough would be giving according to per capita for each municipality.

Linda Dilworth then stated she could get Midway down to \$91,300 for the City of Midway.

Robert Presnell, Chattahoochee, not on the meeting.

Brand Johnson, Havana, not on the meeting.

Dennis Henderson, Greensboro, appeared remotely and asked for nothing. He stated Greensboro could work with nothing but would take what the County would give with appreciation.

Chair Viegbesie said Chattahoochee originally asked for \$19,000; Havana asked for \$60,000 for EMS under FEMA, and none under CARES.

Mr. Yates said Havana was anticipating \$166,000 shortage in utility payments and Integrity informed them that lost revenue was not reimbursable, so the residents in Havana that were delinquent in payments could apply for assistance and get money that way, to which they were satisfied.

Commissioner Taylor said her numbers for the cities were; **Quincy \$250,000 – Midway \$60,000 – Gretna \$60,000- Greensboro \$10,000 – Havana money was in FEMA- Chattahoochee \$20,000 - Municipalities \$400,000 for all.**

Commissioner Taylor thought the BOCC could look at each item, ask each Commissioner if they agreed with the amount and come up with an agreed amount.

Commissioner Holt asked if it was a County facility, did the County manage each one and provide a kiosk at each one.

Commissioner Taylor said it was a good idea for kiosks, and she wanted them in the bundle.

Commissioner Hinson stated Brad Johnson said Havana needed additional help with officers having overtime. He thought Havana should get \$60,00 just like Gretna.

3. Next Steps

a. Begin implementation of approved items not requiring procurement.

Commissioner Taylor said it was time for Commissioners to discuss and agree on an amount for each.

Small Business \$1.2 Million

Residential program \$1.4 Million

Broadband \$1 Million

Hospital \$1 Million

Gadsden County Outreach \$75,000

Municipalities \$400,000

Ambulances \$416,970.44

Risk Assessment \$50,000

COVID Legal Fees \$20,000

Kiosks \$6,000

Remote Video \$3,500

Homeless \$75,000

Childcare Assistance- Commissioner Holt said they could apply under Small Business.

Commissioner Morgan stated all the numbers could be changed.

Commissioner Holy asked under Additional or Miscellaneous COVID Expenses, what that was for and Commissioner Taylor said it was the County's overhead.

Commissioner Holt said there would be a problem with salaries but she did not have a problem with it staying at \$267,000.

Mr. Yates stated the Board was at \$5.3 Million with \$7.9 Million to budget which did not include the municipalities.

County Additional \$267,117.71

Sheriff \$577,289.07

Ms. Steele stated Col Collins and Catherine Poindexter were on the line.

Col. Collins appeared remotely and said the money requested was not for new things. He said new expenses were incurred daily because it was an on-going process. He stated the Sheriff covered Midway after midnight and it was an expense the Sheriff incurred for the City of Midway and everything requested was already spent. He further stated FEMA sent an email stating they would not reimburse for PPE and made it very clear because they knew CARES money was out. He stated Reimbursement was provided to anyone who inquired and felt they should be reimbursed for all of the reimbursement requested because the reimbursement did not cover any cost that was accumulated from "this day forward."

Catherine Poindexter appeared remotely and said regarding the overtime and turnover of officers and exposure to COVID, and in their absence they still needed staff on the street

enforcing law, that was overtime. She stated the Sheriff was just requesting money that was spent to be reimbursed.

Chair Viegbesie suggested to keep \$577,209.00 the Sheriff's Office asked for.

Commissioner Taylor said the Sheriff request was lower than the original request. She wanted to give them \$660,000.

Commissioner Hinson said he agreed with the original request from the Sherriff.

Mr. Yates said \$225,000 of the request from the Sheriff was moved to FEMA.

Commissioner Holt said if possible, go through the list and the Board could add back if it was needed.

Commissioner Morgan said Col. Collins and Ms. Poindexter could tell the amount. He said this was a holding place/target and he would recommend to make the Sheriff whole for the expenses already made.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a workshop and the Board asked the Sheriff to look at the initial request and work with the Board as to what the Sheriff could have moved to another source of funding.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Dispatch Technology for \$225,000 was that part of the Motorola system that was put in.

Col. Collins answered no, it was for the new radios needed that there was no funding for. Once the new system was online, if new radios were not purchased, there would be no communication.

Commissioner Taylor stated then it may not be spent by December and asked if it could stay in FEMA funding.

Col. Collins said unless the Board was going to pay for it, the Sheriff did not have another funding source.

Chair Viegbesie told Col. Collins CARES money was not a source to balance County Expenditure Budget. He said if the purchases were not due to COVID between now and December 30, it could be moved to FEMA.

Col. Collins said they needed the radios now and had nowhere else to go for funding.

Mr. Yates said \$225,000 qualified for COVID, however, if it could not be procured by the end of the year it would not work and there would be a tougher time getting FEMA to pay for it. He suggested it go under the CARES money.

Chair Viegbesie said the Bord was going to go with \$803,000 for the Sheriff's Office and the radios should be purchased as soon as possible.

Commissioner Taylor said \$803,000 for the Sheriff and \$400,000 for the municipalities and she said that was it.

Commissioner Holt asked for a total.

Commissioner Taylor asked Integrity to give their numbers back.

Mr. Yates had a total of \$6.7 million. He said there was still a few items left. The first item was the 12.5% FEMA Match for \$571,351.58. The total now was \$8.3 million which was \$350,000 over. He stated as Integrity went through the list, there were a couple things removed from the CARES Act, but also removed some from FEMA as well.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 4:13 p.m.

Jack McLean thought any money left over should go to municipalities.

Vice Chair Holt said the BOCC was trying to cut a little over \$354,000.

Commissioner Taylor asked to take \$100,000 off Hospital.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 4:16 p.m.

Integrity verified numbers:

Small Business \$1.2 Million

Residential Program \$1.4 Million

Broadband \$1 Million

Hospital \$1 Million

Gadsden Community Outreach \$75,000

Ambulances \$416,970.44

Risk Assessment \$50,000

Disinfectant Equipment and Supplies \$50,000

COVID Legal fees \$20,000

Kiosks \$6,000

Remote Video \$3,500

Childcare Assistance \$0 Apply under small business

Homeless \$75,000

Food Distribution \$0

County Additional \$267,117.71

Sheriff- \$803,000

Municipalities \$400,000

Commissioner Morgan said to take Residence Assistance to \$1.3 and Broadband to \$875,000 and see the difference from that point.

Holt out 4:19 p.m.

Holt returned at 4:20 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie asked what the amount was with Commissioner Morgan's suggestion.

Commissioner Taylor did not want to go that low on Broadband.

Chair Viegbesie said the County may not be able to spend all of the \$875,000, depending on the RFP.

Integrity Total \$6.898 Million, Difference of \$1.1 Million.

Commissioner Morgan suggested to make the municipalities whole.

Chair Viegbesie suggested to go back to \$1.4 for Residence, \$100,000 for the Homeless and then go back and bump up some municipalities.

Commissioner Hinson suggested to give Broadband more and if the RFP was less, it could be given back. He stated people could not get service in their area.

Chair Viegbesie said Broadband was getting \$1 Million and he wanted to make others whole. If the RFP was less than that the County would put that money somewhere else.

Commissioner Hinson said people had concerns about Broadband and could not get service.

Chair Viegbesie said those who were submitting an RFP needed to make sure there would be connectivity in the entire County with no dead zones. He further stated what the Commissioners were working on was a spreadsheet and a work in progress and they were trying make it final.

After more discussion Integrity's total was \$7,732,470.44

Chair Viegbesie said he would put \$25,000 back into the homeless if there was an overage.

Commissioner Taylor told Integrity to make the Homeless go back to \$100,000.

Mr. Yates said there was \$209,000 left.

Chair Viegbesie said to take the \$209,000 and make the cities whole.

Commissioner Hinson said the community would love this and suggested to put the whole \$200,000 to Small Businesses.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to make the cities whole.

Chair Viegbesie wanted to make municipalities more comfortable with the sacrifices they were making and said it would be a good thing to do.

Commissioner Holt had questions for Integrity, she stated the County needed to assign every penny and could not use CARES money for any salary's except overtime related to COVID. She stated people were out and others had to take on extra work. She suggested to make the County whole between now and Dec 30. She thought there needed to be a safety net and it could be moved later.

Mr. Yates said other counties put money aside for staff overtime and unexpected costs.

Commissioner Holt said \$100,000-\$150,000 was needed for people who were going to be out and that may be low. She said that money could be moved in November if not many were out.

Commissioner Hinson said he would like to echo Ms. Holt.

Commissioner Taylor said the BOCC had already taken care of the County. On page 4, \$267,117 could take care of any COVID related expense.

Commissioner Holt said the paper from the last meeting had \$500,000 for County expenses. She asked if that included overtime pay and if it could be set aside until Dr. Grant was back and he could tell the Board what was needed.

Chair Viegbesie suggested the \$209,000 would be left alone until the Administrator was back to look at.

Commissioner Taylor asked for a clean sheet from Integrity and Mr. Yates stated it would be sent in the morning.

b. Begin necessary procurement steps, consistent with Federal 2 CFR 200 and FDEM Contract.

c. Initial Gadsden residents/Business Grant Applications (Portal & Paper).

d. Establish monitoring and reporting process.

4. Update on Broadband RFP and Hospital RFP

Chair Viegbesie recognized staff from IT, Kembrew Jackson, who wanted to make a presentation in regards to an update on the Broadband RFP.

Mr. Jackson said an RFP was prepared and was being finalized based on Board direction. Mr. Jackson gave a rundown on service requirements of the RFP. *Provider will staff and support the citizens with any devices or issues that may arise from such services. *Provider will ensure short term devices are cost effective and furnished uninterrupted service while in roaming. *All equipment must operate with efficiency and versatile. *Provider will ensure all maintenance of agreement throughout the duration of the project. *Provider will test the most remote areas to ensure effectiveness and proper bandwidth insurance. *Provider will provide proof of concept in verified references. *Provide will comply with FCC Regulations. *Documentation of existing coverage so there is no overlap or areas missed. *Impact analysis to see if it will be effective and create the solution the Board was looking for. *Engineering plans to make sure all areas are covered and none were missed. *Short- and long-term pricing model. *Service agreement stating if something happened how would it be managed. Mr. Jackson said the most important factor was making sure all this could be completed by the CARES funding deadline of December 30.

Chair Viegbesie asked if it was the service completed or service provided up to the deadline. He stated the sooner was more beneficial. 60% of students, he said, were going remote. He stated to make service available yesterday because class would begin on August 31. He further stated the one that staff thought was most cost effective would be brought before the board and voted on.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board needed to get all the information and as long as they met the minimum qualifications, they should come before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan recommended to make certain the attorney was comfortable with the process the BOCC was moving through and that the Board was following the Procurement Policy.

Chair Viegbesie said he was sure the attorney knew he was responsible as the County Attorney to make sure the BOCC was in legal compliance.

Commissioner Taylor said Broadband was cut from \$1.7 Million to \$1 Million. She asked what if the amount given to IT was greater than what the \$1 Million could purchase.

Chair Viegbesie said that was why \$209,000 as contingency money could go to whatever it needed to go to.

Commissioner Taylor was concerned because the specs given should have mirrored what was being budgeted the time the specs were given. She asked how the Board would be able to get a deal on what they asked for a week ago versus what could be paid for today.

Chair Viegbesie said the families that would not get service, the County would be providing payment until December for Broadband. After Dec 30th funding would be over and owed by the residence. He stated Gadsden County was a predominantly indigent county. He said there was a Source of funding called **Connect Home Initiative** designed to fund internet service providers to extend existing infrastructure to rural, poor and underserved areas. He stated the County should explore this to see if the County could continue to provide the internet connectivity through this initiative.

Commissioner Holt said yes, and the County needed a Grant Writer for that. She stated the School Board Meeting should be ASAP, and applicants for broadband, she wanted to see all of the applications and said get started. She further stated she was worried about employees and the jobs they would not be able to do with the COVID numbers going up.

Chair Viegbesie said as far as meeting with the School Board, he told them it was urgent in regards to the School meeting with the Commission, if for nothing else but to collaborate. He asked also to work with scheduling meeting with school.

Commissioner Taylor asked Integrity how soon the portal would be available for business and residential.

Mr. Yates said Integrity was ready to go when the County gave the go ahead to do so and a reasonable day would be next Monday.

Commissioner Taylor said the numbers were all in now. She asked for the website and a clean copy and stated the PIO would need the info as well.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 12, 2020 Cares Act Special Meeting/Workshop

Mr. Yates said that would be arranged with Dr. Grant. He said he would send the email portal link to the BOCC to look at and make sure it ran smooth. He further stated Frederica would be available to help in person and they would also test before it went live.

Chair Viegbesie said the PIO needed to be involved because she would be doing the marketing.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the agendaed items were completed and Chair Viegbesie stated yes.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Portal would be for business and that large business to small business ratio was not discussed. She thought it was very important to get out and get mom and pop businesses to see the County had this CARES Money. She suggested to put flyers out.

Ms. Steele said the SHIP application was on website. She stated they would notify churches and clarified the application process would start on August 14th. She further stated business and churches would be made aware.

Chair Viegbesie suggested it was put on the radio and in local papers that the process had started.

5. Adjourn

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH. D., Chairman

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 14, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4 – appeared remotely then appeared in person
Eric Hinson, District 1- appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3- appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CONSENT

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadscencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Melody Potter

“I HAVE LIVED IN Gadsden County my entire life. I love this county and the people. I would be lying if I said the past several months have been easy, because it hasn't. At times it's even been scary. But now I'm more concerned with these mandates. Why are we still under a curfew? Why are we limited to how many people can be in our home? Please stop the mandates. We want our voices to be heard. Thank you.”

Charlotte Hill

“My name is Charlotte Hill. I live in district 4 in Gadsden County. I am deeply concerned that you, our board of elected officials, continue to keep a curfew in place for the residents of Gadsden County. This is absolutely absurd and unacceptable. I understood and agreed with the curfew after Hurricane Michael as it was unsafe to travel the roads after dark due to downed trees and

power lines, but that is not our current circumstance. COVID-19 is not more contagious between the hours of 9:00 pm and 5:00 am. This is an absolute infringement on my rights as a citizen. I am also in disagreement with gatherings being kept to 10 people or less. This means that my family is forbidden to have seven or more people as guests in our home. Forbidden? Seriously? The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners is quickly becoming a laughing stock to the people of Gadsden County...except those people who are ok with the government having complete control over their lives.

I understand that Covid-19 is real. My mother was hospitalized for it and I have a friend who recently passed away from it-though he was in his eighties and had many health issues. We need to be reasonable. I get that, but the curfew and ten person limit is not reasonable.

Please consider that these mandates are ridiculous and overreaching as you hold your emergency meeting on Friday, August 14.

Sincerely”

Abby Hill

“Attention county commissioners,

As a citizen of Gadsden County for more than twelve years, I am very concerned about the decisions our board of commissioners have made the past several weeks and even months. Are you a dictatorship or are you elected officials? It is very disturbing that you continue to keep the citizens of Gadsden county under a curfew and tell us how many people we can have in our homes.

We are asking you to stop these mandates. If this board continues to try to control the people of our county in the manner, further action will be taken. We want our voices to be heard.

A Concerned Citizen”

Olivia Fulmer

“Myself and many others I love and care for are finding it harder to deal with the restrictions that are where we go, how long we stay, and how many people we can even have in our homes. I understand that it is all for safety but taking away what few rights we have as to our personal beings and welfare is not beneficial to you are anyone in the county and state for that matter. Again, we all appreciate that you are trying to keep us safe, but we al feel as though you are taking it way to far and it’s overwhelming for many of us. Thank you for hearing me out on the subject. Please consider our point of view and our struggles as well. Have a great day!”

8506613282

“Grow up democrats. This should not happen nobody wants this I vote no no no. There is already a cure that’s being held back the democrats. Do your job and demand they release it.”

Todd Hill

“Allow me to start by thanking you for your service to our community. I try my best to lift you all in prayer and to support your leadership and decisions.

In light of recent events and the pandemic that has affected our county, I understand the complexity of the decisions you are making...But I must state that the appearance of these decisions reflects great insecurities in this board.

An understood principle of leadership is stated this way...The most insecure people at the table must control everything.

I understand the curfew application in times like Hurricane Michael and it’s aftermath and in times of Civil unrest, but this curfew and its enforcement are an overstep of your given authority.

A wise leader stated that authority comes from authority...Please remember that we elected you and your authority comes from us, the voters of Gadsden county.
Please don't let fear and hyped numbers cause you to continue to make insecure decisions concerning our county.
I will not create civil unrest for you and will not be an enemy to the leadership of this board, but I will speak up to this fact...
When a government is allowed to keep taking, they never on their own accord return the taken goods...Please consider your actions and the way they make you appear to people who actually understand leadership.
Allow people to be free and live in liberty.
Thank you for your services and for taking time to read my opinions."

Joshua Osmin

"To whom it may concern:
I've been a citizen of Gadsden County for over 20 years. While I understand that the curfew put in place may have had good intentions behind it, I feel that the commissioners have overstepped their bounds. We ask that you reverse this senseless mandate and restore at least some form of normalcy to our county.
We pray for God to give you wisdom in all things during this time.
Sincerely"

Galina Cherubin

"Good Afternoon,
My name is Galina Cherubin and I am a citizen of Gadsden County, FL. I would like to ask our commissioners some questions about the restrictions related to Covid-19.
1. How long is the curfew going to last?
2. How long will the gatherings be minimized to a fewer people?
3. How much longer will we be required to wear masks?
As a citizen of the United States, part of the "We, the People" group, I would like to hear your responses.
Respectfully"

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-043

Mr. Knowles gave an update of the Resolution and the Eviction Moratorium that was imposed by the State and the curfew was still 9:00 pm – 5:00 am, gathering size restriction was still in place and everything else remained the same.

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

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1 COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED

Chair Viegbesie announced the Administrator scheduled the Motorola workshop for Monday at 2:00 before the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

He also suggested since there were no major changes coming from the Governor's office, they temporarily suspend the Friday Emergency meetings, and ratify the Resolution. Commissioner Morgan pointed out the Resolution has to be updated every seven days for the Emergency and they may want to refer that to the Attorney.

Mr. Knowles said when they first drafted the Resolution, there were powers for the Chair or his designee to execute a new Resolution every week, there was heartburn initially because things were influx, things were now a little slower, and they can do that and be well within their legal rights to do it, it was just if the Commission wanted to do it. He said there had been 23 meetings thus far and was costing the County in terms of legal fees, etc. and was something for them to think over.

Commissioner Morgan said he was all for not having meetings if they were not needed.

Commissioner Holt arrived in person at 10:29 a.m.

Chair Viegbesie pointed out they approved a spending distribution with Integrity and it included the 75% of CARES Act funding that they have not received yet, they have only received 25% of the money thus far and hopes they can make the Governor's Office understand they are a fiscally stressed County and do not have money to spend upfront to be reimbursed later.

Commissioner Holt said everyone should be suspended until they could see if they receive the other money. She added that even if they did have the 25%, one thing she found out and realized, they were still responsible for the pay-back of that money. All cities should have their invoices and should have already been turned in to the County. Dr. Grant said they would still have to submit a request and plan for the money. She asked if they had spoken with the School Board. Chair Viegbesie said he and the Administrator spoke with the Board and the issue they have is since it involves more than one Commissioner from a Board, it had to be advertised and a public meeting so the suggestion to the Interim Administrator was to look for a date and time as soon as possible that would work for both Boards.

Commissioner Holt asked about the people that wanted to use the Health Department in Chattahoochee to bring in health care workers and doctors. She asked why that was not sent out and Chair Viegbesie interjected.

Chair Viegbesie said the contract the owners signed with the County could only be used by not-for-profit entities. Commissioner Holt said she talked with Mr. Crenshaw with the Department of Health and he said that was the sublease the County would do after they have the documents signed. She said she was pretty upset it took so long to get to them, three to four weeks and it was a health care need and staff should be doing better. Chair Viegbesie said yesterday during the discussion was when he was made aware of it. He asked if the providers were a profit or non-profit because the extension to the lease by the State was that anyone using it for medical

services or senior citizen activities must be a non-profit. Commissioner Holt said she would get the people in touch with the Administrator.

Commissioner Taylor said she was unsure of the dialogue and did not want to get in the way of providing health care, but was this was a Board function and asked where they were now. She then asked about the part of CARES money they had received versus the amount they had not yet received. She said it was an entitlement and was **WHEN** they would receive it. They needed to begin with what would not cost them anything and put out an RFP because it was a time-consuming process that needed to be moved, the broadband and the hospital. She said with regard to the cities, she concurred that there might have been some fly-by-night numbers that was given to them to get some monies but Integrity has stated that clear and concise documentation needed to be put forth before any funds were disbursed. She said other than that, Integrity was liable because they could be authorizing the expenditures. She further stated that with regards to the grant money for the residents and businesses, they probably should start the process, get their names and information in the portal but inform them it may be a little longer before the money comes. She asked why the RFP was not out for the hospital. Dr. Grant said it had not been developed because they were checking to see if they had existing plans. She said they needed to let the ones know that has done work there that they are getting bids ready, time was not their friend. Dr. Grant said they tried to find an RFP from before when the work was done and there was no RFP; the Board gave the County Administrator the authority to negotiate with whoever it was to get the process started.

Ronte Harris, City of Quincy Mayor, spoke concerning the curfew. Was there anything that allowed restaurants and stores to operate past the 9:00 pm curfew?

Mr. Knowles responded that “Businesses that sell or offer gasoline, diesel or other fuels shall be exempted from the curfew requirements as provided herein. Except, such businesses shall not allow more than ten (10) individuals to congregate on their premises.”

He added that the restaurants were covered under Section D.

Chair Viegbesie said this was something the County has covered every Friday from the Governor’s Executive Orders and could not be more lenient or restrictive than what was allowed in the Executive Orders.

Commissioner Holt said on the issue of the hospital, Mr. Meeks walked in room and asked if he could speak. She said she asked if the Board could do a walk-thru and reason she asked for it was because the Board needed to know what to tell the citizens needed to know and be aware. On the issue with the hospital, they have decisions they need to make.

Commissioner Hinson said he dittoed everything that Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Holt said. They need to control what was happening, they only have 3 months to use the funds.

He asked what was the delay for not sending out the RFP for broadband and was told it was out on the website and had been sent out.

Commissioner Holt asked what was on the RFP.

Dr. Grant said read aloud a portion of the RFP.

Commissioner Taylor said Commissioner Hinson brought up good point; they could have an emergency meeting to approve the RFP and asked they set a date before September to and select a person to move forward.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:21 A.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 17, 2020 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-Not Present
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5-Not Present
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, 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., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE AS WRITTEN.

Holt/V

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

Morgan/V

1. Potter Woodberry CIGP – Professional Services

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Approval of Health Insurance Rates

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was proposed health insurance as related to the County’s current health coverage and sought Board approval to accept the Insurance Committee’s recommendation of remaining with the current healthcare plan under Capital Health Plan and the premium increase be absorbed by the employer. He added the recommendation was approval of Option 1.

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

Commissioner Holt asked what kind of increase was this for the employees.

Lonyell Butler, HR Manager, said there was no increase to employees.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Dr. Grant informed the Board the last budget workshop will be Thursday, August 20th at 4:00; the first Budget public hearing will be September 10th at 6:00 pm and the second public hearing will be September 21st at 6:00 pm. He said he had received information back from four Commissioners on dates for the Administrator interviews and needed direction from the Board because two Commissioners selected August 26th & 27th and 2 selected September 2nd and September 3rd. They agreed to do the September dates for interviews.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:07 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 28, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1-appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., asked for a moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON WAS NOT PRESENT.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

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The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud the COVID-19 statement.

CONSENT

1. Approval of the Supplemental Contract with Great America Financial Services

Dr. Grant introduced the above item. Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked for more information regarding this item and what it was about. Dr. Grant said it was an existing contract for copiers and a supplemental contract for a Canon plotter to fulfill the Gov-Easy system.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a fiscal impact and Dr. Grant said yes. She stated it never should have been under Consent if it had a fiscal impact. He said it was not a new contract just a supplemental to an existing contract and will increase \$227. 70/month for 5 years. Commissioner

Taylor said she wanted to make sure that the amount did not exceed their Procurement amount and was a supplement to an existing contract. Commissioner Taylor said it would impact the budget to the tune of \$227/monthly.

Commissioner Holt said the contract was not for 60 months, just for the remaining months of the contract.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NO
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-1

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Discussion Regarding the Gadsden County Schools Athletic Programs as it Relates to the COVID-19 Resolution

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Mr. Knowles further explained the item. He said there were requests from both the Gadsden County schools and Robert F. Munroe to try to hold football activities and they reached out to Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), Robert F. Munroe and Gadsden County School as to what they were attempting to do with regard to starting football back up. He said what they proposed to do was put something in the Resolution that would reflect what the Commission did today. He said the three options would be:

- Approve football in its current form as would happen in any non-Covid year;
- Not approve at all; and
- Approve with some or all guidelines and recommendations that have been promulgated by the different organizations and schools.

He added he thought the guidelines also dealt with practices, games, fans, concessions, and the whole gamut they would be doing to facilitate football.

Chair Viegbesie said if Administrator had no comments, he would recognize anyone who wished to speak.

Commissioner Holt said any approval here would set a precedence; football was not an emergency; there is a pandemic, and their job was health, safety, and welfare. She did not think this was something to put children into until they made sure that there was something that could help them. She said she was not voting for this. Animals will put small ones behind them to defend them and that was what they should do in this case.

Commissioner Taylor said she would like to hear from the Athletic Director.

Commissioner Morgan said in looking over the guidelines and safety precautions that were submitted and appreciated the information, they needed to remember that the capacity of the ballgames would not be filled at 100%. He said it would be more at 15-20% and people would have plenty of room to socially distance and have masks on. He felt it was important that they allow the athletes and the community to participate in if they chose to do so.

Master Sargent Charles Roberts, Athletic Director, Gadsden County School Board, remotely appeared before the Board. He said they sent in the numerous stipulations provided by FHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee as well as the National Federation of High School Sports. He explained it laid out plans for social distancing on sidelines, they were working on plans for the concession stand, as well as visiting fans and home fans. He said by the next Wednesday, the stadium bleachers would be marked with “x’s”

Commissioner Taylor said she would like the Gadsden County Health Department to look at this plan. She added she did not want to take sports away if they could put protective measures in place.

Kendall Weeks, RFM Athletic Director, deferred to Dr. Adam Gaffey, RFM Headmaster, who appeared remotely. Like Gadsden High, he said they would be including athletic face masks and believed it would keep players very safe.

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Taylor requested to hear from the Health Department and no one was present.

Stacey Hannigan, Gadsden County Health Department, appeared remotely and was attempting to get Dr. Adrian Cooksey on the line.

Chair Viegbesie said he was in support of kids playing sports but wanted to make sure protection was in place. He added he did not want to see any environment that would cause anyone to contract the disease and take it home to ones that were at home. He asked how the schools would maintain social distancing from the excitement after a wonderful play was made.

Master Sgt. Roberts asked to respond. He said they planned on hiring five additional deputies to help ensure social distancing.

Adam Gaffey asked to respond as well. He said they were having extensive conversations with the other schools and making their policies very clear to them. Also, if at any time the school

officials felt rules were not being followed, they would go to the referees and have the game forfeited.

Mr. Knowles asked regarding the curfew; would they be able to respond to the curfew as currently set?

Master Sgt. Roberts said no, as it was currently set unless they changed the time of the game; as most games were scheduled to start around 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Gaffey said RFM had been monitoring the temperature index in the afternoons and they had been ok and did not think there would be a problem in having the games start earlier to they could be completed by the curfew.

Commissioner Morgan said he believed the curfew should not begin until Midnight and asked they change that, and the problem would be solved.

Chair Viegbesie said he was going to raise that concern. Until they see all safety measures taken, he was not leaning toward this. He asked Master Sgt. Roberts, was this something the school districts could ensure and guarantee it would be in place and he responded yes. Chair Viegbesie said if that was a part of the policy, then he would vote for it.

Commissioner Taylor said her support hinged on the opinion from the Health Department and a Hold Harmless Agreement put in place from the Attorney and the Board having an opportunity after it had been reviewed by both the attorney and the Health Department, place some stipulations within the guidelines as well. She said it sounded like both schools have done their due diligence to make sure students were safe. She further stated she wanted a written opinion from the Health Director.

Chair Viegbesie said he hoped both Master Sgt. Roberts and Mr. Gaffey understood that he decided to call the emergency meeting because of this item. He said it was not an item that they could put anything in place and the Chair sign. He informed everyone that the Resolution was reviewed and renewed every Friday by law. He further stated that even if it were approved today, if any violations were noticed, it would be revised on the next Friday. They would be reviewing this every Friday as long as there was a State of Emergency was in place.

Commissioner Holt said the CDC had made statements that were controversial throughout the Country about the spread and the testing for the virus. The testing the day before would not do that much good, the testing would need to be done the day of the game. She further stated the children did not need to be placed in this position; they could play football next year.

Commissioner Taylor asked the attorney with regards to a Hold Harmless agreement with the two schools, was that something valid that he would recommend and could be respected by the Courts?

Mr. Knowles responded that their legislative decisions as a body were protected under legislative immunity and if they made a decision based on their own, personal feelings, he did not think the County would be liable for that and they, individually, would be liable for that. He further stated that could be explored as an added stop-gap measure, certainly if the schools signed it and they

had competent counsel, felt the Court would uphold it. He said that did nit mean they would be totally immune from a lawsuit; someone could always file a lawsuit. He also stated it would be good to have that added in as added protection.

Commissioner Taylor said this was a “double sword”, they had to consider the health issues; they were responsible and had to make sure they made sound judgement when it came to public safety. That was why they were asking for the different measures to be put in. She stated they knew the kids would have to return to school, she preferred virtual, but was not what they had. She said she was going to support this because she wanted to meet somewhat in the middle for the students, the kids don’t have a voice.

Commissioner Morgan said he would go back to what the attorney said, anyone can file a lawsuit at any time. He said they had to allow kids to experience as much normalcy in their life as possible.

Chair Viegbesie said the attorney gave his legal opinion on this item. This Resolution was something that comes up every week for review. He asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Holt said they had not heard from the Health Department.

Chair Viegbesie asked if anyone was available for comment from the Health Department and no one responded. Stacey Hannigan asked if they could follow back up, the School Board had called a special meeting that started at 11:00 am. Commissioner Holt said she just received a text that there were no available deputies to cover games currently.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they could table this item until Tuesday and was told yes. Chair Viegbesie asked to add this to Tuesday’s meeting and it could be incorporated into the next week’s Resolution.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL TUESDAY AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. HE ADDED THAT MASTER SGT. ROBERTS AND MR. GAFFEY BE SURE TO HAVE SECURITY AVAILABLE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE PLAYERS AND ATTENDEES. HE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-1 TO TABLE

3. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-046

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor said she had concerns with employees tele-commuting with working from home. She asked as a general overview, they might want to look at putting something in the Resolution so employees were able to do something effectively so employees could take care of

their children and also take care of work responsibilities. She asked that they look at putting something in place in the Resolution that all means were worked out with employees so they were able to do their job effectively and be able to take care of their children and keep themselves safe and take care of the responsibilities they were being paid for,

Chair Viegbesie asked with the operation of the County, were they still in Phase 1 and allowing employees to work from home and Dr. Grant said yes.

Commissioner Holt asked if they wanted to include that or vote (on the Resolution) as it was.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to give the Administrator a free hand and if it could be included, it would be ideal.

Commissioner Holt said she was the total opposite on this. If they cannot reach anyone, then it was a problem.

Commissioner Taylor said the idea of answering phones pre-pandemic, she had this problem before. If someone submitted request and the request could be approved based on stipulations being put in place to ensure phones were answered, mail picked up, responses were made to the community, they should put measures in place that the requests were approved.

Chair Viegbesie said since they were policy makers and he (Administrator) was CFO, it was good for employees to understand, if granted to work remotely, they were still on the job, not to go fishing, etc. They should forward their work phones to their work cell phones so they could take care of County business during working hours. He asked the attorney if anything was in the Resolution as it was currently that recognized the re-opening plan.

Mr. Knowles said he was not sure the Resolution was the best place to address that. They did have language prior to this that dealt with the re-opening plan. The stage they were at now did not with the Resolution did not give any authority to Dr. Grant. When they were in shut-down mode, there was a little more “meat on the bone”.

Chair Viegbesie said in line of his inquiry, the concern was made pre-covid. Where people would call the offices and there was no answer. He added that since he had been on the Commission, he had seen and heard that. He further stated they needed to impress on the Administrator they need the County to run as smoothly and effectively as possible in delivering services to the citizens.

Commissioner Morgan said he was curious if they were going to discuss the Resolution.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION WITH CHANGES TO “STRONGLY RECOMMEND” AND CHANGE CURFEW TIME TO MIDNIGHT TO 5:00 A.M. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor said the attorney said something earlier about pre-phase 1. She said they were supposed to be pre-phase 1 now because they went back to the 9:00 p.m. curfew, went back to mandatory masks and the close-down. She said she was trying to get to a point; not trying to re-invent the wheel, just making sure everyone was given consideration and they help

the Administrator implement it so it was across the board and everyone was treated the same based on the rules they adopted.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Taylor said if they could go back to the Resolution they had in place and then asked what that was, and Mr. Knowles said basically shutdown. She asked about restaurants and asked Mr. Knowles to explain.

Mr. Knowles explained there was not a meeting last week but there was a lot of concerns about restaurants and law enforcement and first responders needed a place to eat, people coming off the interstate and they did not want to hinder those businesses and so there was a small blurb added in the Resolution that drive-through, take-out, delivery and sit-down restaurants were exempted from the 9:00 p.m. timeframe.

Commissioner Taylor said he did not have the authority to do that and Mr. Knowles said the Chairman did. She responded neither did he because they had a regular meeting Board. Chair Viegbesie said in the discussion they had, and he did not think it was passed and approved yet. He further explained there was no meeting last Friday and was one reason this meeting was called because this particular item was something he felt needed to be discussed. He further stated it was done in response to citizens' concerns with business operations. If they wanted to change it before a motion was made on approving the Resolution, now was the time.

Commissioner Taylor said if there were concerns from the community about the hours the Board voted and approved, the Board was very specific.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 11:39 a.m.

Commissioner Taylor continued and said if there were concerns, it should have come back before the Board to discuss, that would have been proper procedure. Mr. Knowles explained power was granted in the Resolution to the Chair, if the Commission did not want that in the Resolution, it should be removed from the Resolution.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt moving forward, if there is a Board approved item, then some modification needs to be made and not one that falls detrimental to the County, then the Board should be made aware.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 11:41 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not get that particular item in her email. In the future, if the Board gives direction, it should come back to the Board before modification were made. She added she did put out before when decisions needed to be made, they should be made by the Board and not by an individual, but she did not get traction on that.

Commissioner Taylor then congratulated Mr. Knowles on the mask lawsuit and Mr. Knowles said it was still going, they filed an appeal.

Commissioner Holt asked to have the Manager to bring back a plan that he felt was feasible for him to do; they needed to make sure jobs were being done and some things could be done from home. She added they would meet Tuesday and was something he could look at in the meantime.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION WITH NO CHANGES, MASK IN PLACE, CURFEW IN PLACE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked a time for eateries to close.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the lobbies close but the drive-thru remained open. Mr. Knowles explained there were a couple of eateries by the interstate that did not have a drive-through and was some of the calls that had been received. Commissioner Holt said the sit-downs wanted to be restricted from the curfew. Commissioner Holt asked how that would affect the curfew. Mr. Knowles said what they did, there is a sentence that law enforcement has the authority to exercise legal discretion in the enforcement of the curfew. He said they were not trying to arrest or fine people, it was more for their protection. He added that the large gatherings were the problem and that was the real purpose of the curfew, not so much every person that might be out.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SHE THOUGHT THEY SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAN AND CLEAR AND FELT IT WORKED ACROSS THE BOARD WITH REGARD TO EATERIES; DRIVE-THROUGHS OPEN TILL 11:00 PM; IN-ROOM DINING CLOSE AT 9:00; CARRY-OUT TILL 11:00; LOBBY STILL CLOSES AT 9:00; EVERYTHING ELSE IN PLACE WITH MASKS AND CURFEW AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-1

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 28, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:55 A.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 1, 2020 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 – appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5- arrived late
Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Chair Viegbesie announced the meeting was being held virtually. He asked for moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant asked to add Item 6a-Approval of Football and Related Activities; Commissioner Morgan asked if they could add Opening Meetings up to the Public for discussion. Dr. Grant asked to put that in General Business as Item 12a.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:04 p.m.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked to pull Item 4 for discussion.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - June 11, 2020-Special Meeting
 - June 12, 2020-Emergency Meeting
 - June 19, 2020-Emergency Meeting
 - June 26, Emergency Meeting
 - July 10, 2020 Emergency Meeting

3. **Approval of a Proclamation for Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week**
4. **~~Gadsden County Public Works Department Warehouse Bid Amount~~**
Pulled for Discussion
5. **Approval of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Memorandum of Understanding**
6. **Ratification of Public Works Mosquito Control Contract**
- 6a. **Approval of Football and Related Activities for Gadsden County Schools**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

- 4 **Gadsden County Public Works Department Warehouse Bid Amount**
Commissioner Holt asked to see bids concerning this and they were not attached (had been attached previously to the Agenda Item). Commissioner Holt stated she did not recall the bids and Chair Viegbesie said he did not request for the quotes to be attached to this item tonight.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:09 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked if this could go on the next Agenda with the quotes. Chair Viegbesie asked if she was pulling the item entirely and she responded she would like to look over the item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PULL ITEM 4 UNTIL THE NEXT BOARD MEETING. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Morgan said all they were doing was approving the contract, not approving the bid. She said that was why she wanted to see what the quotes were.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:10 p.m.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Morgan said looking at the bids would not change the fact they had a contract before them to approve.

Commissioner Holt said when bring an item, you schedule the item and put in all the attachments and there was no evidence they saw the other quotes, that was the way to do checks and balances. Commissioner Morgan asked what the previous quote had to do with the contract with the vendor. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to see quotes.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR YES

COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-1 TO TABLE THIS ITEM.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Chair Viegbesie read aloud the public statement regarding COVID-19.

Robert Tucker, Jr.

My name is Robert Tucker, Jr. I live in district one. Please restore freedom to our county. Lift the state of emergency, lift the curfew, lift the restrictions on small businesses.

Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6a. Approval of Football and Related Activities for Gadsden County Schools

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of football and related activities for Gadsden County Schools.

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

Commissioner Holt said she was not in favor of this item because she was unsure of the safety of the students. She did not think they needed to add to the unsurety of the instability of their health. She said they still have not heard what other schools would do to remedy the safety and what precautions would be taken.

Commissioner Taylor had questions. She thought they would have someone from the Health Department to address questions. Dr. Grant said Dr. Cooksey was on Zoom and was ready to address the issue.

Dr. Cooksey said she had the opportunity to speak with RFM and Gadsden High. Both entities have developed plans that supported all the areas of concern and both elevated the levels of precautions and said what they would do concerning sanitation. They have clearly laid out procedures and plans; and the employee and spectator safety. They know there is no foolproof plan to prevent COVID, but the Health Department will continue to make sure the schools will

keep students as safe as possible and are keeping their best foot forward. She added they did look at football specifically but were looking at other sports as well.

Commissioner Taylor said when she was at a local grocery and parent approached her that was irate and Commissioner Taylor explained they were trying to make sure they had the safety and welfare of students in place. Commissioner Taylor said her vote tonight was for football only tonight with precautionary measures put in place.

Mr. Knowles said he spoke with Dr. Gaffey and they will sign what needed to be signed. The School Board was a different entity.

Commissioner Taylor said if they could secure some type of letter from the Superintendent indicating he would present it to the Board without compromising the liability of the County and she would leave that to the Attorney.

Chair Viegbesie pointed out the motion was to approve football **AND** related activities for Gadsden County. He said he did not know if “related activities” was related to football or other sporting activities. His interpretation was for football and activities related to football.

Commissioner Taylor asked to make sure the motion was clear.

Commissioner Holt said she was not sure what other activity they would have that had more contact than football and a “bunch of people piled on top of each other on the football field because they are going to have to tackle each other” and was why she was against it.

Chair Viegbesie said he had thought and thought about this. He added he had watched some games and was impressed at the way the coaches handled the players and the way they separated the players once they came off the field and made sure the face masks were back on. He said he hoped, if this item passed, the two entities that were requesting their approval would take it seriously.

Commissioner Holt said what type of recording would they be doing, what type of testing would there be and who would be paying for it. She also asked who the schools would be reporting to, them or the Health Department. If there is an outbreak, they need to know about.

Chair Viegbesie said since the Health Department was in communication with the schools and they were the one that gave the Board the update on the numbers, if they could keep a check on the numbers and if they see there is an increase in the infection rate, and the students were in danger, something could be inserted into the Resolution. He said on Thursdays when he, Dr. Grant and the attorney meet to discuss items for the Friday agenda, they could look at the numbers and determine how they would need to revise the Resolution before it comes before the Board for discussion.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the recommendation was from Emergency Management and Chair Viegbesie said it has not gone to them, they were not included in the conversation. Commissioner Hinson asked if they were still in a State of Emergency and Chair Viegbesie yes. Commissioner Hinson said with them being in a State of Emergency, the County Administrator not contact person; Emergency Management should be point of contact and was his reason for

asking the question. Commissioner Hinson said he was not as concerned for the kids; he was more concerned for the grandparents.

Chair Viegbesie said on Thursday, they will get Emergency Management involved.

Commissioner Holt said the incubation time they were looking at was 14 days, when there are teams in and out, they won't have 14 days between the Fridays. As Commissioner Hinson said, it may not show up in children, may show up in their parents and grandparents.

Commissioner Taylor asked for a security update from Col. Collins. He said with respect to the security of the football game, they were in the position they could not provide that security, they were down 8 positions, some due to COVID. Commissioner Taylor said they need to make sure other measures were put in place because they specifically mentioned the Sheriff's Dept. was put in place. She wanted to make sure they had security in place before the games take place.

Commissioner Morgan said all the information they have been discussing was included from the Friday afternoon and they had gotten approval from the Department of Health Director and felt all the assurances were there and with that being said, moved the question.

Commissioner Holt said she had a question about the question.

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Taylor still had floor.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to hear from the schools to make sure security had been taken care of.

Kendall Weeks said (RFM) would 100% have security there. Master Sgt. Roberts said they would also have security. Col. Collins said they would not be available. Chair Viegbesie asked what security would be in place. Master Sgt. Roberts said they would look at another source and their first game was September 18th.

Commissioner Holt asked who would be testing the other team.

Master Sgt. Roberts said he would, along with two other teachers, be checking temperatures.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1

7. Approval of the Proposal for Service with Vertiv Corporation for the Liebert UPS

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a sole-source proposal for service for the County-owned Liebert UPS located at the EOC at the WA Woodham building.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

8. Cooks Landing Road SCOP

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the task order provided by AE Engineering, Inc. for the CEI services for the Cooks Landing Road SCOP project in the amount of \$253,710.50.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

9. Approval of the Contract Extension with Dewberry Engineers, Inc of Engineering Services

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to extend the engineering services contract with Dewberry Engineering, Inc.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

10. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Local Municipalities and Gadsden County School Board

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Interlocal Agreements with the municipalities and the Gadsden County School Board for road maintenance activities.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked if the rates were the same. Dr. Grant explained the rates changed but were the same for everyone.

Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director, appeared remotely to address questions of the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

11. Approval to Accept Resolution No. 2020-45 Extending of the Maturity Date of the \$707,000 Construction Loan with BB&T Bank for Completing the Requirements for USDA

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to accept Resolution No. 2020-045 Extending the maturity date of the \$707,000 Construction Loan with BB&T Bank for completing the requirements for USDA to February 19, 2021.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with the extension but asked if there was no fiscal impact because there would be additional fees for the extension and asked if that would affect the banking.

JoLinda Herring, Bryant Miller Olive, P.A., bond counsel, said there was no fiscal impact, they will be extending the loan at the same rate currently paying but will pay additional interests between August 20th, date that it was expected to mature to the date it is actually paid off. Commissioner Taylor said there would be an impact and asked if she had the amount it would cost and Dr. Grant said he had the number.

Dr. Grant said it was \$675 if paid in 30 days and if paid in 180 days will be \$4,055.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

12. Gadsden County Property Insurance

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented for the Board to review the new asset survey values given from Florida Municipal Insurance Trust. He added it was recommended that the County have 90% coverage with a blanket policy and no deductibles.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 7:12 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said they were underinsured currently and needed to increase the amount.

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

Commissioner Taylor returned at 7:13 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan asked for clarification they were approving the 90% blanket coverage and Chair Viegbesie said yes.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they had factored that out to make sure the \$284,929.00 was worth it, was there enough accidents and incidents that it was causing the County that much more money. Dr. Grant said they were approving at 90% and no deductibles. She asked if they were filing that many claims a year that \$25,000 was a necessity to offset the costs. Dr. Grant explained that question was asked and found that the County was underinsured and this would save money.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1

12a Discussion of opening meetings to Public

Chair Viegbesie said this was added by Commissioner Morgan and was for discussion only.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought they were at the proper time to discuss having their commission meetings where they could be open to the public with precautions, proper social distancing, etc. and asked if the attorney could speak on this.

Mr. Knowles said he had not seen anything that had changed. He said they could re-open the Chamber if it were the Commissioners' will. He did not think there was anything from the Governor that had said they could not and would check on quorum requirements.

Commissioner Morgan said it sounded like legally it was where they could do it and felt was important for them to consider re-establishing the meetings where they were open with proper precautions put in place. He said he could not think of any reason why they could not do this in

a safe manner to provide the public with the maximum opportunity to come and see their local government at work. He hoped they could start researching this and start meeting again in person.

Chair Viegbesie said he had mentioned this to the County Administrator as well.

Chair Viegbesie said to Dr. Grant, if he and the County Attorney could look at the Governor's orders and there was no legal limitation to what they could do and how it could be done maintaining the social distancing, if they could discuss that and bring it before the Board. Dr. Grant asked if he wanted that at the next meeting or the next regular meeting. Chair Viegbesie said they could put that together at the next meeting Agenda if there was enough room on the Agenda for same.

Commissioner Holt said it seemed contradictory to not go back to regular meetings when they told students they could play football.

Commissioner Hinson said the last time he checked, before they give the County Administrator direction, three board members must suggest to him, not one person, that he move forward. He said Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Holt and he said no, so how could they give him direction to do something that the Board was not in favor of.

Chair Viegbesie said this was not presented as an action item, simply for discussion.

Commissioner Holt said the Manager could decide to bring an item if he wanted. They were really contradicting themselves because they are allowing football on Friday nights. She said she would like to see it and would like to debate it and get it over with. She said they could have people come in one at a time and present their item, have discussion and still have social distancing and there are several ways they could do it if that was what they wanted to do.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not trying to look ridiculous. She said Commissioner Holt was "comparing apples to oranges", the Board set a precedence when they said they would go back prior to Phase 1; the football field has not set a precedence. She ended by saying they needed to be consistent so they could get this thing under control.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not want to mess with the community, was thinking before making a decision, they need to make sure they contact Emergency Management first.

Commissioner Morgan said he has listened to the discussion, why is it ok for the public to gather at Walmart, schools, etc. but they could not come together to see local government at work.

Commissioner Holt said they were having zoning issues and public hearing issues and need to address those issues for businesses to move forward.

CLERK OF COURT

13. Updates

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Updates

Dr. Grant said September 10th would be the first Public Hearing at 6:00, and a meeting was scheduled with each commissioner on Thursday and needed to get times from the Commissioners as to when they want to meet.

Commissioner Taylor thought they would have another workshop and was told no, they asked for an individual session.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they needed to meet with the Administrator and then have a workshop and dialogue prior to the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Taylor asked if everyone received the email from the Clerk between the Finance Director and Budget Director of the \$1.8 Million shortfall and was no-one concerned where funds were coming from?

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the concerns and reason for the individual meeting to talk the issues through so they could see where they were individually and collectively. He added he was in agreement with the other Commissioners that they could not transfer the \$1.8 Million from the General Fund balance, would be unwise to do.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed and will continue to say they needed to hire a Budget Director.

Commissioner Taylor asked to set a date for a workshop.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the Board was asking was they should individually meet and if they wanted to add a workshop at 12:00 on the 10th before public hearing it would give them 2 hours. Commissioner Taylor said no, she wanted to workshop on a totally different date.

Commissioner Holt said do it on Tuesday, September 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said for each Commissioner to still meet with the Administrator and everyone agreed.

Commissioner Taylor asked for the actual date when the CARES Act portal will open for people to start submitting their applications. Dr. Grant responded on September 2nd.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:48 p.m.

She asked how they were getting the word out and Dr. Grant said they had put an advertisement in the paper.

Ms. Steele said they will get the site set up tomorrow, have ads going out, will be in the paper, will be radio ads and phone calls.

Commissioner Hinson said personally, in his opinion, they dropped the ball to the citizens in the County.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:50 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said the dates kept changing and it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. If people registered last week, they would have the upper hand. Only a few may know that information and was one of the most embarrassing situations he had ever seen before. He added he would not post anything given by the Board now because he was not sure if will be the true because it cannot be found on the website.

Commissioner Holt said he ran into same problem she ran into. They need to have Integrity Group at the meeting on Friday. She also asked why it was not on the website.

She said they do not have broadband in communities and the libraries are closed. She said to get with Integrity and get the information from them.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not want to get into the Manager's job but they need to come up with one solution to get the word out. She said they were waiting for the additional funds to come in and her understanding, the last time they made approval on it, they had only received a quarter of the funding they were to receive. She asked if the additional funds had arrived yet and Dr. Grant said no. She asked if that was being explained to the citizens or were they moving forward the distribution based on what they had or where they waiting until all the funds were in and then it would be distributed. Dr. Grant said based on what they have. Commissioner Taylor asked if that meant they would start distributing the money immediately based on what had been received and Dr. Grant said yes, that was all they had to work with. She asked what the Board's direction was on that. Chair Viegbesie said he thought that was discussed the last time it was said and he raised the fact that currently they did not have the 75% of the \$7.9 Million. He said there was a plea going out to the Governor's Office for him to release the 75%. He said other fiscally stressed counties were in the same predicament. Commissioner Taylor said she believed they said they would notify those that were submitting applications that the distribution would occur once all the money had been received by the County. She added that was what was said and maybe the Deputy Clerk could check on that.

She said the statue that was taken down, it was mentioned that it be donated to the Eastern Cemetery and asked if they could look at that and make a decision on where it will go on an Agendaed item. Dr. Grant said the cemetery was out because it belonged to the City. Commissioner Taylor said they could ask the City about it going there.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:04 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie and he, the Administrator, City Mayor and City Manager have met with regards to that possibility and felt there was a possibility that would not materialize. They were still working on it.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the City would send an official letter stating it could not go there.

She asked about the bike trail in Havana and what was approved. She asked Chair Viegbesie, as the CRTPA representative, if they could look at another trail. Chair Viegbesie said trails were being constructed and one was coming into Havana and one he pushing to come through Quincy but that money for the Florida (inaudible) Trail, the money was gone for good. Commissioner Taylor asked the possibility of another. Chair Viegbesie said the one from Tallahassee to Havana and around Havana is an option; the one he is pushing is from Tallahassee through Quincy down to Chattahoochee; but did not know the project year. She asked the Administrator to get a write-up so they would know what was going through Havana.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:05 p.m.

She said she spoke with the Property Appraiser and they were looking to erect a shield between them and the customers. When the proposal was put in for \$9,000, he was not taking into consideration the Tax Collector's side and was now looking at a request for \$19,000. She thought there was some funding in the CARES Act money that they put aside an amount under the Administrator and he could look within his coffers to see if they could satisfy that. She thought he was trying to get the same contractor that did some renovations some time back to put a glass structure up so both sides would match.

Chair Viegbesie asked if that was something the County could look at working with Facilities to get workers to build to not incur an additional fiscal expense. Commissioner Taylor said to talk with the Property Appraiser because whomever the contractor was that started, they want to match both sides and was told could do it to the tune of \$19,000.

She asked if they could re-visit the clause in the Emergency Resolution with giving the Chair authority to speak for the Board since the Board was meeting on Fridays. She wanted the Board to vote on that at this or the next meeting as it needed to be removed.

Chair Viegbesie asked if it was an Ordinance with regards to the item on the emergency empowerment of whomever the Chair was. Mr. Knowles said not an Ordinance, they added a clause to the Resolution. He thought the best way to do it was when they revisit it on Friday and make a motion to remove it at that time with other changes that may be made.

Commissioner Taylor asked about Emergency Management; that should have been looked at and they should have been a part of their meetings.

She asked about the bid for Motorola and Broadband and was informed the bid closes on Thursday.

Commissioner Taylor said when they submitted the bids, the specs were written on \$1.7 Million allocation and they have since reduced that to \$1 Million. She guaranteed they would have to go back and look at that item because that was not enough money in the line item to cover what they were asking for per their specs. She added she did not do change orders so it would be interesting.

She asked what happened with interviews for the County Administrator; how did the ball get dropped on advertising? Dr. Grant said he failed to follow through to make sure it was advertised.

Chair Viegbesie said the Administrator has staff for years that has made sure that agendas were properly in place, meetings properly advertised so he was not one; he was taking the responsibility but someone who's that duty was in their job description that dropped the ball. That person should be one that should be actually dealing with the responsibility of this sign of incompetence. He said he was very, very disappointed. If the job description is now put under someone that is not doing it and can't do it, they need to re-route the job description so situations like this will not happen again.

Commissioner Taylor said she had a problem with the date set, felt it was too far; they need something done now. She said there were too many issues and concerns coming up and they need someone in the leadership position that can reduce the issues. She was concerned and hoped they could look at a date sooner. She said she was told the reason it was pushed back that far was because it must be advertised in local papers. She thought it just had to be advertised, did it have to go through local newspaper? Was there something in the Statutes that required them to go through local newspapers?

Mr. Knowles said he had not looked specifically at that, his concern was if it had not been advertised, being an issue of such great importance to the County, the citizens would not be able to know when the interviews were taking place and the reasoning behind that was everyone does not have a computer, do not go to City Hall, were not on-line and the thought was to give as much notice as possible for something so important. He felt that was a prudent path forward.

Commissioner Taylor said stability was needed, the longer they wait, more situations they will have like such. She said they just asked for a workshop on the 8th and the Chair asked that the advertisement be put out so that meeting was publicized. If they could have a workshop put out on the 1st being publicized by 8th, why couldn't they do likewise with the interviews; why wait until the 16th and 17th? There is a state of emergency and wanted to see if the dates could be moved up.

Chair Viegbesie said before the days were announced, he asked if they had contacted the candidates to see if those dates worked and was told yes. To change that would look "wishy-washy" and he did not want to look that way.

Tele-commuting

She said she looked at a write-up that was sent regarding having employees working from home. according to write-up, approval has to be approved between the BOCC and the employee. If that is the case, the procedure in place now was not constitutional where the interim Administrator is making decisions. She asked to be corrected if she was wrong. Mr. Knowles said that was not the correct interpretation. Commissioner Taylor asked that he elaborate. Mr. Knowles read the statement aloud. There was discussion between Mr. Knowles and Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Taylor said it was clear on what it said. She said she was trying to help a 12-year employee that wanted to help her third-grade child that was taking virtual that submitted a proposal to work from home that worked in a department that gets little to no traffic and was denied. There was further conversation regarding this matter. Commissioner Taylor said she made a request last week to work with these people, instead the request was pushed aside and this person received the brunt of it.

Personal Service

The young man that meets the public at the Security desk had a situation today that she felt needed to be looked at closer. She said it was important how they treat the public and do their due diligence to make sure customer service is top at all times. They (public) pays the salary through tax dollars. She said a lot was going on and they need a manager.

Commissioner Hinson said this was the first time ever going live doing interviews, they had never had live workshops, only board meetings and was not sure how it became an issue. In his opinion, if they put it in the Democrat, it was up to the Board to make decisions, it is legal to put in the Democrat tomorrow and could interview on Monday, Tuesday and they would meet the law. He said he was not trying to do underhanded stuff as staff, was trying to follow the law and get accurate information out to the community. As a Board, they only needed two other votes, they could put it in the table and still have a meeting next Monday.

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said even in FAC training, the County Administrator is the one that has the power to put things on the Agenda for discussion. He said BOCC got rid of HR preliminary interviews, they asked for all applicants and their information and had to deal with it.

Public Works

Commissioner Hinson said they used to work 4-day work weeks and now are working 5-day work weeks. He felt they were doing more when they had 10-hour work days because they had to get the big tractors and drive to Chattahoochee and then drive to Concord and by the time they get there, they spend their time driving. He felt they needed to go back to 4-day work weeks again. Grass in Salem was almost as tall as a 6-foot man. It was something to consider, they tried it and it did not work.

Chair Viegbesie said not for a response, it was a suggestion.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they needed a potential shade meeting on two active cases; dates given was September 25th and 28th and had not gotten a time yet.

He said if they looked at the Policy and Procedure for the tele-commuting and eligibility requirements for program, it stated "A request by an employee to participate in the program must be evaluated and approved by the employee's Department Director and the County Administrator, to ensure the request meets the eligibility criteria and that the work to be performed is suitable for telecommuting." He wanted to clear that up and was not given the chance to before.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they could schedule a shade meeting prior to or following a regular meeting if possible, he was not available on the dates given out.

Football

He said the also approved Football and how would the games impact the current curfew? Mr. Knowles said the plan was to get together tomorrow, update the Resolution and incorporate some things from FHSA, compile that into the Resolution and they would redo it on Friday. As to the curfew, since they did not bring the Resolution as an action item today, they will address it at the meeting on Friday and address it in the new Resolution.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled in their discussion last Friday, this came up and his take from the conversation was, the school should look at starting the game earlier so they could dismiss before 9:00 p.m. and Commissioner Holt mentioned it would be hard because they would want to celebrate and parents will want to chit-chat. Commissioner Morgan said that being the case, they need to have a clear conversation with Munroe and Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt said their security will need to get them out and on the road on time to make curfew.

Mr. Knowles asked about the shade meeting and getting it scheduled with opposing counsel. Commissioner Holt asked if there was a problem with having the shade meeting on the 15th. Mr. Knowles said the opposing lawyer was not available on then. He said he would get different dates and get back with the Commissioners.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said if possible, could they have the meetings after 3:30 or 4:00, he was no longer able to make 10:00 a.m. meetings. Chair Viegbesie said by 5:00, the County shuts down and they have to have the Resolution in effect before the end of the work day on the seventh day. Commissioner Hinson said he would try to make it work around 12:00 and Chair Viegbesie said they would take 12:00 into consideration.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan had nothing to report.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she was worried; they had never been without an Assistant Manager and Manager at same time and she was concerned about it. She added she would make a motion every meeting until they get help. They were in a desperate situation and they did not have stability.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADEA MOTION TO HIRE ED DIXON AS THE MANAGER AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said it was not that he did not respect the name Commissioner Holt gave, he believed in going through the process first.

Commissioner Holt said that great; Dr. Grant was dealing with what he was given and has taken that task on. Commissioner Holt said another gentleman that does not want anyone from the County back on his property ever again. She said that was just some of the things that were coming up.

CARES Act

She said they have to decide on what they can do with the \$1.9 Million. They have the hospital, broadband, businesses, and the individual grants, do they chip it up into pieces or wait until the rest of the money comes in. They need to have Integrity tell tomorrow when they will get the rest of the money. Citizens need to have their questions answered.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood Gadsden has already purchased PSA radio ads and they were running.

Ms. Steele said they currently have two PSA's running.

Commissioner Hinson said if not have posed that question, they would not know because if you look at the website, it still did not show anything and was embarrassing. He added that some people has shut down their businesses because of this.

Commissioner Holt said thank you and guaranteed that she had no friends that was trying to get money.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

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

Chair Viegbesie said to please let it be known, there are 3 branches of government; the five Commissioners are the policy-making body; staff was under the leadership of the right now Interim Administrator that is the Executive Branch of the County Government; as policy-makers, if they, as policy makers, do not tell the Executive Branch what to do, how to do, who to do for, then maybe the government would run a little smoother than it is. If they give their point of view rather than calling the office telling staff what to do, that could be very frustrating and marginalization of staff's relevance to what they were hired to do. He added if they really wanted to have harmony in their government, they need to know their role and stay in their lane.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 1, 2020-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:13 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Chair

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2020
AT 12:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2 - ABSENT**
 Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
 Eric Hinson, District 1 - ABSENT
 Gene Morgan, District 3 - appeared remotely
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5
 Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 12:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She asked that everyone bow their heads in a moment of silence and then asked everyone to stand and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Presentation by The Integrity Group, Inc.**
Fredricka Hamilton, Integrity Group, appeared before the Board to give update. She said as of today, the Gadsden County CARES Portal had 550 registered users, 67 submitted business applications, 73 submitted resident applications as well as the paper applications totaled 10; 6 resident applications and 4 small business applications. She said the CARES applications would be accepted until November 28, 2020 or until funds were exhausted. She stated the first quarterly report was due September 30, 2020. Additional, COVID-19 expenditures that have been reviewed and validated by her include:

Facilities	\$ 978.27
EMS	2,314.69
BOCC	<u>24,296.97</u>
TOTAL	\$27,589.93

She said additionally, the Small Business Assistance Program and Resident Assistance Program applications and flyers were available at the rear of the building. She said there were some citizens that applied on-line and were unable to provide their documents through the portal so they were bringing their documentation in.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the County or Integrity was to follow-up with the funding agency for the 75% balance that was due to the County. Ms. Hamilton said she and Dr. Grant have reached out to FDEM point of contact and Dr. Grant might want to expound on the answer.

Dr. Grant said he has been reaching out to the department at least once a week for a status and they are awaiting word from the Governor, but everything was ready to go as soon as they receive the go-ahead.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the portal and said she was a little dismayed with it. According to one business owner, it seems to be a cut and paste from another County because it was asking for documentation on the portal from a different county and there seems to be glitches.

She said she also spoke with someone from the Chamber of Commerce and he indicated that citizens were having difficulty qualifying. She asked if Ms. Hamilton was running into that. She said she asked for a list of items that citizens were having difficulty with.

Ms. Hamilton said to-date, she had not had anyone inform her of any issues.

Dr. Grant said they may be confused with the SHIP Program; he knew there was questions from landlords that they were having some problems.

Commissioner Taylor said to cut her out and let Ms. Hamilton meet with Rob Nixon.

Vice-Chair Holt asked as far as getting the information out, what kind of response have they been getting. Ms. Hamilton said most said they heard by word of mouth. Several of Commissioner Hinson's constituents said they heard it from him. Commissioner Holt asked if it was linked to the County website. Ms. Hamilton said if not, it would be great if it did.

Vice Chair Holt said there were several projects that would not work without the 75%, it was too much money. She said they needed to get information out that stated they had not received all of the funds so could not give out money UNTIL the rest was received. She said it needed to be marketed a little better and asked about radio time and if they had done anything with it and Dr. Grant said yes. Vice Chair Holt asked if Ms. Steele was on and she was. Vice Chair Holt asked if anything was going out on 96.1 and Ms. Steele said she sent the marketing plan to them. There were no marketing slots available for today and Commissioner Holt asked when they would run. Ms. Steele said they were getting everything together. She added that citizens could go to the County website and be able to apply. Ms. Hamilton said her number was 850-875-8664 and questions can be left on the portal.

Commissioner Taylor said to-date 550 had registered; Ms. Hamilton said there were 67 business applications; resident applications 73 and 10 paper applications. Commissioner Taylor asked if those were ready for funding and Ms. Hamilton said for processing.

Vice-Chair Holt said they set aside money in the CARES Act money for marketing and asked if was spent. He replied he did not know.

Vice Chair Holt said it was a first come, first serve basis and money could be gone soon.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Commissioner Taylor read aloud the COVID-19 statement for Vice Chair Holt.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-047

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor said she had someone to call and said they read a comment about the way they had motioned restaurant hours at their last meeting and they said the Mom & Pop restaurants were not being considered in the motion. It was also said that it seemed Commissioner Taylor did not have any loyalty or sympathy towards the Mom and Pop businesses, particularly the Havana Hobbit. She did go speak with them the past week to clarify and wanted to clarify today with regards to that portion that talked about the hours for restaurants. She said she knew they talked about drive-thrus having extended hours and they said Waffle House could continue to serve food but could not serve in-house after 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Knowles read from the Resolution.

“drive-thrus are permitted until 11 :00 PM; lobby service allowed until 9:00 PM; carry-out and takeout shall be permitted until 11 :00 PM. Lobby service and in-person dining has to end at 9:00PM. And they have to maintain the ten (10) person restriction.”

He said nothing was specifically mentioned about Waffle House in the Resolution.

Commissioner Taylor asked they make the Resolution a little clearer because some of the Mom and Pops seem to feel since she mentioned a chain name when she was speaking and not to be exclusive to some of the named chains. She said she was trying to say to some of the restaurants that it was the law they close at 9:00 but could continue to provide carry-out up until 11:00 p.m. and did not have to be a national chain if this falls as part of their business. She asked the Vice-Chair to get staff to reach out to the restaurants and let them know they could continue to serve past 9:00 p.m. if they chose to do so, it just had to be carry-out.

Mr. Knowles said he could add more clarity to the Resolution. Commissioner Taylor said they did not want anyone to feel excluded.

Commissioner Morgan said one way to solve the problem was to end the curfew or change it to 12 midnight to 5 am.

He added he was ready to make a motion when the Board was ready.

Mr. Knowles went over the changes to the Resolution.

Mr. Knowles read aloud the paragraph concerning football games and said they would incorporate the documents that were provided by the high schools and Florida Athletic Association. He said also, the Chair, when they spoke yesterday, wanted the Emergency Management Director or his designee to coordinate with Dr. Grant to provide the Board with information regarding COVID-19 so if there is a spike or a lot of kids get sick, it would need to be reported to the Board each Friday. He added that was contingent on the Board approving in its current form.

Vice Chair Holt asked he read aloud the paragraph concerning football games.

“Football games and related activities including, but not specifically limited to: (1) practice; (2) walk-throughs; (3) film sessions; and (4) concessions at football games shall be permitted, provided such games and related activities adhere to COVID-19 mitigation procedures provided to the Board by the FHSAA, Gadsden County Schools, the Florida Department of Health and Robert F. Munroe Day School. These documents are attached hereto and incorporated as though fully set forth herein as Exhibit "A".

All football games and related activities must be completed in sufficient time and at a sufficient hour to permit all participants to adhere to the curfew requirements as set forth herein. This section shall only apply to games and football related activities which takes place while this Resolution is in effect and such permission shall terminate unless this section is specifically reauthorized by the Board.

Nothing in this section shall be construed as a blanket approval of other sports or other large gatherings. The Gadsden County Emergency Management Director (or his designee) shall coordinate with the County Administrator to provide the Board with information regarding COVID-19 infection rates within the County.”

Mr. Knowles said Munroe and Gadsden had similar guidelines but they were still somewhat different.

Master Sargent Roberts said masks on the sidelines, additional shields on their face; Vice Chair Holt asked about security and he said they have hired security for home and away games.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION PRESENTED WITH THE CHANGE OF ELIMINATING THE MANDATORY MASKS AND CHANGE IT TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND AND ELIMINATE THE CURFEW. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION WITH ADDED CHANGES OF RESTAURANT LANGUAGE BEING CLEARER SO ALL RESTAURANTS WILL BE INCLUDED AND VICE CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Vice Chair Holt stated she was not in favor of the football item but was in favor of the mandatory masks.

VICE CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 4, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

Vice Chair Holt asked that they address the Talquin Electric annual meeting. Dr. Grant explained it would be drive-thru in cars.

Commissioner Taylor acknowledged Mr. Ron Green, who was in attendance and had won the election to take her position.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:49 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:


NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A FY 2020/2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP OF
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 AT 4:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
 Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
 Sherrie Taylor, District 5– arrived at 4:17 pm
 Eric Hinson, District 1 - appeared remotely
 Jeff Price, Sr. Management Budget Analyst
 Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

These meetings are being held virtually in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order No. 20-69 as extended by Executive Order No. 20-179.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

 At 4:03 Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the workshop asked everyone to bow their heads in prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

Public comment of the meeting should be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in order to allow sufficient time for provisions to the Gadsden County Commission prior to the meeting. Any comments submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

None were had

General Business

1. Overview

(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Jeff Price, Sr. Management & Budget Analyst)


Dr. Grant introduced the above item and asked Mr. Price to give an overview.

Mr. Price gave an overview:

He stated page 1 was revenues and it was a tough year. The County lost revenues but not as bad as was thought. He said page 2 and 3 changed the most, they were the departmental budgets and had a 3% cut across the board. Page 4 were changes based on discussions at the last budget meeting. He said there were new positions being added to the staff, a 3% across the board, reduction for the BOCC departments and he was looking for sources of revenue for projects coming up and provided a 2% raise for staff. He stated page 5 was the overall budget for the entire County and all departments. He then said he was open to questions.


2. Board Discussion

(Board of County Commissioners)

 Commissioner Morgan said he did not get the information in time to review it. He asked how many positions were being added. Mr. Price answered eight. Commissioner Morgan confirmed adding 8 positions, giving a 2% pay raise and taking a 3% cut across the board. Mr. Price said that was correct.


Chair Viegbesie asked what about the Constitutionals. Commissioner Morgan said those particular budgets were their own and did not matter to this budget meeting. He said he did not understand how more people would be hired and raises given when there would be a 3% cut across the board. He had a rundown list but said he would listen for now.


Chair Viegbesie confirmed the positions being added were; 3- Public Works, 1- IT Tech, 1- Custodian, 2- Parks and Rec, 1- Fiscal Tech, 1- Elders Affairs Coordinator and Mr. Price agreed.

 Commissioner Morgan asked if the Board was adding 8 staff or deleting some positions and replacing them with different positions. Mr. Price answered adding new positions.


Chair Viegbesie asked if the Budget was balanced with all the changes made and Mr. Price answered yes.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there would be any borrowing from the General Fund to balance the budget and Mr. Price said no.

 Chair Viegbesie asked what was left in the General Fund. Mr. Price said \$3.2 Million that was discussed at the last meeting.

 Commissioner Holt asked what the shortage was of \$1.8 Million discussed last week in an email from the Clerk and how was it filled. Mr. Price answered during individual meetings it was taken down to \$1.3 Million and with across the board cut of 3% and on the major projects, they were able to locate other revenue sources.

Commissioner Holt asked what changed. Mr. Price said the 3% cut across the board and large projects like Cell towers, Pat Thomas Park, Concord Fire Dept, Havana EMS, Massey Building were looking for other funding sources. Commissioner Holt asked if they were changed, where were the numbers showing that.


 Commissioner Holt asked what was happening with Pat Thomas Park and Mr. Price said it would be funded by FEMA, Concord Fire Department \$50,000 was from HUD as well as HUD funding for Havana EMS, and the Massey Building would have an insurance reimbursement.

Commissioner Holt said the Massey Building insurance was \$67,000 and that was not enough to fix it.

Mr. Price said there were other insurance proceeds that would be available for the Massey Building.


Chair Viegbesie asked if the County had an umbrella policy and if that was why it could use money from other facility claims to fix any facility the County owned.

Attorney Knowles stated he remembered Mr. Meeks said it was okay. Mr. Knowles thought it should be used for what it was given for and thought the insurance company gave a different opinion.

 Dr. Grant asked Mr. Meeks to explain.

Mr. Meeks said he did not have a letter but had spoken to Pat Thomas Insurance and they said it was okay to spend the money anywhere as long as the original claim was fixed because they would not reinsure again for that amount.


Commissioner Holt told Mr. Meeks he needed a letter stating that from the insurance company and Mr. Meeks stated he would get that and the Massy Building had a proposal to fix damage and it was less than \$150,000 and Commissioner Holt said it should be.

 Commissioner Holt told Mr. Price the Board needed to see the items with numbers and where it was taken from. She asked how \$1.3 Million went to \$0.

Mr. Price said major projects found other sources of revenue, 3% cut across the board and the cell tower number were changing, it was \$450,000 at the last meeting and the bid was open for just over \$200,000 and it may not need to be financed after all.

Commissioner Holt spoke to Dr. Grant and said with the 3% decrease and 2% raise with no numbers being provided was concerning and asked about the Constitutionals, and why they did not have an across the board cut.


Dr. Grant said they had just decided not to. He said there were items and amounts taken out and they were; Pat Thomas Park was \$250,000, Cell Towers was \$450,000, Havana EMS was \$200,000, Concord Fire Department was \$150,000, Massey Building \$200,000 and the 3% cut was \$938,000.

 Commissioner Holt asked if the positions at Public Works and in IT were cut and Dr. Grant said no, they were not cut. Commissioner Holt asked what the 2% raise would cost. Commissioner Morgan answered the raise would be \$162,000.

Commissioner Holt asked what the positions up top were and asked if the Manager and Grant Writer positions were still in the budget. Commissioner Morgan asked if the Elders Affairs Coordinator and Grant Writer were still in the Budget and Dr. Grant said yes.


Commissioner Morgan asked if the Quincy Shuttle was still funded for \$30,000 and Mr. Price said yes it was. Commissioner Morgan asked how much the City of Quincy was paying. Mr. Price answered none at the moment.

Morgan asked if the Summer Youth Program was getting \$100,000 and Mr. Price answered minus the 3%, yes.


 Commissioner Morgan said a 3% cut and giving away \$30,000 for a shuttle service makes no sense and Quincy should pay 50% of the shuttle and he suggested to take that approach and that was how he would put it in the Budget.


Chair Viegbesie said that was a good point. The Board had talked about the shuttle at the workshops and how no municipalities paid anything towards the shuttle. He stated the County should write a letter to the City of Quincy telling them the County needed help with the burden of the Shuttle.


Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Price for the numbers from Public Works. Mr. Price said it was approximately \$400,000 for the eight extra staff and Commissioner Holt asked for the information to be listed in the columns with a total. She wanted the list before the next meeting.

 Commissioner Holt said if she had to look at anything else, the County needed roads cleaned up. She asked about page 2 where it said "Hospital staff not needed" and she asked why. Mr. Price said it was grounds maintenance the County did not have to do as much with the new lease. Commissioner Holt again asked for notes to the side.

Commissioner Holt, concerning Extension Services, asked Dr. Grant why the reduction and he stated there would be no renting next door anymore. Commissioner Holt asked for clarity on the Extension Services so they would not have to scramble to get them back if they were needed. She asked about Veterans Services being down by \$12,579, and Dr. Grant said two part time drivers went to one full time. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make sure the Veterans were getting to the doctor.


 Commissioner Holt stated the Insurance Company said the County had to fix buildings or they would not insure them and she thought the contract needed to be put out for bid.

 Commissioner Hinson said giving an illusion created confusion, saying cutting the budget by 2% but 2020 to 2021 the County Building was increased by \$303,000 along with other things. He further stated the County did need some staff. If the BOCC got the variance straight first, then the Budget could be talked about, and staff may be able to get a 5% raise and they deserved it.

 Chair Viegbesie asked to put in the variance, what the variance reflected as to a plus or minus to give a better picture of whether or not there was a decrease in the overall estimated budget for FY 2020/2021. He asked that be provided with the numbers for the next meeting. He asked, concerning new staff, if the \$47,000 was for the same custodian as on page 4 and Dr. Grant said it would be. Chair Viegbesie continued asking if the two Parks and Recreation staff and the \$274,362 were for the same staff listed on page 4 along with the retirement payment and Mr. Price answered, yes. Chair Viegbesie stated page 4 was reflected on page 2 and asked for it to be in better form.

Commissioner Hinson thought the BOCC should look at every department because \$13,000 was taken from Jail Maintenance and he asked why money was taken from


the jail when the most COVID cases were in the jail. He thought the Board should be going column by column and talking about each of them.


 Commissioner Holt also wanted definitions in columns. She asked for the increase to County Buildings be listed and emailed to the Commissioners early. She asked if there were any projections as what could be done to make things run better, like the Cell Tower on page 2 and 4 being the same. Mr. Price answered, in part. He said since he thought the County was financing a tower there was a \$62,000 payment that was included in the \$297,000 but that may change. Commissioner Holt asked for clarity on the \$297,000. Chair Viegbesie asked if the Cell Tower amount was the change order. Dr. Grant said no, the figure Commissioner Holt was talking about was the figure that was already being paid plus if the BOCC had taken the Motorola bid for \$62,000, it would have made the amount shown.

Chair Viegbesie said putting the \$450,000 cell tower as FY20/21 Budget as it was being paid in one lump sum and actually, it would be \$62,000 annually and needed to be added. He said it was not paid in one fiscal year. He said the bid was open for the Cell Towers.

Commissioner Holt asked how many towers.
Dr. Grant stated it was 3 towers.
Commissioner Holt asked how many towers did the \$297,000 represent.


Mr. Meeks said leases on the towers were \$35,000 per year, plus a payment for equipment purchased as well as the new tower and dispatch equipment that had been financed and he thought it was around \$155,000. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Meeks for a document showing the numbers so if projects were increased or decreased, the BOCC could have clarity and Mr. Meeks said he would get that together.

 Commissioner Morgan asked if the completion of the communication system was included in the budget.
Dr. Grant said yes, it was included as if it was going to be financed, but what was not included was if it had to be purchased.

 Commissioner Holt asked how many staff were in Parks and Rec right now.
Dr. Grant answered two and one volunteer and they wanted to hire two more.

Commissioner Holt stated Medicaid was something to lobby to get the County's portion down. She asked what the New Staff under the Administrator was for and Dr. Grant answered for the Elders Affairs Coordinator.


Commissioner Hinson said he thought the board wanted to increase the County Administrator salary. He stated Havana just gave their City Administrator a 5-10% raise and he made close to \$100,000 now and the County Administrator was close to that but his position was the most intense in the County. He thought the increase was for the County Administrator. He said the County needed to be equivalent to counties our size. He said there was no reason the County Administrator was making less than the City Administrator. He further stated the Board should take care of Public Works and the County Administrator.

 Chair Viegbesie said the Board had agreed to increase the County Administrator's salary to \$125,000. He asked Mr. Price the County Administrator and Assistant Administrator's salary w/o benefits.

Mr. Price said, from memory, the County Administrator was \$125,000 and the Assistant was \$90,000.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not want to keep losing the County Administrator or the Assistant. He stated the last County Administrator took a job as Assistant County Administrator and he made more as an assistant somewhere else than he did as the Administrator in Gadsden County. He suggested to look at other counties and pay more because there was more responsibility with COVID-19 and the Hurricanes.

Chair Viegbesie said this County's Budget was a lot less than it was where the previous Administrator went, but he agreed the pay should be comparable. He further stated the Commissioners need to treat the County Administrator like they were valuable and the Commissioners wanted to retain them. He said monetary compensation was good but relationship harmony was better for retention.

 Commissioner Taylor said she compared what was said last time and what was presented. She stated the Commission agreed the B&G Club would not be funded this fiscal year and the Board agreed to set that money aside because they were unsure if there would be an after-school program. She stated at this time, there should be no Elder Affairs Coordinator, a separate and new department for the PIO was not necessary at this time, she asked to hold Special Projects at bay until after COVID. She could not understand \$274,000 for a retirement and new staff and thought the County did not need two Parks and Rec people at this time. She asked if the Fiscal Tech was Dr. Grant's employee and in the Budget Department and Dr. Grant said yes. Commissioner Taylor said the Cell Towers were needed for communication. She asked why so much (\$358,000) to move to a different location for the Ambulance and an Attorney increase of \$19,000. She asked if it could be held off until the County had a rebound. She suggested to do a 7% cut with no raises. She suggested instead to come back in January and give a 3% increase. She asked if the CRA in Quincy was being funded for 20/21 and asked if the Board could do that because the money was earmarked and set aside.

Commissioner Morgan said the County was a passthrough for the CRA money.

Mr. Price said on page 1, the parentheses meant there was a reduction in what was received.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Price if he said the Budget was balanced with no reserve and Mr. Price said correct. He stated there was \$3.2 Million in Reserve. She wanted to see it higher because eventually the revenue would decline and the expenses would out-grow the General Revenue. She thought there were meetings after Board Meetings because the B&G Club money was back in the Budget when it was stated at the last meeting it would not be. She further stated the law firm should go back to its original baseline, with no raise in the first year. Concerning Planning and Zoning, she asked why they needed \$69,000 for Professional Services and Land Development.


 Commissioner Morgan said each Commissioner had an opportunity to have an individual meeting with the County Administrator, he asked if all 5 Commissioners did.


Commissioner Morgan did, Commissioner Taylor did not and Chair Viegbesie said he did as well. Regarding the Administrator and Assistant Administrator salary, he recommended to make a pay scale range for both positions because it depended on the experience the Board was asking people in those positions to come in with, and there was typically a multi-year contract and there were problems with that. He further stated this would be a way for them to grow into the salary and it was how to retain good quality employees as well as a way to get out of the agreement if the County did not have the person who was producing at the level needed.

Commissioner Hinson said he agreed with Commissioner Morgan. He asked why there was an EMS location move for \$358,510, he asked why and where they were moving and where the money came from.

Dr. Grant said the EMS was transitioning to the Health Department portion where there was a Doctor Office and a Dentist, and EMS needed to refurbish to an EMS Center.

Commissioner Hinson said he was big on EMS and lived in Havana. He said not everyone could wait on EMS. He asked to find another space for a trailer for EMS. He stated it would be hard to bring EMS back if they got rid of it. He said District 1 and 2 were an aging community and that was why he voted for 4 ambulances. He said the Board needed to get \$60,000 to get a trailer or build on a spot for \$100,000. He could not accept moving the EMS.

 Chair Viegbesie said Havana EMS was the location that Havana was planning on building the new police department and they had asked for some money for that and stated the move was temporary.

 Commissioner Taylor stated the previous Assistant County Administrator, Arthur Lawson was head of HR and Assistant County Administrator. She further stated it was not a good time to bring in an Assistant County Administrator or County Administrator. She said new staff had been added and they could help the County Administrator. She asked about the Health Department and for EMS to go to the Health Department and did not know which meeting the EMS move was decided. Dr. Grant answered it was before he started. She said she did not remember discussing the EMS move. She said she needed to know what was going on in Havana if they were asking to get money. She asked Dr. Grant if he received a request from Havana City Council and if they were in the Budget.

Dr. Grant said yes, but the County was looking for other funding.


Chair Viegbesie said in regards to moving EMS to the County Health Building, it came after Hurricane Michael destroyed the EMS building.


Commissioner Taylor said that was over 2 years ago and they had since moved to the hospital. Dr. Grant said they were partly there. Commissioner Taylor said the County could not afford to move them and the County needed EMS up and running now. She asked how long it would be. She stated she needed a conversation with Havana and requested a letter from Havana with the plans of the Police Department and EMS in the same building and the timeline and also if they would keep EMS nearby the location.


 Chair Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant to get that letter from Havana.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought other Commissioners talked to some people from the town of Havana. He said he had not been told about moving the EMS. He said the move would paralyze Havana. He asked again to buy a spot in Havana and build for EMS. He said he did not want a letter, he wanted to take care of citizens. He stated the County was spending \$558,000 and would not own anything.

Chair Viegbesie said the money was in the budget. He said Commissioner Hinson's suggestions would be a path. He asked the County Administrator to look into Commissioner Hinson's suggestions and said as long as it was in the Budget it could be used.

 Commissioner Taylor said Commissioner Hinson made a powerful point. She said the County owned the building EMS was moving into and it was sad she had to go through Chair Viegbesie to ask Dr. Grant, in order to get anywhere when she had just as much power as anyone around the dais as far as the Commission. She stated giving the County Administrator the power would not get the County communication services online.

 Commissioner Holt said the people listening had no idea what they were talking about and asked Chair Viegbesie to tell the people listening what was going on.

 Chair Viegbesie said the EMS Building in Havana had a mobile home and it was falling apart, there was 1 bed, 1 room, and 1 little bathroom which was not being used by the workers. They were asking for an upgrade. He said Havana reached out to the previous County Administrator wanting an Intergovernmental agreement to give the County a space for EMS. He further stated Dr. Grant was talking about the EMS in Quincy by the Hospital. He stressed the fact that Havana EMS was not moving and the Board was working on improving EMS in all of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Taylor said she need clarification and stated the location was incorrect. She said it was not the Jesse Furlow Building, it was the County Health Department.

Chair Viegbesie suggested to drive by the Hospital, and that was where EMS was. He said one part was shared with the Health Department and the other part was EMS.

 Commissioner Holt asked if there was funding for it.

Dr. Grant said it was taken out because they found a different funding source.

Commissioner Holt said the County could not do without an Assistant Manager and said it was a must. She also said the County needed a PIO to get information out. She stated someone had to track every penny and turn things in on time. She thought the BOCC may need another Budget Workshop but was not sure there would be time. She said the County needed an Elderly Affairs Coordinator to make sure elders had what they needed.

 Dr. Viegbesie asked when the First Public Hearing was and Dr. Grant said September 10, 2020.

Commissioner Holt said the EMS brought the issue to the board.

Commissioner Taylor said it was bought to the Board and then EMS moved to the Hospital. With regards to the PIO, she was saying do not make a new department and that position should be under the County Administrator. She agreed the Grant Writer was needed but the Assistant Director position was empty for over a year and thought maybe someone could multitask. She did not want another Workshop and did not think there was a need for Elders Affairs coordinator for now, maybe later.

 Chair Viegbesie said the first Public Budget Hearing was Thursday September 10th and the second would be September 21st.

Commissioner Holt asked if a line item was not due, could it be pulled out concerning organizations, even if they were separate from the County, organizations could not draw from them until the Board released them.

Dr. Viegbesie said he thought the Board decided it would be set aside in case there was a need for them to get the funding.

Commissioner Taylor said it should go into the Reserve and stay there.

Adjourn

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBEISE, PH.D., Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON SEPTEMBER
10, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1 – appeared remotely

Staff: Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Jeff Price, Sr. Management Budget Analyst
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

These meetings are being held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-69 as extended by Executive Order No. 20-179.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

At 6:06 pm, with a quorum present, Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for heads to be bowed in silent prayer followed by leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Morgan called in to the meeting and asked to have the panelist invite sent to him again and he would join via Zoom.

Citizens to be Heard on Non- Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit)

Public comment of the meeting should be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in order to allow sufficient time for provisions to the Gadsden County Commission prior to the meeting. Any comments submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

None were had.

General Business

1. Budget Overview and Discussion (Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)
Dr. Grant stated tonight was the first of two required Public Hearings on the FY 20/21 Budget.

Public Hearings

2. First Budget Public Hearing for Adoption of tentative Millage Rate

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE TENTATIVE FY 2020/2021 COUNTYWIDE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9064 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

3. Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 (Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE FY 2020/2021 COUNTYWIDE BUDGET WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

Commission Taylor had a question. She asked if the Budget was being adopted with all of the new positions that were discussed and was \$1.8 Million short.

Commissioner Morgan answered, as presented to the Board as of today.

Chair Viegbesie said he saw nothing that would point him to the \$1.8 Million short.

Commissioner Taylor said it was what the Clerk had emailed, but now was balanced. She said she was not in favor of the new positions being added on and some of the expenditures that were asked to be incurred. She further stated in less than two, three years at the most, the County would not be able to support this kind of Budget.

Commissioner Holt said with the virus and deaths, to push the Massey Building to get Healthcare Providers in as quickly as possible. She asked about the insurance proceeds and if a letter was obtained from them as she asked for at the last meeting.

Attorney Knowles did not think he was supposed to contact the Insurance Company.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the Board asked if the County had a blanket policy where the money from a claim could be used on other projects and the Massey Building was top priority.

Dr. Grant said he did not know he needed to bring it to this meeting.

Commissioner Holt said the Board needed something from the Insurance Company at this meeting.

Dr. Grant said it was coming, but he had not checked before he came to the meeting and asked Mr. Meeks if he had received the letter.

Mr. Meeks said the letter was not ready. He stated the Insurance Company was having their attorney look it over because they had not had this request before. He said he had last checked at 4:00 pm.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Insurance Company said no, where would money come from.

Mr. Meeks said the County needed \$58,000 to complete with the guarantee maximum proposal. He said he had talked to Mr. Price and that could be budgeted in the next fiscal budget.

Commissioner Holt asked who came up with that number.

Mr. Meeks said there were 3-4 Construction managers and he went to CSI Construction and they went out and looked at FEMA and Insurance reports as well as the buildings and they brought someone who did structural work to get quotes.

Commissioner Holt said normally, it would take an Insurance Company just a few minutes to get that information emailed. She said they knew the type of policy they had. She stated the item needed to be bid out and would add \$200,000 and the County had \$67,000 on that bid.

Dr. Grant stated the cost of the repairs would be \$122,000. Commissioner Holt stated it was supposed to be half and that was \$66,000 and they Board needed to know at this meeting what the Insurance Company had to say.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the need for the response should have been impressed upon Pat Thomas Insurance because the County needed that today. If the Board assumed that they were right, the County could use the money.

Commissioner Holt said that was why an insurance contract should be bid. She said get the insurance contract if they could not send an email. Also, the last in-house estimate if there was in-house funding, the County could have opinions. She did not know how it would be fixed now. She further stated anything with healthcare should be at the top of the agenda during a pandemic. She further asked if the Budget included the Assistant Manager, Grant Writer, and the people the County needed to bring in revenue and Dr. Grant said yes. Commissioner Holt stated the County needed an Accounting Firm to look over the Budget for assurance.

Chair Viegbesie said the need for an Accounting Firm should be considered in the future to work with the Budget Department.

Commissioner Holt said the Budget Director set the Budget and the Assistant did what the Budget Director told them. She stated she was worried.

Commissioner Taylor said she would vote against the item for four reasons; She did not think there should be a PIO Department at this time, no Assistant Manager at this time, no Elder Affair Coordinator at this time and to not increase the Attorney fees \$25,000 at this time. She stated she was pleased with Mr. Price and thanked him. Commissioner Taylor also said no B&G Club at this time.

Dr. Grant said the B&G Club was not included.

Chair Viegbesie stated the money for the B&G Club was in Reserve just in case.

Commissioner Morgan stated he had asked the Administrator and was told the B&G Club was funded at \$93,301.

Dr. Grant said it was not budgeted, but put in Reserve with the other Non-Profits so later, if the Commissioners wanted them funded it was there.

Commissioner Morgan said that was a game changer and he was not voting yes if it was not in the Budget.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN WITHDREW HIS MOTION. CHAIR VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

Commissioner Holt said everything was the same except all Non-Profits moved to the Reserve except Economic Development.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the Administrator was referring to as the Reserve. Dr. Grant said where he was instructed to put the Non-Profits so if the Commission decided to do anything later, the money would be there and the Non-Profit requests were put in with the Reserve funds.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Board were to have funded each of those items, would the BOCC be pulling any money out of Fund Balance to balance this proposed Budget or not.

Dr. Grant answered no. Commissioner Morgan asked why they could not be assigned now and Dr. Grant answered because the Board instructions were to hold back on them.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not know if Non-Profits would be needed with the pandemic. He said when time came and school was open, the money was there. He further stated Non-Profit money was in the Budget and was in the \$189,946 on the expenditure side.

Commissioner Morgan said organizations were unable to make their own Budget if they did not know the funding was going to be there.

Chair Viegbesie said if direction was to break the \$189,946 back down in the amounts to be funded and the money could be given.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with the money being in Reserve.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MOVED APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2020/2021 COUNTYWIDE BUDGET, AS PRESENTED, WITH A SECOND FROM CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE NOT TO APPROVE.

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

MOTION FAILED 3-2

Chair Viegbesie told the Commissioners they had to work on the Budget for approval at the next Hearing.

Commissioner Holt stated there could be other motions made.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MOVED APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE FY 2020/2021 COUNTYWIDE BUDGET WITH CHANGES OF THE MONEY IN RESERVE TO BE BUDGETED FOR THE NON-PROFITS WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

Commissioner Holt had a question.

Commissioner Holt asked what was the total for Non- Profits.

Mr. Price answered \$93,000 for B&G Club and approximately \$40,000 for the others, no more than \$50,000.

Mr. Knowles said a full number was needed for approval.

Commissioner Holt asked if in a motion it said to include Non-Profits, would the exact number be needed.

Mr. Knowles asked for Commissioner Morgan to clarify which Non-Profits and for how much.

Commissioner Holt stated it would have to be Non-Profits that were already approved, and the amounts that were already approved.

Attorney Knowles asked if they were listed in the Budget and Chair Viegbesie said no. It was in the last Budget Workshop and was broken down as to what went to North Florida Education Development among other agencies.

Commissioner Holt said she would not vote yes because if it was held in Reserve and no one was moving anyway, and groups were not getting together, it did not need to go in the Budget, but three Commissioners might.

Commissioner Hinson asked Chair Viegbesie what his reason was for voting for B&G Club. He stated as soon as it was voted on, a check had to be written. He asked Chair Viegbesie to persuade him to vote for the B&G Club because kids were not benefiting from it at all.

Chair Viegbesie said the B&G Club and other programs, because of the condition of the school systems and the educational method of remote learning, there would be no need right now and that was why the recommendation of staff was all the money be put into Reserve under expenditures.

Commissioner Taylor interrupted and told Chair Viegbesie that Commissioner Hinson wanted to know why the Chair was voting for the B&G Club now.

Chair Viegbesie stated when school started and the County needed services from the B&G Club, the money would be ready.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought Commissioner Morgan was saying to take the money for the Non-Profits out of Reserve and make the vote on that. He stated again, once approved a check would have to be cut. Commissioner Morgan said that was not correct. Commissioner Hinson stated if it was kept in Reserve and things started to clear up, they would get support but to just fund them would include writing them a check after approval.

Commissioner Morgan said the Board was creating a Budget for the upcoming year and did not know what services would look like in 2021. The Board was just budgeting a certain amount for that group and it did not mean a check would be cut October 1. He stated the Board had yet to see what services and how they would provide for the children. He further stated the Board did not have to spend just because it was budgeted. If the Non-Profit was not providing services, he recommended not spending a dime of the money. He was saying to go ahead and identify those services so the organization could understand what was available if they did provide services rendered in the County.

Commissioner Holt said it would work the same way if the money was in Reserve. She said the Board decided at the last Public meeting where the money would go. She further stated if the BOCC decided not to move the money until January 1, the Board could get a date on it and it did not have to move from the Budget or the Reserve.

Commissioner Taylor asked why entertain a \$100,000 program when it would not be running. She suggested the Board come back in January and adjust. She further stated to fund the Non-Profits now was not fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Morgan reminded the Board they were just budgeting items, and they were not having to spend the money in each line item.

THE BOAD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO NOT APPROVE.

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

MOTION FAILED 3-2

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE 2020/2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO NOT APPROVE.

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

MOTION FAILED 3-2

Chair Viegbesie said he thought it would be better for the Board to give staff direction as what to do with the balanced Budget so when the Board came back or voted, it would be done.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to see the item move and be done. Regarding the new position and new salary, if other Commissioners agreed to bring them on January 1, 2021 when the new Revenue was in, she would support the Budget. She said she liked keeping the money in Reserve, but asked the Commissioners to let COVID pass before extra expenses were incurred, she would then support a motion. She further stated, let them stay in the Budget but to not start deducting the line items until January 1, 2021 and she would support that.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE 2020/2021 COUNTYWIDE BUDGET WITH CHANGES BEING THE LINE ITEM FOR THE NEW

POSITIONS AND NEW SALARY WOULD STAY IN AND JANUARY 1, 2021 THE BOARD WOULD COME BACK AND FUND THEM FOR THE REMAINING FISCAL YEAR, DO NOT TAKE POSITIONS AWAY, NON- PROFIT MONEY INTO RESERVE AND THAT WOULD COVER THE NON-PROFITS ONCE COVID WAS GONE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON.

Commissioner Holt asked if the new positions include the Assistant Manager. Commissioner Taylor said yes, she said all of them.

Commissioner Holt stated the Assistant Manager was a must have.

Commissioner Taylor said it was only for two months.

Commissioner Holt said 4 managers had been here and she had told them if they got sick or something happened, the County must continue. She stated there must be help on the County's behalf with a Grant Writer. The BOCC was contracting out for programs but had no management on the County's behalf. She further stated the County needed a Grant Writer, Assistant Manager and also a Grants Coordinator. She said the County had gone without an Assistant Manager and the departments started fighting each other and the public.

Commissioner Taylor said it would take time to advertise for the position and start work January 1, 2021. She further stated Integrity had a responsibility for FEMA and HUD. She said Integrity would take care of the County at no further expense and the County could get a Grant Writer to start on January 1, 2021.

Chair Viegbesie understood the Commission did not have authority to hire an Assistant Administrator, the Board only hired the Attorney and the County Administrator. The County Administrator hired the Assistant Administrator. He said the Board needed to hire an Administrator and impress upon them the need to hire an Assistant. He further stated the Board should not discuss an Assistant because it was out of their jurisdiction.

Commissioner Taylor said Chair Viegbesie's comment was incorrect and she was discussing how to fund the position.

Commissioner Holt said Public Works needed people and that was 2 staff members.

Commissioner Taylor said she was talking about the PIO Department, Assistant Manager, Elders Affairs Coordinator, \$25,000 for the Attorney and \$93,000 for B&G Club until January 1, 2021.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO NOT APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES

COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	NO
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	NO

MOTION FAILED 3-2

Commissioner Morgan said the mission was to adopt a Tentative FY Budget and positions did not matter.

Chair Viegbesie said if the Commissioners could not arrive at an agreement, they needed to give staff direction.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much money the County had pre and post Hurricane Michael so he could make a better decision.

Chair Viegbesie said that request would have to be researched.

Commissioner Hinson said it was a simple question and everything should be year to date and easy to pull up on the computer.

Dr. Grant said they did not have the numbers.

Mr. Price said he did not have the data before him, but by memory, before the storm there was approximately \$4.9 Million in Reserve and after it was down to \$3.9 Million. he stated the County had not received any money from Hurricane Michael yet but had an obligation from FEMA for about \$700,000 to come back to the County.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the lowest Reserve was at.

Mr. Price said he thought it was about \$3.5 Million.

Chair Viegbesie thought it was at \$2.7 Million at one point.

Mr. Price said the budget and actual was different.

Commissioner Taylor asked concerning the \$1.8 Million short the Clerk sent an email about, where did that come from so it did not come from Reserve.

Mr. Price said it was from taking 3% out of all operating departments and rearranged funding sources for other projects coming in using HUD and FEMA.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Price if he was saying that he balanced the Budget off of possible money. She said FEMA and HUD were possible money and you could not balance the Budget off of Competitive Funds.

Mr. Price answered yes and Commissioner Taylor said that was illegal.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:12 pm

Commissioner Morgan said he saw some items like Pat Thomas Park, which would use FEMA dollars, were not included in the Budget.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Price if funds for Pat Thomas Park, Havana EMS, and Concord Fire Department were in the Budget but based on a different funding source and Mr. Price said that was correct.

Commissioner Taylor told Commissioner Morgan the amount was in the Budget and based on a Competitive Funds.

Commissioner Morgan said he was told Pat Thomas Park was delayed and funded using FEMA dollars.

Mr. Price did not know if it was being delayed. He said they could be taken out of the Budget and he thought it should show in the Budget.

Vice Chair Holt said the \$1.2 Million for the projects, how did it affect the Budget if they were not funded until 2022-2023.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:15 pm

Mr. Price said it would not affect it because nothing was happening.

Commissioner Holt asked if in order to balance the Budget, the numbers were not included in the funding mechanism, only the Massey Building and Cell Towers, so the others were not used to balance the budget.

Mr. Knowles inquired if Commissioner Holt was asking if FEMA did not fund the Park, the County would not pay it.

Commissioner Holt said no, she was asking were the numbers used to balance the budget.

Dr. Grant said if the money did not come in, the project did not get done.

Commissioner Holt said right, so do not put the things in that may need FEMA or HUD funding. She stated the Board did not know about the Massey Building. She thought the BOCC needed another meeting.

Chair Viegbesie said the Commissioners could not agree.

Commissioner Holt said the Board needed comments from each Commissioner. She wanted the PIO and Asst Administrator in the Budget.

Mr. Knowles said the Board must approve a Tentative Budget and a Final Budget so the Board had to continue the meeting and come back and have the second meeting. He said the Tentative Budget had to be posted for citizens to see.

Chair Viegbesie said the Board was at an impasse and adjustments could be made before the Final Budget was approved.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AS STATED WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE PIO DEPARTMENT AND ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR POSITION. THE MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Chair Viegbesie asked what about the other positions.

Commissioner Holt said she thought they were already in.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with the positions but the Revenue did not allow for them at this time.

Dr. Grant wanted clarification on the motion because what Commissioner Holt was saying to add was already in the Budget.

Commissioner Holt said she was trying to compromise with Commissioner Taylor and use the two she thought were needed most.

Commissioner Taylor said she was trying to make sure Revenue could meet the positions so that in June or July of 2021, the positions were no longer affordable.

Chair Viegbesie said the Commissioners were saying the same thing from different angles.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BRINGING ON THE POSITION OF PIO DEPARTMENT, ASSISTANT MANAGER, ELDERS AFFAIR COORDINATOR, INCREASE FOR THE ATTORNEY AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020 AND THE NON- PROFIT WILL STAY IN THE RESERVE UNTIL THE BOARD NEEDS FOR IT TO BE BROUGHT OUT AND GIVEN TO THE NON-PROFITS THAT HAD SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NO
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES

CHAIR VIEGBESIE YES

MOTION PASSED 3-2

Mr. Knowles said to look at Citizens to be Heard comments for the next meeting and said the Board may need to open chambers for citizens to come in one by one for comments.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought the Board needed an Emergency meeting about the CARES Act. He said the application was not Gadsden friendly and was hard for people to qualify.

Chair Viegbesie said it could be a part of a Friday meeting to make sure CARES Act Rules were being followed.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not want to mislead the citizens. He said the Commissioners made the rules and a 2-hour meeting with CARES was needed and not in a regular meeting because he was getting phone calls.

Commissioner Taylor said it could be done on Friday.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to pull up the website and see the glitches complained about with Integrity. She asked the Commissioner if the County Building would be open and get people help. She stated some people were about to get put out.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the Board adopted all 3 options and Chair Viegbesie said yes.

Dr. Grant said the third item was for Staff to advertise for the next Public Budget Hearing.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 AT 1:00 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-appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 1:08 p.m., asked everyone to bow their heads for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF 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.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

- 1. Approval of the FRDAP Grant Agreement for project A21124 at East Gadsden Recreational Facility at St. Hebron**
- 2. Approval of the FRDAP Grant Agreement for the Pat Thomas Park**

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadscencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Karen Stansberry submitted an email and Chair Viegbesie read it aloud.

GENERAL BUSINESS

3. Public Works Tractor Purchase

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to purchase two (2) Kubota tractors for Public Works. He added that the original buy-back plan was presented to the Board in June and included a lease of the Kubota tractors along with several other pieces of heavy equipment. The plan also included the trade of "outdated" equipment for new equipment. The said the trade value for the old equipment came to \$342,091.07 leaving a positive balance of revenue of \$43,908.93, which if the Board decided, would cover 90% of the cost for one tractor.

Commissioner Holt asked about the money that was made from the auction; did it go to Road and Bridge or go to General Fund?

Lisa Robinson, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board to further explain. She said in trading the equipment back to CAT, they County should get a check for approximately \$370,000 and the first payment for the lease of the equipment should come up to about \$342,000 and that was the difference between the two numbers and that money should be going back into the revenue. She stated she asked the Budget Director and the Finance Director where the money went after the auction and has not gotten an answer.

Commissioner Holt stated they needed to know where the money was because the Road and Bridge money was restricted and they needed an answer now so they could make their decision.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0.

5. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-048

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to make sure she had an opportunity to get answers to some questions she had.

Chair Viegbesie said the Administrator informed him that Integrity would pass out information on what was going on with the portal.

Commissioner Holt stated she preferred to have questions answered while they were still in session.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH CHANGING WORDING OF MASKS TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND AND REMOVE THE CURFEW. MOTION DIED FOR ACK OF SECOND.

Mr. Knowles said there were two minor changes; the curfew would be ending at 10:00 p.m. and Secretary Halsey BeShears, DBPR, put out a tweet that they would be rescinding Executive Order 20-90 that put restrictions on bars and they could re-open at 50%.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 1:32 p.m.

Mr. Knowles stated everything else would remain the same.

Commissioner Holt asked the reason for change of the curfew.

Mr. Knowles said they had been getting calls from citizens and with regard to football, it made it hard for people to attend the game and make it home by the 9:00 p.m. curfew.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 1:34 pm

Chair Viegbesie said the curfew change was his suggestion and Law Enforcement went along with it.

Commissioner Taylor said when they change hours every time there was a situation, the community would stay confused, they needed to be consistent and not keep changing times based on situations with games that lasted only a few months.

Commissioner Morgan said the reason was because it has had such a negative impact on local businesses and they were feeling the effects of it. He added if they eliminated the curfew, they would eliminate the confusion that it caused. He added that unnecessary gatherings could be monitored.

Commissioner Taylor pointed out if the curfew was eliminated, law enforcement would have no authority when there were gatherings.

Commissioner Holt said she was more concerned with changing and changing back. She stated to change the curfew to 10:00 p.m. and cancel football.

Stacey Hannigan, Gadsden County Health Department, appeared remotely. When trying to narrow it down specifically to transmission-related to a football game, it would be harder.

Commissioner Holt said not requesting for everyone at the game, but was requesting information because if they were tested the day before the game, if there was an outbreak, schools would

close. They would send the children home and the County does not have an extended health-care facility and would need to know.

Chair Viegbesie asked for the attorney to arrange a meeting with him, the Chair and any schools that had a football game to pin-point and report the data.

Commissioner Taylor said this might put them in a legal bind. She said she would not demand the information, if RFM wanted to share, she was sure they would.

Ms. Hannigan said it was Dr. Cooksey's intent that by Thursday of each week, they send a report to the County Office.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Holt said if the Board voted 2-2, would it would remain the same and Mr. Knowles stated no, there would be no Resolution.

Commissioner Holt said Chair Viegbesie wanted 10:00 and that was where they were stuck at. Chair Viegbesie said it was a suggestion he made and was trying to accommodate the players.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION THE RESOLUTION WAS TO STAY AS IT WAS AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-1

4. Approval of Response to Governor's Request for information Related to Local Governmental Actions Taken During the Public Health Emergency

Dr. Grant introduced the item and there was confusion as the Deputy Clerk's Agenda did not list this item.

Commissioner Holt asked about documentation that was requested.

Mr. Knowles stated he would be including all the Resolutions from start to finish including today if approved along with a copy of the citation form. He also said by way of background, Governor DeSantis sent a request for information regarding regulations, rules and commands as related to COVI-19 along with the football guidance.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNOR AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were simply responding to a request from the Governor's Office for information only and was told correct.

THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

Fredericka Hamilton, The Integrity Group, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Taylor said it was difficult to complete applications on the telephone. She asked if they were putting the applications out at different venues where they could be picked up other than the County office. Commissioner Taylor stated they needed to look at having places in the different municipalities where the applications could be picked up. They discussed documentation that was required to be provided for applications. Ms. Hamilton explained the application. Commissioner Taylor stated she was trying to condense the application so people were not frustrated. She added it needed to be streamlined and they needed to look at the Chamber and Rob Nixon and come up with simpler application and make things run smoother; this needed to be streamlined.

Commissioner Holt said they had \$57,000 for marketing in the CARES Act plan; she talked with Dr. Grant and was told it was taken out. She added she did not know where it went because she specifically said for the Health Council to get out and help market this. They need to get the word out. They were going to need to have their identification and necessary documents.

Commissioner Taylor asked what happens to the guy that cuts the yard and would not be able to show he was no longer working; what happens to the person that babysits and was no longer babysitting; what happens to the "gig" workers and they were asking for the different forms with people that could not qualify because they would not have the necessary information.

Ms. Hamilton stated she has had people drop off their application and bring in supporting documentation at a later date.

Chair Viegbesie left the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

It was pointed out that Commissioner Morgan had also left the meeting and the quorum was lost.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT
2:23 p.m.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 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 – appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5 – arrived late
Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called it to order at 6:02 p.m.; asked everyone to bow their heads in a moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant asked to pull Item 7 as the information was incomplete and Items 12 and 13 as DOT sent in more requirements that needed to be fulfilled before the bids could be issued.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:04 p.m.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 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 AND ASKED TO PULL ITEMS 3 AND 4 FOR DISCUSSION. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.

1. **Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Annual Report**
2. **Approval and Signature(s) for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Housing Rehabilitation Program or Emergency (ER) Program**
3. **~~Appointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla)~~**
Pulled for Discussion
4. **~~Commission Appointment/Reappointment to the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee~~**
Pulled for Discussion

5. Gadsden County Public Works Department Warehouse Bid Award

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

3. Appointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla)

Commissioner Morgan said they needed to be specific on who they were approving for the appointment or re-appointment.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

4. Commission Appointment/Reappointment to the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN 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

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-Antietam Wireless Services, LLC, SR 12, Havana Highway Communications Tower Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP-2020-04) with two Deviations

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for consideration of a request for approval of a 250' tall, self-supporting communication tower requesting 2 deviations from setback requirements of Section 5800 Communication Towers of the Land Development Code.

Diane Quigley, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She then gave a brief description of the agenda item.

Chair Viegbesie then said he had emails from citizens requesting to be heard that were in favor of the tower and proceeded to read each one out loud.

Dana Oaks

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE approve the construction of a new Verizon tower. I cannot sit in my living room and get good reception on my Verizon iPhone. I have to go out on our back deck.

Kelly Russell

I am in favor of the proposed Verizon tower on Hwy 12. I live at Lake Tallavana and cannot get a reliable signal from any carrier. I require an internet booster to use my cellphone. When the power goes out I do not have any service which is a safety issue. I hope you approve this vital link to our area. Thank you.

Dale Fuller, Realtor

I am writing to request your approval of the Antietam/Verizon tower on SR 12. I moved to Lake Tallavana in 2012 and service was good but is no longer.

I am a realtor and not being able to say that there is good cell service is a detriment to selling real estate in this area of Havana.

Bill Wert

Please vote for the new cell tower. The service in the Reston subdivision is terrible. We are lucky to get one bar. Vote yes.

Judy Ashley

I have lived in the Lake Tallavana area for the past year. The cell coverage in this area is pitiful! While I'm not sure what the variances entail, having better cell coverage would be greatly appreciated. Verizon usually has the best coverage anywhere in the country, but around here...I'm lucky to see one bar on my phone. Dropped calls can be extremely annoying, too.

Sandra Hopkins

Please consider voting in favor of the new cell tower on SR 12. We are in great need of reliable internet service and with the increase usage of the existing system a new tower would be a great help.

Thank you for your service and please help us get some assistance.

Don Stewart

"Honorable Commissioners,
I'm sure that all of you are aware that the residents in rural Gadsden County are very much subject to the Digital Divide. We have poor or no High Speed Internet (HIS) and less than stellar cellular service. The COVID-19 pandemic stay at home/work from home requirements has served to emphasize our Digital poverty.

If we want to have more business and the capability for adults and students to work from home we must address this issue. Gadsden County deserves and businesses want quality HIS and cellular service.

I have followed closely the application for 3 cellular towers this year and have concluded that Gadsden County's Communication Tower Ordinance is likely a deterrent to Cellular companies expanding in the county. It at very least slows progress. It needs to be revised and has not even reviewed since 2014.

From talking to industry representatives I've learned that it may very well be the most restrictive ordinance in the State and presents unnecessary challenges to any cellular company

that wants to put more towers in Gadsden County. I have compared it to our Big Sister County of Leon and Gadsden County's ordinance is much more restrictive and cumbersome. The Fifth Generation (5G) of Cellular technology that the companies are filling the airways with ads about now will eventually make it to Gadsden County. 5G will require more towers closer together and our current ordinance is inadequate to deal with that.

I have heard members of this commission many times express the desire to attract business to Gadsden County and I know from your recent actions you desire to be better prepared for the next pandemic or hurricane. To these ends I request that you direct the Planning Department and the Planning Commission to hold one or more Workshop/s seeking input from Cellular Tower providers, their representatives and subcontractors, the business community, environmentalists and other interested citizens to create a Communications Tower Ordinance for Gadsden County for the 21st Century.
Sincerely,"

Lelani Osmin

"Dear County Commissioners:

Gadsden County First Responders are in need of assistance.

Over 3 years ago Gadsden County started down the path of upgrading our Public Safety Radio System. This is a very important project that should have taken no more than a year to put everything into place and have the system up and running.

Firefighters and other first responders from across the county are in desperate need of this new radio system to be completed and put online.

Our County needs this new radio system built out completely and put online. It will greatly benefit our first responders if they could communicate with County Dispatch and with other first responders more effectively as they respond to calls for service across Gadsden County.

This has to be a priority to get completed. Thank you in advance for your support on this very important matter.

Sincerely"

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION OF THE ITEM AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Request to Sell the Property at 36 Dezell Street

Item pulled

8. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the contractual agreement between CenturyLink and the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners. He further explained this was an ongoing contract that was renewed yearly and funded by grant funds for the E911 system and covers 1-year CenturyLink Centurion Maintenance for Primary and Backup PSAP Sites and Portable Workstations.

Commissioner Holt asked if they had received the contract. Dr. Grant said they received it that afternoon and it was emailed to all Commissioners. Commissioner Holt said they need to have contracts to review and approve.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL FRIDAY AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said he and Commissioner Morgan would not be able to see information if it was put on-screen. He said based on prior history a couple of years ago, they approved something and should not have and maybe should bring this item back. Commissioner Morgan agreed with Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Holt to bring it back Friday.

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

9. Approval for the North Florida Rural Health Corp to Utilize the Chattahoochee Massey Building

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the North Florida Rural Health Corp to utilize the Chattahoochee Massey Building located at 600 Maple Street in Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with the item, at right time would move to approve and include in the lease, square footage for the senior citizens.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND TO INCLUDE IN THE LEASE THAT THE SQUARE FOOTAGE CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR THE TERM OF THE LEASE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were on Zoom and was told yes. She asked if there was a response and the representative said they had no problem, they planned on leaving the current area the Seniors were using.

Commissioner Hinson said he visited the space a couple of years ago and asked if the seniors were still using the building and was told yes. He said it was heavily damaged by Hurricane

Michael and didn't know it was being used. Commissioner Morgan said they were using it up and until the hurricane and will resume once the building was repaired.

Chair Viegbesie said they were using the backside and one other room. Commissioner Hinson said in January, where were they located in that building. Commissioner Morgan clarified the situation. Commissioner Hinson said healthcare helps seniors as well and would be great to have a conversation and if they have additional space, that would be helpful.

Commissioner Morgan said he had a lengthy conversation with people involved. There was a lot of services they will be providing that will be a benefit to the seniors and will have plenty of space for both to utilize.

Commissioner Holt wanted to move the item. She added the reason they needed to go ahead and get them in, she did not want to lose them to another location. She said they still have to have restrictions and needed to look at that when it comes to renovations.

Mr. Knowles said the lease they pay the State now may be zero, and 10% of zero was zero. Commissioner Hinson said to charge them \$1000.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they were going to allow an agency to utilize a county facility without any agreement in place, no requirement, no hold harmless...Commissioner Holt said it would be coming back to them.

Mr. Knowles said when he brings the lease back for approval, it will have a hold harmless, etc. in place and if there were changes that they want to make, they could do so at that time.

Commissioner Taylor said it was asinine to have an agreement without charging anything; they were moving too fast, too quick. She felt they needed to bring it back. She added for them to entertain this on Friday.

Commissioner Holt asked if Commissioner Morgan could amend his motion to say "contingent upon lease agreement". Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the conversation. He added they were approving that they could utilize the building in partnership with North Florida Rural Health and approving to move forward to bring the lease back.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought he had an opportunity to talk to the group and wanted to disclose it in case he did so.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1

10. 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

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the annual contract between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Department of Health for the operation of the Gadsden County Health Department for the contract year 2020-2021.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

11. Release of Sublease Number 3517-01

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to release the Sublease number 3517-07 as it would need to be released before a new lease agreement could be executed.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

~~12. Iron Bridge Road Safety Improvements Bid Award~~

Pulled

~~13. Scotland Dover Road Safety Improvements Bid Award~~

Pulled

14. Temporary Relocation of Havana EMS Crew

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval to temporarily relocate the Havana EMS quarters to the Green Shade Volunteer Fire Department. The current quarters for the response zone was in unacceptable condition.

Commissioner Holt asked to hear from the Chief. She asked who owned the mobile home and was told the County. She said if it was known that it was in such bad shape, it could have taken care of it. She asked about moving to the fire station. He said it was the most sound and

logistical move they could come up with and was a good option. Commissioner Holt said she did not have a problem with it as long as it gave them access to Tallahassee. She said the next time, this needs to come to the Board so it can be taken care of; they need to know about this and could budget better.

Commissioner Hinson said they talked about this a couple of weeks ago and they all said they were not moving. He added he heard rumblings about this in February. If staff had known about this and Board was responsible, staff did not come to the Board about the issue. Then it was said last week they were not moving. He said it sounded like insubordination. He added it would take staff less than a couple of days to find a modular home to put in place. He further stated they could use CARES Act money and do this. To him, it was putting the Town of Havana at risk. He added they could have easily bought a modular home and that could save peoples' lives.

Chair Viegbesie said he was also leaning on the side of Commissioner Hinson. He wanted it on record to find a way to keep Havana EMS within the City of Havana. They needed to resolve this problem. Chair Viegbesie asked how much longer the Chief thought he could convince staff to continue using the location and asked if less than 90 days to give them a chance to come up with a plan? He added they needed to find a way to have organizational harmony with regards to this matter.

Commissioner Holt said the solution may be to look at a 6-month rental in Havana that would suffice and find property that could be built on that would be a permanent place, not a modular home that would tear up.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the comments and his understanding was if they move to Dogtown, they were adding at least 8 minutes to each response call time. He said he's had several conversations with the Town of Havana, Chief Maddox, the Police Chief, and several others and everyone was concerned about the wellbeing of the EMS folks. All have looked to try to find an appropriate location and have found nothing. He said he thought if they could move in a new mobile home for a minimal amount of money for the time being, and Havana was in the process of building a new facility, and will have quarters built to house the EMS staff, the problem will resolve itself. He asked to hear from the EMS director.

Chair Viegbesie asked Chief Maddox what they could do, what direction they could give to staff and how long he could work with his staff until they found a permanent solution.

Chief Maddox said he worked with the City Manager in Havana in looking for rental property and could not find anything. Commissioner Holt said she would help them look.

Commissioner Hinson said he has tried to give staff, did not want that recommendation at all, and what he was willing to do, that's what they do, they find spots and will make sure it is quick and fast. Staff apparently will not do it. He added they had CARES money and could buy a modular home instead of leasing and move that onto the property until they get ready to build. He further stated if they were going to invest \$200,000, the County should own the property.

Chair Viegbesie said no matter what, staff would be doing it. They would work on finding a place and suggested they table this item for now.

Commissioner Holt said mobile homes depreciate the value of property, they need to look at long term. She added she was willing to help look; put something there that will be permanent and not something that will fall apart in 10-15 years. She added they needed someplace to move now.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not disagree but they need today “a microwave solution to a crockpot problem”. The Town of Havana actively looked along with several others and there was nowhere to house them; why not replace the trailer there, then go forward and build a new facility.

Commissioner Hinson said that was where he was moving to as well. Give staff direction to purchase a modular home or rent, but purchase would be great and also, thought this was why communication was so important. When Howard McKinnon was there, he always talked to Commissioner Hinson first; made sure Commissioner Hinson knew and they fought together for Havana.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO PURCHASE A MOBILE HOME AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could please say modular home.

Commissioner Morgan asked they put a dollar amount on it, like up to \$75,000 and Commissioner Taylor said so moved.

Dr. Grant asked where would they put it and Commissioner Morgan said to put it where it is now. Dr. Grant said they would have to move in a couple of months because that was the spot where they were putting the new police station.

Commissioner Holt said they had not addressed where to put it. Chair Viegbesie said they could buy a home and buy property.

Commissioner Taylor called the question.

Commissioner Morgan said he just spoke with the Town of Havana and they were good with putting it behind the library.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

Commissioner Holt said to ask staff to take care of this as soon as possible.

CLERK OF COURT

15. Updates

Mr. Thomas said he did not have a specific report but was available for questions.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the remainder of CARES Act money and he reported they have not received any more.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

16. Updates

Dr. Grant said he hoped all had received the letter from Sheriff Young; they need to move the Social Security Office from the WA Woodham Justice Center by October 30th. He said they have been able to locate a facility in Gretna into part of the Post Office and the City was willing to enter into an agreement.

Commissioner Holt said when she read the memo and spoke to one of the staff, she thought they should see if space was available at the Senior Citizens Center because they use the Social Security Office more than anyone else.

Dr. Grant said that was the first place they looked and with the space they were utilizing, there was no space the County saw they could use. He said they did not want to run into a situation again where they were in someone's building and then someone wanted them out of there.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to look at it.

Commissioner Taylor said it should have never gone to the Sheriff's Office because the original move was supposed to have been the Health Department. She said the Sheriff's building and Health Department belong to the County along with the Senior Citizens building. They need space where there could be adequate space for the services being rendered; a waiting area, a place where private conversations could be held and where the receptionist could sit.

Chair Viegbesie said he was hearing staff needed to be aggressive in looking at places for it to go.

Commissioner Taylor asked for it to come back once it was explored and be no later than the second meeting in October.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a sense of urgency, the Health Department was the ideal location; thought about the Senior Citizens Center but was told that would not work.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO PLACE THIS ITEM ON THE AGENDA AFTER HAVING TIME TO ADVERTISE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Morgan suggested they could direct staff to have this on the next agenda, they could not vote on this since it was not an agendaed item.

Mr. Knowles said they could just direct staff to place it on the next agenda.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

Dr. Grant informed them September 28th - October 29th was the bulky items pick-up and the schedule will be printed in newspapers.

He said they should have received an email from the insurance company on the remaining insurance funds.

He reminded them the last budget public hearing will be Monday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m.

He said the County Administrator Interviews will be held Wednesday and Thursday starting at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Emergency meeting scheduled for Friday was still at 1:00 p.m. and if the hospital and broadband was on there and was told yes.

Commissioner Morgan said he noticed the excitement in Dr. Grant's voice about the interview announcement.

Commissioner Holt said at the last meeting, she asked Mr. Meeks about the evaluation of the Massey building in Chattahoochee and the comment was made that the company was one of the ones they have an in-house contract with. She asked to see that because she noticed they were paying quite a bit of money out and the contracts were not being bid.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

17. Updates

Mr. Knowles said Major Wood contacted Dr. Grant and he regarding the State of Emergency being put in place because of Hurricane Sally. He said if they were going to declare their own independent State of Emergency, which was what Major Wood requested, they would need to put a Resolution in place. He said he realized it was not an agendaed item, but in an emergency such as this, they might need to look into it and certainly something the Commission needed to address. He asked for direction on how the Board wanted him to proceed with that.

He asked with the Shade meeting on the two cases that was pending, they originally tried to set it for the 25th and the Chair could not be there. He said all board members needed to be there. He said they were looking at the first or second meeting in October, the sooner the better if they were not going to schedule a separate time for it.

Commissioner Holt asked if that was the only day they could look at and Mr. Knowles said the direction he was given previously was they did not want to have a separate shade meeting outside of the regular meeting and he did not look at other dates.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there were two cases and could it be heard the same day and Mr. Knowles said yes, it was the same counsel. The Board asked how much time and Mr. Knowles said if expeditious, one hour. Commissioner Taylor said they should schedule 2 hours then.

Chair Viegbesie said they could schedule it for October 20th at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Knowles asked if they wanted to expand on the Governor’s State of Emergency? Commissioner Holt asked if they would need to advertise. Mr. Knowles stated they were already in a state of emergency and had some lee-way in this circumstance. Chair Viegbesie asked if possible, to make an amendment to the current Resolution and add a paragraph. Mr. Knowles said it would be cleaner to have a separate Resolution, especially for FEMA and federal assistance later, if needed.

Commissioner Taylor agreed with what everyone was saying, the language should be done in consultation with the Emergency Management Director so they would have the correct narrative and was in agreement with moving forward. Mr. Knowles said he would email it to everyone and they could ratify it on Friday.

Commissioner Holt said she received a text from Major Woods and was asked for them to vote on the Resolution tonight. Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with moving in that direction if the attorney was ok.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION REGARDING HURRICANE SALLY AND FOR THE ATTORNEY TO MEET WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Morgan said he could not hear the attorney’s response and Mr. Knowles said it could be drafted tonight.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NOT ON THE LINE
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had one item regarding the relocation of the Confederate Monument that was moved from the Courthouse. When it was removed, there was a 6-month window and that gives them until December 11th to comply and asked for an update.

Dr. Grant said he followed up on what Commissioner Taylor asked; he contacted the City of Quincy about relocating in the Eastern Cemetery and they refused to give them anything in writing.

Commissioner Taylor said there were portions of the cemetery that belonged to either the Eastern Cemetery or the County and asked them to look into that to see if there were portions that belonged to someone other than the City and then contact them and see if they were willing to have the statue placed there.

Chair Viegbesie said since Commissioner Taylor seemed to know more about the cemetery, for Dr. Grant to contact her and work with her to find out what they could do and she said she was more than willing to help.

Commissioner Holt said she mentioned before she was going to make statements, they need to have someone locally to help when Dr. Grant was gone.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO HIRE ED DIXON AS COUNTY MANAGER AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they have reached out to Integrity or whomever was holding the 75% of the CARES funds. Dr. Grant said they would be here Friday.

Commissioner Holt said to Dr. Grant, before start looking at what they were going to take off that, to ask the young lady to bring what was required on the applications so they could look at them side by side and make sure they were on the right track of what was required by the Federal Government.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

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

Chair Viegbesie suggested they cancel the November 3rd meeting because of the election.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE NOVEMBER 3RD MEETING AND SECOND WAS MADE BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	WAS NOT IN THE MEETING
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	WAS NOT IN THE MEETING
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-0

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 15, 2020 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:11 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES
FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 16,
2020 AT 5:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

Present:

**Anthony Viegbesie, Ph.D., Chairman- District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair- District 4
Eric Hinson- District 1- appeared remotely
Sherry Taylor- District 5 – arrived late
Gene Morgan- District 3- appeared remotely
Henry G. Grant- PhD., Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles- County Attorney
Lonyell Butler, Human Resources
Beth Bruner- Deputy Clerk**

**These meetings are being held virtually in accordance with the Governor's
Executive Order No. 20-69 as extended by Executive Order No. 20-179.**

****All interview questions are listed at the beginning of the first interview****

General Business

1. Welcome (Anthony O Viegbesie, Ph.D., Chairman)

At 5:06 p.m. Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting to Interview Candidates for the County Administrator position. He called the meeting to order and asked for heads to be bowed in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY
COMMISSIONER MORGAN.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie stated there were 6 candidates to interview in the next 2 days. He recognized Ms. Butler, Human Resource Manager, and her hard work during this process and said she would answer any questions the Commissioners had.

Ms. Butler appeared before the Board and gave the guidelines of the interview process. One Commissioner was absent. She stated every fourth question was for Commissioner Taylor, who was not present, which would move each Commissioner up a question.

Commissioner Morgan suggested to stick with each individual question and each Commissioner would rotate the questions that were for Commissioner Taylor to ask and Commissioner Taylor could pick up where they were when she arrived.

Ms. Butler said if the Board got to question #4, which was Commissioner Taylor's question and she was not at the meeting yet, Commissioner Taylor could not be part of the interview if she did not start the interview process. She stated the Board must begin and end the complete interview process with whom it began with on the panel. If Commissioner Taylor did not show up before the first candidate was through being interviewed, she could not participate in any of the interviews.

Commissioner Morgan asked why and Ms. Butler said the interview panel must begin and end the complete interview process with whom it began with, according to the fair labor laws.

Chair Viegbesie said the same people must interview all of the candidates the same way.

Ms. Butler said Commissioner Taylor had to show up before the first candidate was finished being interviewed to be a part of the interview process.

Ms. Butler said the ranking form was in the packets to be completed and turned in after the overall interview process.

Commissioner Morgan said he had the packet a while, and asked if anyone shared the questions and who came up with the questions.

Ms. Butler stated no questions were shared and some questions were in the last interview process and some she had researched herself.

Chair Viegbesie heard someone at the back door and Dr. Grant went to check.

5:20 p.m. Commissioner Taylor arrived

Chair Viegbesie asked Ms. Butler to give the guidelines to Commissioner Taylor, and she did.

Chair asked for Mr. Hawthorne to be brought into the interview. There was trouble viewing the applicant on the monitors in the chambers which required technical help.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

(AV) 1. Please describe how your previous work experience has prepared you for the position of County Administrator of Gadsden County.

(BH) 2. What interest you most about being the County Administrator for Gadsden County?

(EH) 3. Please explain the role of the County Administrator within local Government as you see it.

(ST) 4. As the County Administrator, how would you interact with and engage the citizens and different organizations within the community?

(GM) 5. This position requires you to develop the County's budget. Explain to us the key to a successful budget and what has been the largest organizational budget that you have developed and managed.

(AV) 6. Explain your experience in goal setting and financial forecasting.

(BH)7. Share with us your experience with developing and implementing a strategic plan.

(EH)8. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, implement a solution, and the benefit(s) the solution had for your employer.

(ST) 9. Describe your experience in working with citizens from various cultural backgrounds and the approaches you have used to ensure adequate attention is given to the varying needs of these groups.

(GM)10. What have been your biggest work-related accomplishments and how were you able to attain them?

(AV)11. What do you see as the most critical part of an Administrator's job?

(BH) 12. In your experience, what is the key to ensuring Gadsden County is compliant with all laws, regulations and standards that are applicable to the operations of the organization?

(EH) 13. How do you assess the strengths and weaknesses of an organization and identify opportunities to make improvements?

(ST) 14. How would you keep the County Commissioners informed on issues, projects, and/or citizens' concerns?

(GM) 15. Tell us about your experience working with small local city/county governments and what do you consider the primary difference between small local governments as compared to a larger governmental entity.

(AV) 16. How would you characterize your leadership style?

(BH) 17. Share with us a time when your ethics were tested and the outcome.

(EH) 18. How would you improve low staff moral with limited funds?

(ST) 19. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good administrative team?

(GM) 20. If this position were offered to you, when would you be able to start?

(AV) Do you have any questions of this panel?

**2. 5:15 p.m. – Interview – Stanley Hawthorne
(Board of County Commissioners)**

At 5:30 Mr. Hawthorne appeared before the Board via Zoom.

Ms. Butler stated it was fine to move forward because there was no communication interference. Mr. Knowles thought the interviewee should be asked if he was okay with no video of him being seen by three of the five Commissioners.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Hawthorne if was okay with him if three of the Commissioners could not see him and Mr. Hawthorne stated it was fine with him.

Chair Viegbesie asked Question #1

He stated this was his “build of steady” for many years. He said he went to Troy State University in Alabama and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Science with a minor in Economics. He did graduate school at the University of Virginia, and a fellowship with the City of Charlottesville for 2 years. He said he had worked in the City Manager’s Office on Budget and from there he proceeded to his first permanent career position as Assistant to the City Manager for Budgets, Grants and Special Projects. He worked in multiple Florida communities of all sizes and make-ups. He stated he had a wide range of experience and would bring professionalism to this position. Most recent, he worked in Fort Lauderdale as Assistant City Manager but had held the City Manager position as well. Local government was what he did, and stated he did it well working with the leadership of the community and staff. He said he was well prepared for the position of County Administrator.

Commissioner Holt asked question #2

He said he had family history in Gadsden County and his father was born in Jackson County, while his mom was from South West Georgia. He said he was a family person and traveled often and came through Gadsden County. He stated he had gotten to know the County through Zoom meetings and had studied them to prepare. He said Gadsden County was a community he wanted to be part of.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #3

He said the County Administrator was a coordinator, a liaison, a colleague to many areas of government. He said he was prepared to represent at that level. He had experience with government leaders and was all about community. He considered himself, foremost, a public servant and was here to serve the public. He spoke about leading a team of employees called Community Builders, with all having the job of building the community. He stated the jobs were different but each person was in the position to serve the public and take direction from the BOCC.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #4

He used Fort Lauderdale as case example, even though it was larger. He said it was a community of neighborhoods. An area he directly supervised was the Neighborhood Services Office and there was a team to respond to every need. He said he trained people to be very responsive and

attended meetings with the neighborhood associations. He said they took the philosophy of being a public servant literally and stated "Our neighbors come first."

Commissioner Morgan asked question #5

He stated budget and finance were his discipline for his first position starting with his fellowship at the City of Charlottesville. He prepared the budget as well as grants himself in Saginaw, Michigan. His largest budget was \$800 Million and the smallest was 100 people. He said he had looked at the Gadsden County Budget and had brought significant savings to other budgets. He said the Budget was the most important because it affected everyone.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #6

He said the Budget should be linked to a Strategic Plan because the Strategic Plan took into account what the governing body, in conjunction with the community "want to be when we grow up". He stated the County needed to have the most ideal budget because they needed resources to address those issues. He said every department should know their roll and what was expected of them through plans and objectives.

Commissioner Holt asked question #7

He said he led in most organizations and was in charge of Strategic Plans which required a lot of effort and an opportunity to tie things together. He said the model he would propose would be Plan- Do-Check- Act; Plan- the Budget, Do- know the Commissions objectives, Check- Accountability, how are we doing. He stated all department had something in common. He said it added work for the staff but it also assured a better meeting of goals in the community.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #8

He was selected to be the first City Manager of Lauderdale Lakes in Brower County. Residents did not think they were getting what they needed and voted to change the form of government. It was previously a legislative committee form, where there were nine Commissioners and they each headed up the functional areas of the government even though they were part-time. The residents voted in a professional form of government and he was voted the first City Manager. He said many things needed to be corrected. The focus for the question would go to the project of eliminating fragmentation that went with development of projects. He made a one-stop-shop which involved a plan that did not place the burden on residence having to go to all different departments getting everything figured out. He would put the focus on the mission of building a community and serving the public.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #9

In a community he worked in, the issue was community fractions with the diverse population. He considered himself to be a diplomatic, empathetic, professional, and transparent person. He stated, when a community was divided, something was wrong. He saw the comments on the Gadsden Tower Meeting where people said the community that would be served best got the towers. He stated public relations were important and said his pet peeve was not being responsive as public servants.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #10

He said there were many things. A broad example was Fort Lauderdale. It was an 8-year job and was most enjoyable. It was a large community but not too large. He was asked to fill the position; he did not apply for it. He said Fort Lauderdale was backwards and needed to rebuild.

He stated the most challenging place for him was the first City Manager of Lauderdale Lakes. People wanted the community served like they deserved. He said the demographics were like Gadsden County and he had to build up the community starting with infrastructure, and had to train and bring in new staff to work with the existing staff to strategize. In his resume, he stated, detailed things he had achieved were listed.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #11

He said it was basic communication from all angles and no one should be left out. He stated even though he may not be able to shake hands with everyone, he wanted people to know he was there to serve everyone. He also thought transparency was critical. He said County information belonged to the community and the representatives that community had chosen.

Commissioner Holt asked question #12

He said it was the governing body led by the BOCC. He had already started to get to know Regulations, Statutes, and Ordinances. He said all employees needed to know the law and he would talk to and train others, particularly in the area of grants. He said grants were not free if guidelines were not followed. He said he would also have a close relationship with the Attorney.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #13

He would examine strengths, weakness, opportunity and threats. He had a Strategic Planning Process. He said it started with basic homework and said he had been doing that. He said he knew what the BOCC expected and had seen the BOCC frustrations expressed through different processes. He further stated he had worked with Commissions that beat up on staff but Gadsden had a tough group and that meant they cared about the community.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #14

He said that would depend on the individual Commissioner and his door was always open. He said Commissioners expected equal attention, and he would ensure his interaction would be however the Commissioner wanted it to be. He said he would get information to the Commissioners on time and would work hard to get to know each Commissioner personally.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #15

He said he had worked in all size communities. The smallest was 7,500 people and there were a few with 30,000-50,000 level of people and the largest was 100,000 people with much larger budgets. One thing he learned was large or small, all Counties had the same basic responsibility. As far as experience, exposure as a whole prepared him to work in either small or large communities. He considered himself a workaholic.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #16

He stated he had great mentors that he had learned from. He said he was not just selected to work someplace, he said he chose where he wanted to work and believed the County Administrator was not a position looking down on the staff, but was a team member in a leadership role. He said specific jobs needed expertise and he was a participatory manager and would treat adults like adults. He found there was more production if you were respectful.

Commissioner Holt asked question #17

He stated he was a member of the governing body, and some people may want an unfair advantage. He was trained by The International City Management Association and was trained

very well on ethics and how to handle it. He said he had not been involved in a situation where there were any criminal intentions and if he was approached, he would make sure they knew he was better than that.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #18

He said he was a proponent in fair and competitive compensation. He said another pet peeve was when a manager was not properly trained. He would be sure all levels of employment were recognized. He said he would not come to work and show a mood as a boss, he would give an environment people enjoyed working in.

Commissioner Taylor asked question # 19

He said he would make sure everyone knew their role in the County and make sure they knew every employee's job was just as important as the next and each employee would be made to feel that way.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #20

He answered, right away. His mother passed away 4 days ago.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Mr. Hawthorne had any questions for the panel.

Mr. Hawthorne's question was, what is the Board's 2-3 top priorities for the new County Administrator to hit the ground running with.

Chair Viegbesie said building a good Administrative Team.

Commissioner Taylor told him he did a good job interviewing. She stated he was clear and he had a good knowledge of this position. Her answer to his question was to conduct business without being pulled by Commissioners and bring the Board to working together and conducting business. She wanted someone who could see common goals between Commissioners and try to have cohesiveness between the Board.

Commissioner Holt said once the others things mentioned were accomplished, look at Economic Development and the upcoming legislative session. She said the County needed an economic package to get back on its feet.

Commissioner Morgan answered he wanted someone who understood the roll of the County Administrator and someone who had the ability to encourage, implement, motivate and succeed.

Commissioner Hinson agreed with all the Commissioners and asked for honesty, directness and professionalism.

**3. 6:20 p.m. – Interview – Lyndon Bonner
(Board of County Commissioners)**

At 6:39 p.m. Mr. Bonner appeared before the Board via Zoom.

Ms. Baker explained to Mr. Bonner the interview guidelines.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #1

He said all experiences in local government have prepared him for the next steps.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 6:42 p.m.

He said the blend of Municipal and County Government experience was also a big advantage for him. In his County experience, he said it was easy for a small County to become overwhelmed. He had Urban and Rural experience and said he was a different kind of advocate the County had not had and would be a big advocate for Gadsden County.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 6:44 p.m.

He further stated he took local government seriously and it was an honor to serve. He said he was well rounded and had a very good blend of experiences he would bring to the County.

Commissioner Holt asked question #2

He said he had been watching the Board over the recorded meetings and it was an interested Board. He stated he had the ability to assemble information and let the Board members be the policy makers, giving them the best information to establish policy. He said there were environmental issues in Gadsden County that appealed to him.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #3

He said if the City was not doing well, the County was not doing well and visa-versa. That relationship, and how he worked together with the Commissioners to tie resources to the municipalities in the County was a different government politically and financially. He said he was committed to bring coalition to Gadsden County. He further stated there was an opportunity to do more as a consolidated group.

Commissioner Taylor asked question # 4

He said he was a hands-on manager but not a micro-manager, therefore he got to interface with staff on a one-on-one basis in their departments. He said it was the same way in the community. He stated it helped him to have a better feel of the community to go out and meet, listen, and let people ask questions. He further stated people could ask him anything. He insists his staff to be transparent and accessible, and wanted to work for the people the County served. He further stated he would be a face in the community.

Commissioner Morgan question #5

He said the largest Budget was Henry County, Georgia at \$364 Million and 16,000 employees. His approach would be the same as the smaller County of Wildwood, Florida. First, he would see what the resources were that would be available and how to get the elected officials to convey their priorities within that budget. He said he was very good at reconciling revenue to expenditures and presenting the Budget. He said the County had a line item review that involved the staff, and under him, they would be in front of the Commissioners to answer any questions the Commissioners might have. He stated people knew more about the Budget working with him than they had envisioned. He wanted the Commissioners to consider a longer view of the finances. He said on day one, he would look at a 5, 10, and 15- year program to look at priorities. He stated the key to the future was sustainability and he was encouraged by what the Commissioners asked of staff and thought it was reasonable. He considered his Budget work in local government his calling card.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #6

He stated goal setting started with everyone and there were experts in each field. He stated it was important to establish priorities and goals early. He said deferring things that were essential would cost more when it came time to deal with them as a deference, like roadways and buildings. He said goal setting, prioritization, and long review was going to be a key to Gadsden County's success.

Commissioner Holt asked question #7

He said strategic plans were those plans that were off in the future, and he needed immediate plans. He further stated the County needed a long-term plan and they needed to look ahead. He said it required follow-up on previous impacts. He said to look ahead at the impact along the way. He further stated his strategic strategy was monitor, develop, and amend sometimes as the record would depict.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #8

He said it was when he took the City of North Miami Beach job, he was the seventh City Managers in 5-years and the Finance directors were a revolving door. He said there were many problems and the city did not even know how much money was in the bank. He had to lay off 51 people and because of errors in the County, people lost their jobs and the City was set back for many years.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #9

He said the first thing a County Administrator had to do was respect and they needed to demonstrate that to the people they served. He said he had been in rural and culturally diverse areas; he had been in the minority and had not been minority. He stated engaging with citizens was a treasure. He said he was paid to do the right thing every time and he had listened and learned from everyone he worked with.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #10

He stated there was not a single thing he could say he was solely responsible for because he worked as a team. He stated he would recognize people for their good work.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #11

He said improving the competency of the organization. He said you must create an environment where people could learn and contribute, he thought it went so far as to making the organization sustainable and a place you would want to work at and be a part of. He further stated building organizational capacity was the most critical thing and covered the entire spectrum of what the County Administrator did. He further stated the most important asset was the staff.

Commissioner Holt asked question #12

He said they came with some hard Knox. He stated he had lived and learned and was fortunate to have good people who have had his back. He further stated it required study, discipline and experience at both Municipal and County level. He said their needed to be support to and from all municipalities.

Commissioner Hinson asked Question #13

He said he had done Comprehensive Analysis's and reconciled to the Budget too see how close it was to the Budget. He said things happened during the year that needed to be documented to show how the cappers changed. He said he would listen to staff and bring things to elected officials together and individually to know what officials seen for the future. He further stated he would make sure to meet the objectives and goals. He said he was a great Grant Writer and was better with a staff and elected body.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #14

He stated he would tailor his communication to the Commissioners individually. He said he would get the information to Commissioners and it would be content true information available to every Commissioner. He further stated he would not act off of one or two Commissioners and when he was out in the community, he would let the staff directors respond to any questions they could answer. He said he encourage one on one contact.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #15

He said large or small, the challenges were as much trying to communicate and establish a working relationship with the elected officials, as it was anything else. He stated that was his primary focus to work on. He said in rural communities it could be overwhelming trying to compete with far larger organizations with a fleet of staff for legislative dollars. From his experience, he did not think the challenges were that much different. He said compassion and requirements of duty were the same to him. He stated he would always remain accessible to citizens and staff.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #16

He stated he was participatory, and a facilitator as a leader. He said he had engaged in services provided by the County and was not a micro-manager. He said he would try to find ways for others to have an easier path.

Commissioner Holt asked question #17

He stated there was a Mayor that went to jail and he still thought highly of him. He said he, himself was not involved in the ethical decision and it was hard for him because he built relationships with individuals involved. He said he marched on and stayed focus. He further stated it would not be a distraction and he would always do the right thing.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #18

He answered, by being able to let the staff be more engaged and make decisions. He said he had created the "band" which was a metaphor for all of the different instruments and abilities of all the different staff that made something good in the end. He said he took responsibility for mistakes that were made, not putting it on one person or department.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #19

He said it was trust that was earned as well as appreciation for each department and acknowledgment of contributions made as well as coaching. He further stated he would help with areas of improvement and would participate. He stated it was good to have a blend of people and things to make it all come together.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #20

He said he had found a rental and could start right away upon execution of a contract.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Bonner if he had any questions for the panel.

He said the Budget was not published yet when he was online and when he heard about not being able to reconcile the lines between accounts or understanding the changes, he wanted to know if the documents were updated so he could reconcile the current Budget and see how it would affect the Budget. He was concerned the County had not accurately accounted for the effect COVID would have on the State Revenue and local economy.

Chair Viegbesie said it was a work in progress.

Mr. Bonner asked what was the biggest concern or challenge the Commissioners had for the County.

Chair Viegbesie said it was developing a Strategic Plan that would generate the Administrative change to be able to achieve those Strategic Plans in line with the Board's mission statement for the County.

Commissioner Holt said once the Board was pulled together, go through the staff and see what helped pull them together, then look at the economic side. She said the County must get ready to see what it needed to get through the virus. Also, to see what Economic Development the Board could put in, in order to help get everyone back to work.

Commissioner Hinson said think big and be bold, honest and professional.

Commissioner Taylor said she was interested in someone who cared about the staff, the Board, the community and doing the best they could. She wanted someone to be transparent, compassionate, understanding, patient and honest. She said she was leaving the BOCC because she could not trust people. She wanted someone with dedication, integrity, values and ethics.

Commissioner Morgan said he was looking for someone who could motivate and communicate, implement, and deliver. Someone who could develop through staff and be a leader every day. Someone who understood the mission and the roll of a County Administrator.

Mr. Bonner told the Commissioners it was not the end of the difficult times and he asked them to extend each other the same courtesy and respect they were known for individually and thanked everyone for taking the time to interview him.

Chair Viegbesie asked for a 5-minute break at 7:46 p.m.

At 7:51 p.m. the interview process reconvened.

Commissioner Taylor asked if after the interview process was over, did the BOCC select the person at the end of the interviews or turn in the paperwork and select the top three to come back.

Chair Viegbesie asked for the last candidate of the evening to be kept in the waiting room while the process was discussed and Ms. Steele said she would.

Ms. Butler said she would seek the directive and advice from the BOCC. She stated the top three could be brought back according to the rankings from the BOCC if that is what the Board directed.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the rankings and said the BOCC would choose whoever, by majority of the Commissioners vote. He further stated the Board did not have to go by how the rankings came back and they had the authority to choose who they wanted.

Chair Viegbesie said it should be the most suitable for the job. He then asked for the next candidate to be brought into the interview.

**4. 7:25 p.m. – Interview – Troy Gilyard
(Board of County Commissioners)**

At 7:54 p.m. Mr. Gilyard appeared before the Board via Zoom.

Ms. Butler explained the guidelines to Mr. Gilyard.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #1

Mr. Gilyard gave the job description and asked what the Commissioners expected of him.

Chair Viegbesie said the Commissioners would ask the same questions that were asked of the other applicants first and he could ask questions later.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #1, again.

He said he was currently a Program Manager for the Florida Office of the Attorney General. In this roll he provided strategic planning, leadership, coordinated business plans, negotiated contracts and contractual requirements. He said he conducted meetings to ensure the program information was defined and understood so the stakeholder's needs were met. He said he was constantly seeking input from customers to understand their expectations in order to meet their needs. He further stated it was important to build strong relationships with strategic partners and stakeholders. He said he was a Captain with the Quincy Police Department. He said he planned, directed, supervised and also controlled the execution of all business, technical, fiscal, and administrative functions of assigned projects and programs. He was also involved in the hiring, firing, promotions, and discipline of employees. He was also involved with Public Relations with the citizens of Quincy, and monitored and executed the Police departments budget. Most important, he said he was a child of Gadsden County, raised, went to school, and worked the majority of his professional career in Gadsden County. He said he had worked with some of the Commissioners and it would be an honor to be the next County Commissioner.

Commissioner Holt asked question #2

He said the main reason was because of the people. Building real human relationships with the community and Gadsden County employees he said was one of the most important aspects of work. He likes to share ideas, especially when it involved his home county. He said he knew people in the county that shared the same goals he had, which was work towards making Gadsden County a better place to live, work, and play.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #3

Mr. Gilyard apologized for the first comment he made. He said his understanding was the County Administrator's roll was to be responsible and have supervision of the day to day operation of all County departments and staff. Oversee hiring, firing, discipline of all County employees and also preparation, monitoring, and execution of the County Budget and to be an adviser to the Board of all Governmental Operations. He further stated Public relations was very important. He said a County Administrator needed to know the citizens, and be part of the culture to be effective.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #4

He said he would attend meetings, church services, attend functions, visit citizens and be there for them. He would form Neighborhood Watch groups. He said it was a diverse community and he would treat every citizen fair and equal.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #5

He said planning was the key, drawing from the long- and short-term objectives of the County. He said the plan must align with the objectives, goals and visions of the business of the organization. He said a business strategy would help with having a successful budget. He said he had worked with small organizations like Quincy and helped plan the Budget at \$3.5 Million. Currently, he worked for the 3rd largest organization in the Country, The State of Florida, and was part of that planning and processing for the Budget for 2 programs which had a budget of \$25 Million for one and \$5 Million for the other.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #6

He said there must be a Strategic Plan first. He submitted a Strategic Plan for 1, 5- and 10-year goals at his current place of employment. He said he wanted to be here a long time and would build that relationship as soon as possible, while still serving the residence of Gadsden County in the most impactful way. He further stated, in 10-years, Gadsden would be the best place to work live and play. He said he would get to know the team strengths first and build lasting relationships along with advising the Board and bringing them together.

Commissioner Holt also asked question #6, she thought Chair Viegbesie asked question #7.

He said in Quincy, he had to come up with a Strategic Plan in the area he supervised as well as at the Attorney General Office. He had to interact and implement goals. His personal goal was to get his degree, and he did. He said he had obtained his Professional Management Certifications within a year and his Florida Contract Service Management Certification in a year. He stated you must estimate your future through budgeting concepts.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #8

He stated his organization wanted to go in a different direction and it was a challenge for him. A few months later he was told the program was going into a deleverage and he knew he had to leave his team. He was able to build trust and brainstorm with an internal team and build relationships.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #9

He stated it would be his former roll with the Quincy Police Department. He said working with and getting to know the citizens was important and there were a lot of backgrounds and cultures in the County. He stated a person should know how to relate and communicate to build

trust. Knowing people personally helped with providing attention to all the different backgrounds equally.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #10

He said he had obtained many accomplishments but was most proud of saving an infant's life in 2006.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #11

He stated, in his opinion, it was building relationships to maximize growth. He said you can build a team but you had to figure out who to put on the bus. He stated you must plan and bring everyone together to be successful.

Commissioner Holt asked question #12

He said it was to have knowledge of the Policies and Procedures, State Statutes, Ordinances and also advice from the County Attorney, whom he would have a working relationship with.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #13

He said by getting to know the team. He said the County Administrator needed to know the strengths and weaknesses of their team and look out for threats. He said there needed to be plans and policies in place. He stated he knew what was important to develop the County, execute it and move the County forward. He further stated, in the end, he would look at what worked and what did not work and what could have been done differently.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #14

He said every Commissioner was different. He further stated everything would be brought to Board meetings but it was up to the Commissioners how they wanted to communicate. He said it was a very important to communicate and he would not have favoritism.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #15

He said he had more experience with small organizations and 5-years with large government. He said the key difference was in a small government, you got to know everyone on a personal level. He further stated the process for the budget was the same, just larger or smaller amounts to budget.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #16

He stated he had several leadership styles but he used the servant leader best. He said he knew how to work with a range of experience. He said an Administrator should show appreciation and micro-managing killed morale. He further stated the Administrator should know how to build a team up and make them feel they were valued.

Commissioner Holt asked question #17

He stated they were tested a lot but he was a professional. He would not do unethical or illegal things. In his current roll, 2-3 times a year he had to schedule a conference. He was visiting a hotel site, and there were bids put out for proposals. He said he was offered things of value and knew they were trying to get the bid awarded. He could have got FSU season box tickets and he did not accept.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #18

He said it was to show appreciation to the team and recognize things done that were good, and to let the team know them know about a job well done.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #19

He said it was to learn the team, their strengths and weakness, otherwise you would set everyone up for failure.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #20

He said he would be able to start in two weeks. He wanted to be professional and give a two-week notice to his current employer.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Gilyard if he had any questions.

He asked what did the Board expect from the County Administrator and what was the most important aspect to be accomplished.

Chair Viegbesie said to develop a Strategic Plan that lined up with the Country Budget to enable the County to achieve its mission for economic development and growth, and the safety and health of the County.

Commissioner Holt said to be able to help with direction the County was weakest in. She wanted someone to develop a plan to look at Economic Development after the virus and to plan together to help the citizens get back to work.

Commissioner Morgan said to motivate and effectively communicate. Someone who could implement, deliver, lead and understand the primary rolls and responsibilities of the County Administrator and effectively fill those rolls.

Commissioner Hinson said everything the other Commissioner said and be fair and honest as well as transparent

Commissioner Taylor said she was looking for someone with compassion, transparency, and also a visionary.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to

Citizenstobeheard@gadscounttyfl.gov until 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16,2020. This allows adequate time for comments to be made part of each meeting's Official Record and considered carefully by Commissioners and staff. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Butler said the Board would meet again tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. for 3 more interviews and then she would seek direction from the Board.

Commissioner Morgan reminded the Board that they had to wait for all 5 Commissioners to begin the interview process tomorrow.

Ms. Butler said the interview had to be finished with who it was started with as far as the Board was concerned.

Attorney Knowles asked what happened if all 5 could not make it.

Ms. Butler said the interviews would have to be rescheduled to a time when all 5 Commissioners could be there.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED THE MEETING ADJOURNED 8:51P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING TO INTERVIEW
CANDIDATES FOR THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA
ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Anthony Viegbesie, Ph.D., Chairman- District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair- District 4
Eric Hinson- District 1, appeared remotely
Sherry Taylor- District 5
Gene Morgan- District 3, appeared remotely
Lonyell Butler- Human Resources
Henry G. Grant- PhD., Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles- County Attorney
Beth Bruner- Deputy Clerk

These meetings are being held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-69 as extended by Executive Order No. 20-179.

****All interview questions are listed at the beginning of the first interview****

General Business

1. Welcome (Anthony O Viegbesie, Ph.D., Chairman)

At 5:04 p.m. Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the interviews, asked for heads to be bowed in silent prayer, followed by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Chair Viegbesie thanked Ms. Butler for her hard work and asked for the interview guidelines and Ms. Butler stepped forward and gave the interview guidelines. She further stated one applicant, from the interview process for tonight, sent a letter of withdrawal from the process.

Commissioner Morgan asked which candidate withdrew and Ms. Butler answered, Mr. Proctor.

Chair Viegbesie asked for Mr. Elias to be brought into the meeting at 5:10 p.m.
Mr. Elias was not on the line but the interview was not scheduled until 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Butler said she would read the letter of withdrawal from Mr. Proctor and she did.
This letter can be found at the end of these meeting minutes.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Knowles if there was a legal opinion.
Attorney Knowles said go forward and put the letter into the record.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the process was a fair process from a legal perspective and did it interfere with the labor laws. He said no candidate had another person listen to what other candidates had to say.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the process of being virtual and because people could listen to the other interviews made it unfair and Commissioner Hinson said yes, and he wanted to be in line with what was right.

Chair Viegbesie said go through with the process, let the attorney research the impact of the process and give his legal opinion as to any violations.

Commissioner Holt said she had questions about the process, but thought the remaining candidates should be given the opportunity to speak if they wanted.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board could come back tomorrow and give new questions. Chair Viegbesie said the same questions had to be imposed on each applicant. Ms. Butler stated Chair Viegbesie was correct.

Commissioner Morgan said he had asked if anyone had seen the questions and was told no. His question for the Attorney was, is the BOCC required to have a public meeting during the interview process. Attorney Knowles answered yes.

Commissioner Morgan said the Board could not control who listened to the interviews and this was the most open and fair process.

Commissioner Holt said the Board could have a discussion later and they needed to finish.

Chair Viegbesie asked for the process to be finished and asked for Mr. Elias to be brought into the meeting.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

(AV) 1. Please describe how your previous work experience has prepared you for the position of County Administrator of Gadsden County.

(BH) 2. What interest you most about being the County Administrator for Gadsden County?

(EH) 3. Please explain the role of the County Administrator within local Government as you see it.

(ST) 4. As the County Administrator, how would you interact with and engage the citizens and different organizations within the community?

(GM) 5. This position requires you to develop the County's budget. Explain to us the key to a successful budget and what has been the largest organizational budget that you have developed and managed.

(AV) 6. Explain your experience in goal setting and financial forecasting.

(BH)7. Share with us your experience with developing and implementing a strategic plan.

(EH)8. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, implement a solution, and the benefit(s) the solution had for your employer.

(ST) 9. Describe your experience in working with citizens from various cultural backgrounds and the approaches you have used to ensure adequate attention is given to the varying needs of these groups.

(GM)10. What have been your biggest work-related accomplishments and how were you able to attain them?

(AV)11. What do you see as the most critical part of an Administrator's job?

(BH) 12. In your experience, what is the key to ensuring Gadsden County is compliant with all laws, regulations and standards that are applicable to the operations of the organization?

(EH) 13. How do you assess the strengths and weaknesses of an organization and identify opportunities to make improvements?

(ST) 14. How would you keep the County Commissioners informed on issues, projects, and/or citizens' concerns?

(GM) 15. Tell us about your experience working with small local city/county governments and what do you consider the primary difference between small local governments as compared to a larger governmental entity.

(AV) 16. How would you characterize your leadership style?

(BH) 17. Share with us a time when your ethics were tested and the outcome.

(EH) 18. How would you improve low staff moral with limited funds?

(ST) 19. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good administrative team?

(GM) 20. If this position were offered to you, when would you be able to start?

(AV) Do you have any questions of this panel?

**2. 5:15 p.m. – Interview – Derrick Elias
(Board of County Commissioners)**

At 5:23 p.m. Mr. Elias appeared remotely before the board via Zoom and Ms. Butler gave him the guidelines of the interview.

Chair asked question #1

He said he had 34 years of Public Service. He started in 1985 with the Federal Government, Department of Defense. He was a Recruiter, Staffer, Trainer, Employee Relations, Labor Relations, Payroll, Attendance. He came back to Quincy and worked at the Florida Department of Corrections as an Assistant Personnel Officer. He was responsible for the grade classification of 26,000 positions. He started the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice in 1994. He worked with the FDJJ for 24 years. He was deputy Chief of HR and supervised the day to day activities of the Bureau. He said he was responsible for labor relations and became the Equal Opportunity Officer and was responsible for reviewing all cases of discrimination, sexual harassment, and retaliation. He was an elected Commissioner for 18 years on the Quincy City Commission and was the Mayor of Quincy for 7 years. He was employed with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity as Deputy Chief of HR, and responsible for all the day operations of labor relations and employee relations with all discipline and training.

Commissioner Holt asked question #2

He said he saw the County go without a permanent County Administrator and he wanted to offer his services. He said he was homegrown, well-known and could converse with a diverse group of individuals. He said he knew the County and the issues of the County. He further stated he could work with employees and citizens to move the County forward and bridge the gap.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #3

He said it was to initiate, implement, and carry out policies the Board had agreed upon, and to carry out day to day processes of the County based on the policies the Commission adopted.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #4

He said by having meetings regularly. He said he would reach out to municipalities in the County and invite them in to work together on issues. He had an open-door policy for everyone and was accessible at all times.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #5

He said the key was to be realistic and live within your means. He said the City of Quincy had a \$40 Million budget, and that was the largest and it was a collaborative effort.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #6

He stated he would establish goals and establish an avenue to obtain the goals, and that called for research, and projections. He said to be realistic and look at where you are and where you want to be and make sure the forecast was in line with previous situations.

Commissioner Holt asked question #7

He said Quincy had a Comprehensive Plan and it was a group effort. He said no one person could develop a Strategic Plan alone.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #8

He said it was with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice when the Legislature made a law that his agency had to identify persons with disabilities. He said it was complex because on the Federal side of the law, a person did not have to identify if they had a disability. He had to have an Affirmative Action Plan to merge the two laws together without violating either one and be able to follow through. He made a survey and explained to the employees why it was being done. He said it did not violate Federal Law and adhered to the State requirement and the Affirmative Action Plan still stood today.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #9

He said one was Quincy, he worked there 18 years and it was diverse. He said he treated each individual with respect because it did not matter the diversity, and everyone should be treated the same.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #10

He said he took on starting an agency from scratch. He further stated he could not take credit for it solely, but there were many hours of working 8am to midnight making sure everything would be properly in place and the best people for the positions would be hired to ensure the integrity of the agency.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #11

He said it was being the face of the County and carrying out policies and knowing everything that was going on in the County.

Commissioner Holt asked question #12

He said he would make sure everyone understood their job and the laws. He stated it would also be through training the workforce and a relationship with the Attorney.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #13

He said he would put out a survey and find out from the people working for the County what they were doing and if they had the tools needed and if they did not, what was required to do it better and more efficiently.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #14

He said he would get with the Commission as a whole and individually to see how each Commissioner wanted to communicate. He said whether the communication was by email, phone, or office visits, he would meet with all of the Commissioners and they would be told the same thing.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #15

He said he worked with Quincy as an elected official. He stated as you move up the government levels, there was more red tape and accountability the higher you went, but expectations were all the same to get the job done and provide services for people.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #16

He said he led by example and would not ask anyone to do something he was not willing to do.

Commissioner Holt asked question #17

He said he could not think of a specific time but the bottom line would be he would not do anything unethical, illegal or immoral.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #18

He said money was not the major motivator for staff. He said the key was to provide a place the people wanted to come and work, and to make the workplace a place they wanted to perform and give their all. He said he would have celebrations for major accomplishments, public recognition, as well as pats on the back.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #19

He said he would hire for fit. He stated sometimes the most qualified person on paper was not the best fit.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #20

He said he would want to give his employer ample opportunity to fill his position. He further stated the end of October, no later than the first of November and it could be negotiated.

Chair Viegbesie asked if he had any questions for the panel.

Mr. Elias asked when the Board would decide on the right person to fill the position.

Chair Viegbesie said there was no specific date, but he would like to fill the position as soon as possible.

Mr. Elias asked if the Board would make a decision by the end of October.

Chair Viegbesie said after today, there was a discussion process. He further stated the County needed to hire a County Administrator as soon as possible.

Commissioner Morgan asked that no other Commissioners add additional comments because that would change the interview process.

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson could respond to the question asked by Mr. Elias along with any member of the panel.

Commissioner Hinson said he was going to make a motion tonight or tomorrow so it could be soon.

Mr. Elias asked how many were left to interview

Chair Viegbesie answered, one.

Mr. Elias asked what the Board was looking for in a County Administrator.

Chair Viegbesie said someone to develop a Strategic Plan that used the County Fiscal Year Budgets, enabling the County to achieve its missions and visions for the good of the County.

Commissioner Morgan said a motivator and a communicator, someone who understood how to implement and deliver, develop key staff, lead daily and understood the primary goal of the County Administrator.

Chair Viegbesie thanked Mr. Elias. He then asked Ms. Butler for the next candidate.

Ms. Butler said Mr. Ford was scheduled for 6:20 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said there would be a 10-minute recess.

**3. 6:20 p.m. – Interview – Auburn Ford
(Board of County Commissioners)**

At 6:23 p.m. Mr. Ford appeared remotely before the Board via Zoom.

Ms. Butler gave him the interview guidelines.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #1

He said he was born and raised in Gadsden County and educated in the public-school system. He was an FSU graduate in the field of Criminology with a minor in Public Administration. He said he served in the Army for 4-years. He further stated he was a State Trooper in Miami, Dade County. He had been a Florida Lottery Investigator and also worked for the Gretna Police Department as well as the Women's Prison on SR12. He was the Quincy Grant Manager and had owned a construction company. He further stated he had been the Midway City Manager and had a wealth of experience in all facets of being the County Administrator.

Commissioner Holt asked question #2

He said it was to be a Community Activist. He wanted to bring customer service to Gadsden County which deserved a high level of customer service and he was not seeing that. He said there was a need in Gadsden County to move forward with advanced customer service.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #3

He said his major goal was to be the bridge between the Commission and day to day operations with the County. He said he would run the County smooth and follow the orders of the Commission.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #4

He said he had an open-door policy for any concerned citizens. He would have meetings with all City Managers to get all municipalities to help together. He would keep relationships to move the County forward.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #5

He said he had a lot of experience with Midway and the City Manager wore a lot of hats. He said he developed their Budget of \$1.5-\$3 Million.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #6

He said when you wear a lot of hats, like he did in Midway, he would set goals that were realistic based on the past financial history and the future based on the growth of the City.

Commissioner Holt asked question #7

He said he would plan and project what was wanted for the County and he would forecast and budget for future years.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #8

He said it was the Midway Fire Station on the South side of Midway, which was separated by tracks. The issue came up that if there was a fire on the South side of the track, and a train was coming through, how would the trucks get from City Hall to the South Side of the track. He stated he helped write, and implemented himself, a Grant and got a Fire Station built and resolved the problem.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #9

He said Gadsden County was diverse. He said he had written Grants for all ethnic groups. He further stated he had written more GDBG Grants than the County ever had.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #10

He stated he had a burglary problem in Midway and no Police Department. He said he went out on a limb and hired a fully functional Police Department, and they now have a Police Department and burglary went down. He further stated he helped get the EMS Station as well.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #11

He said it was communication. Communication solved a lot of issues that occurred in local government. He said if everyone communicated, it would make it easier for the organization to move forward.

Commissioner Holt asked question #12

He said it would be to know and train employees on things that were legal and not. He further stated the County Attorney would be contacted and was there to protect the County.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #13

He said it was communication. He said he would take time to interview every employee and get to know them and get them training in the weak spots.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #14

He said this was the age of media and there was no excuse for everyone to not have the same information. He further stated it was the same for the citizens. He said he would be accessible 100% of the day.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #15

He said it was Staff. He further stated it all worked the same but small was easier with a smaller number of employees.

Chair Viegbesie asked question #16

He said in Midway he had to be the authoritarian type because he wore all kinds of hats but in the County, he would be more of a democratic type style of manager. He further said he was not a micro-manager.

Commissioner Holt asked question #17

He said it was in Midway with the Fire Station. He said there were allegations made about bids being rigged, so they did everything above board. He said they had sealed bids that were opened in the public. He said it tested his ethics and he made sure he did everything legal.

Commissioner Hinson asked question #18

He said he would create a work force that was enjoyable to work with. He would have employees backs and give bonus for good work.

Commissioner Taylor asked question #19

He said it was truth and team building. He further stated if they were not on board they had to go. He further stated it was also building relationships.

Commissioner Morgan asked question #20

He stated he could start right away.

Chair asked if he had any questions for the Board.

He said he had no questions, but thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Chair Viegbesie thanked Mr. Ford.

**4. 7:25 p.m. – Interview – William Proctor
(Board of County Commissioners)**

Mr. Proctor withdrew his application.

His letter was filed with the Clerk's Office and posted at the end of these Interview minutes.

Ms. Butler said she would seek direction from the Board as to how they wanted to move forward.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated Ms. Butler and her efforts for providing quality candidates to interview.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO HIRE DEREK ELIAS AS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITH DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Holt questioned the process no matter who was chosen. She said the process needed work and there were other ways to do the interviews.

Chair Viegbesie said he wanted to hear thoughts from the Attorney. Chair Viegbesie thought the BOCC was going to wait so the Attorney could do research. He said he did not support moving forward at this time.

Commissioner Hinson said fair was what he asked for. He wanted to commend all of the candidates. He said he personally thought Mr. Gilyard was great, direct and passionate, as well as Mr. Ford and Mr. Hawthorne. He said he had wanted to see Mr. Gilyard get the job.

Commissioner Holt said she thought the process was improper and that was her concern. She said the Commission could meet one day and interview everyone that day. She said to throw it out and bring it back so there would be no conflicts. She said with a new Commissioner coming

on, and one in election mode right now, she thought the Board should give the Attorney time to look at the process and do interviews in a way that was fairer to the applicants.

Chair Viegbesie said all candidates did a wonderful job. He agreed with Commissioner Taylor about hasty actions. He said if he voted no, it was not voting against candidates, it was against the process. He wanted legal counsel to give his advice and stated he was fine with whatever the Board chose.

Commissioner Taylor said the process had been in front of everyone for a month, and the process had not changed. She further stated all meetings, since COVID, had been Zoom and using Facebook and social media. She thought the Board should move forward with selection tonight and the Attorney should still look into the legality of the process. She said there was an HR Director who had set the process in place and it was also vetted by the Director. She said the Attorney answered if the public obligation was met and his answer was yes. She said the County needed an Administrator. She did not know what the Attorney would look at. She further stated all applicants did amazing and there was an Assistant Administration position open and the Board could pick both from the group, although the authority did not lie with the BOCC to pick an Assistant. She suggested the Board move forward with the vote and the Attorney could look into the legalities.

Commissioner Holt said the process was incorrect, not the person, just like it was wrong to hire Mr. Williams out of a hotel on 267. She said the Board could have scheduled the meetings differently. She said the County did not have open meeting to hire other employees and the Board could have interviewed individually. She further stated it was not left up to HR and how they thought it should be done. The Commissioners should have sat down and come up with a better process. She said people could have evaluated yesterday's applicants and figured out what to say and what not to say. Other applicants could see the mannerisms of the applicant interviewing. She wanted to throw out the process because it was not sufficient and it was unfair.

Commissioner Taylor called the question.

Commissioner Morgan said the last thing the Board needed to do was to further delay the process that should have been completed months, if not years ago. He then moved the question.

Commissioner Hinson said he had reservations about the process and said the Board should not have had the interviews this way.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO NOT APPROVE MR. ELIAS.

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

MOTION FAILED 3-2, COMMISSIONER HOLT, COMMISSIONER HINSON AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE OPPOSED.

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney take an opportunity to look at the process, and wait until November. She wanted to let the new Commissioner come on so he could choose who he liked as well.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR DERRICK ELIAS TO BE NAMED COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR WITH THE SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN.

Commissioner Holt said she did not know why the Board was tormented by the situation, because a Commissioner gets up and threatens to walk out, let her walk out. She said there was a situation where the Board was going back and forth and that was not correct. She stated it had nothing to do with the candidates, it was the process. She said the Board needed to work together and it would not kill anyone to take one or two days to look at things.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE MR. ELIAS AS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1, COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 17, 2020 County Administrator Interviews

September 17, 2020

Gadsden County Commission
9 E Jefferson Street# B
Quincy, FL 32351

Dear Gadsden County Commissioners,

I am an applicant for the role of Gadsden County Administrator. I write to inform you that I cannot go forward in the current climate given the non-neutral and inappropriate acts of the Deputy Clerk of Courts.

On her personal Facebook page, she has hosted and agreed with a barrage of citizen comments that have distressed me and unsettled the spirits of my loved ones. The Deputy Clerk of Courts works directly with the Administrator's office. I recognize that a hostile hiring process has been cultivated by the Deputy Clerk of Courts' hosting and agreement with disparaging comments about me.

Contending with the variety of hostility of the Clerk's office and the offensive sentiments of the public exceeds the price I am willing to pay to be an Administrator. Commissioners, you do not deserve to be harassed relentlessly by an element of citizens who- before I am afforded a chance to demonstrate my gifts and talents- have so venomously opted to oppose me, my name and my presence.

Given all that has been expressed by the Deputy Clerk of Courts and others, I respectfully withdraw my application for Gadsden County Administrator.

Bill Proctor


AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 AT 1:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Gene Morgan, District 3 - absent
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1- appeared remotely

Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

These meetings are being held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-69 as extended by Executive Order No. 20-179.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

 At 1:05 p.m. Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order. He asked for heads to be bowed in prayer followed by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Chair Viegbesie entered into record that Commissioner Morgan would not be in attendance and he had sent a message that said there were unforeseen circumstances.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Consent

 COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. Ratification of Resolution 2020-049 (Hurricane/Tropical Storm Sally)

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 10 a.m. on Friday, September 18, 2020. This allows adequate time for comments to be made part of each meeting's official record and considered carefully by Commissioners and staff. Comments submitted after the

deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record. The County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.



Chair Viegbesie said some letters he would not be able to read into record because they contained a number of links, but he would recognize the person who sent them.

- a. Brenda Rudd - Read into record
- b. Don Stewart – Read into record

1:12 p.m. Commissioner Taylor stepped out

- c. Perry Lynn Henry – Links and documents entered into record.
- d. Karen Stansberry – Links, data, references with 7 emails entered into record.

1:17 p.m. Commissioner Taylor returned

General Business

- 2. **Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners (Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Morris Young, Gadsden County Sheriff/Shawn Wood, Gadsden County E911 Coordinator)**



Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND A QUESTION FROM COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this item was pulled at a different meeting.

Dr. Grant answered yes, and said it was a renewal of the on-going contract.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the attorney reviewed it.

Mr. Knowles said he had reviewed it and there was no problem with the contract. He said it was a Government contract and changes were not allowed.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

3. Approval to Accept the State funded Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant Agreement #A0139 and Federally Funded Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement #G0183 (Henry G. Grant, Ph. D., Interim County Administrator/Morris Young, Gadsden County Sheriff/Shawn Wood, Gadsden County EM Director/Tashonda Whaley, Gadsden County EM Assistant Director)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE WITH A QUESTION FROM COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the funds were accessible to the County, or were they restricted to Emergency Management.

Dr. Grant said they should be restricted to Emergency Management, but he was not sure because the award was for Gadsden County Emergency Management Performance Assistance.

Commissioner Taylor said Emergency Management was controlled by the Board and she was wondering if the Board had any say about how the funds were spent.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood it to be a Restricted fund, not a General fund.

Dr. Grant said it must be used for those purposes because part of it was Federally funded and part was State funded.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood it was restricted to that service only, but she wanted the ability to say how it was spent under that line item.

Commissioner Holt said the Board needed to call Emergency Management and meet about any funding.


Chair Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant to address the concern of Commissioner Taylor and the item could be tabled.

Commissioner Taylor said she just had a question and was not asking to table the item.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

**4. Approval of the SHIP CARES CRF Agreement Amendment
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Sonya Burns, Housing
Program Coordinator)**


 Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR
VIEGBESIE.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

**5. Approval of Property and Modular Acquisition for Havana EMS Relocation
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator/Keith Maddox, EMS Director)**

 Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR
VIEGBESIE.**

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR-	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

**6. Bid No. 20-19 Results/Gadsden County Hospital Renovations
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Chair Viegbesie asked what the bid for each provider was.

Dr. Grant said it was not a bid, it was a qualification.

Commissioner Hinson asked if one service offered more than others and stated the bidder who provided the best service should get the bid, in his opinion.

Commissioner Holt said the Facility Manager was somewhere in the building and could get those numbers to the Commissioners now.

Dr. Grant said they were qualification documents and there were no numbers.

Commissioner Holt said it was okay if it was just qualifications.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

7. Bid No. 20-17 Results/Gadsden County Broadband Services



(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item. He said Figgers Wireless was the only vendor to submit a response to the RFP.

Commissioner Hinson said for five years he had been wanting wireless in the County. He said if the County advertised how they should have, and bidders did what they said they would do and met the qualifications, he wanted to get the County wireless. He stated this was a necessity, not a want.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR.

Chair Viegbesie said the Code of Federal Regulations Single Audit Act Procurement Policy was where his concern came in. He was concerned only one proposal was received. He asked Mr. Knowles if the County was in-line with Federal standards with one proposal received. Statutes 200.318-320 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR)

Mr. Knowles said having one bidder could be a problem. He said he read Statute 200.318. His other concern was only having \$1.4 Million. He said the question that needed to be asked was did the County have to have this. He stated when an audit happened, the County would have to present what they did and why. He did not think there needed to be a Project Manager, but he thought it may be beneficial to the County, pursuant to 2-CFR 200.332. He further stated the bid was more than what was budgeted and asked where the remaining money would come from. He further stated the County would get audited in the end. He stated the County needed to address what would be procured.

Chair Viegbesie said he was worried about a future audit. He said the Sheriff sent a letter to the Governor asking for the remaining CARES Act money. He was concerned the path the County was going, not having the other 75% of CARES money. He said Governor DeSantis was getting pressure to get the rest of the CARES Act money out. He stated he could not commit to a contract if the County did not have a sure funding source.

Commissioner Hinson said he would call this an extenuating circumstance and a unique situation. He further stated broadband was necessary and was a question on the 2020 Census. He said citizens paid a lot in taxes and could not get internet so they could do their work and school at home. He said the Board needed to trust the staff. He said they did everything by the Procurement Policy a month and a half ago. He said he wanted to disclose he had talked to someone from Figgers Communications and Motorola. He said Gadsden County needed service in the whole County. He stated teachers and kids had no internet access and he told them to be patient. He said this was a monumental decision to get 5G into Gadsden County and he was excited about it.

Chair Viegbesie said he was not in a position to provide broadband. He was worried about the legal portion. He said he wanted to make sure the Board was properly spending without violating the Procurement Policy with Federal money. He did believe the County needed broadband, but if it had to be rebid, it had to be done. Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney if the Procurement should be readvertised and was there a limited amount of times that the bid could be readvertised.

Mr. Knowles said there was no limit of times to readvertise, but he thought two was plenty. He thought the County should readvertise because it would be helpful and give the County cover in terms of an audit. He further stated there was a time constraint and his advice was advertising twice was fine. He said Figgers could have a cause of action against the County for trying to get more bidders if it went to bid more than twice. He suggested a shorter advertisement period this time.

Commissioner Holt said she had asked about the Project Manager because who was going to write the bid, since no one had experience writing up a bid for internet service. She did not want the citizens thinking the County was going to pay for them to have free internet service for a long period of time because the County could not afford it. If the Board said they would vote for this, it had to be contingent on the funds being received. She said she needed to know the balance of the General Fund or the Revenue.

Dr. Grant said the Reserve had \$3 Million and there was none in the General Fund. He said the Budget Manager was off and he could not say what the General Fund Balance was.

Commissioner Holt said the County would not pay for citizens to have free broadband and that must be negotiated.

Chair Viegbesie asked for Mr. Miller or Mr. Yates from Integrity to give more clarity to the Board.

Eric Miller from Integrity said he would agree with Attorney Knowles that one bidder would draw the attention of an auditor as well as the comments by Commissioner Hinson saying he had communication between the lone proposer. He further stated those two things may call for a review.

Commissioner Holt said there was no problem with the company. She said the County needed internet. She stated the Board should see what the school was providing. She said she did not think the County would get past the deadline and the Board needed to do something.

Commissioner Hinson said he was transparent in everything he did. He said people called Commissioners and talked all the time. He said he always asked the attorney what was going on. He asked if the service was advertised for the County Administrator and was it a minimum advertisement.

Dr. Grant said yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked who the County advertised through, Gadsden County Times, to which Dr. Grant said yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Board had ever provided a Sole Source project before.

Chair Viegbesie said yes, but the funding was not Federal funds that had to adhere to a Code of Federal Regulation Act Procurement, and it called for more than one submission and that was his worry.



Commissioner Hinson said during the Budget Hearing, \$4 Million was in the Reserve. He asked how the County did things illegal if there was no bid to get Integrity, just a suggestion. He said he was looking at the whole picture, including Integrity. He said to close the meeting and look at the whole package again. He wanted to extend the bid for Broadband.

Dr. Grant said there was \$3.3 Million in the General Fund.

Commissioner Hinson asked Attorney Knowles how Integrity was brought in. He said FEMA and CARES Act were two different things. He further stated on March 13, 2020 the Governor had put Florida in a State of Emergency and the Attorney came in March. He also said he did not know what day Integrity was brought in for the CARES Act. He said he wanted Integrity but wanted to know how they were brought in without a bid.

Mr. Knowles said he was not here when the original RFP was put out. He said there was a contract for Emergency Management services that he drafted and specifically put in the contract that Integrity would not be paid without a specific Task Order from the Board. When the Board came back with a task order from Integrity, the Board approved that Task Order for Integrity to do that work. He said the implication that he let something go through for Integrity and not for the bidder in question was incorrect. He further stated if there was something wrong with the task order, it was not his doing. His job was to present the to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said the Attorney was smart enough to know to say he was not sure if he drafted it, because it protected him. Commissioner Hinson said if the Attorney was not sure, how could what he was saying about Integrity be wrong.

Attorney Knowles said he was sure he drafted the contract and sure he reviewed the Task Order.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney to pull the documentation and see.

Attorney Knowles said he had a Gadsden County Task Order that was dated June 29, 2020, The Integrity Group Task Order 2020-01 Disaster Recovery Consulting Services COVID-19 and Hurricane Michael.

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking for clarity. He further stated with one group the Board says they must have multi bids, but not others. He asked Chair Viegbesie to get all the documentation for the Commissioners because he wanted them for his personal documentation.

Commissioner Taylor said there was no Sole Source here, she said it did not apply here. She said the Board had one individual that applied. She further stated she believed procedure was followed, and what reason would the Board have going with one vendor and not multiple. She said the reason was limited time. She thought the County was covered and followed the rules. She said \$1.7 was budgeted and the Board came back and reduced the item when specs were out and bidders were bidding. She further stated she also remembered \$4.1 Million in the Reserve. She said she did not remember Integrity bidding. She said she needed to call the question, negotiate and move forward. She further stated this item did not benefit her.

Commissioner Holt asked to allow Integrity to respond.

Eric Miller from Integrity, appeared remotely before the Board. He said he forwarded to Attorney Knowles, the list of auditable features that an auditor would look at. He said it would exempt those provisions of 2-CFR 200.320. He further stated, regarding whether Integrity services were procured or not, they were. He said it was an Emergency Services Bid and the Bid award was number 19-19 on Feb 18, 2020, the Board approved the bid for an Emergency Management Contract and instructed them to contact Wesley Hall, who was Interim County Administrator, for orders to proceed.

Commissioner Holt said that alleviated one concern, the other one was the County was exempt from 200.332.

Attorney Knowles stated 332 applied but the County would potentially be exempt from 318 and 320.

He further stated 332 was one that did apply, 303, 330 and 332 did apply. He explained what they regarded.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem voting for it but the County was not paying for the citizen's broadband. She said it was not a free service. She said she wanted a meeting with the School Board because they were supplying hot spots. She said there needed to be testing to make sure the process worked. She further stated the item should come back to the Board.

Chair Viegbesie said he questioned if Reserve would be used to fund the item, it could not be presented as CARES ACT money. He asked the Attorney, had the County properly addressed the Federal requirement regarding the contract, cost and price.

Attorney Knowles said using Federal funds as a recipient, the sub-recipient being the contractor, the County had to make sure they were getting the best price. He thought the Board should carry the vote.

Commissioner Holt said since the Board had not received all of the CARES Act money, she asked Attorney how that should be addressed.

Attorney Knowles said they could do the contract based on... he said he thought the motion was to approve the \$1.675 Million. He asked for clarity on how to draft it moving forward. He would need to know how many were planned on procuring, and when, because it was not up to him.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a way out, if the County did not get the money.

Attorney Knowles said to make the contract with a termination clause that said if the County did not receive the funds, it could be terminated. He asked if the motion carried, was the County spending the remaining CARES Act money on this project. He said that was Commissioner Hinson's motion and he was asking for clarity.

Commissioner Holt said she could not vote for that because the County still had housing needs.

Commissioner Taylor asked for clarity. She stated these were Federal dollars that had already been earmarked. The only thing the Governor could do was decide when to give the dollars. She said they were not State funded dollars, they came from Washington and were Federally funded. She thought Commissioner Hinson's motion was the funding that came in but she was not in agreement to use all of that to fund broadband. She wanted them used sparingly throughout all of the different areas that required dollars that the Board could paste and give. She said she wanted a contractual agreement to be negotiated and have it brought back for final approval once all of the details were ironed out, including contingencies. She said she was ready to vote, but if the motion had to be amended and identify the funds to be used, she would amend her second so the Board could move forward.

Chair Viegbesie said with regards to his doubt of adhering to the Procurement Act, he knew broadband was a necessity, he was not convinced the Procurement was not being violated. He wanted it put into record that he was not convinced that the Board was not violating some aspect of the Federal Regulation Procurement Act and he would not vote for this particular item as it was presented in any way if it was using CARE Act money.

Commissioner Hinson said Integrity was approved in February for FEMA, but FEMA and CARES Act were two different agreements. He further stated he had not benefited from anyone and his personal attorney said he did nothing wrong.

COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITHDREW SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 (RE-ADVERTISE BROADBAND RFP) WITH A SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER HOLT.



Commissioner Taylor said what was paramount, was the people who needed these services. She asked the Commissioners to understand it was not just 7 days, it was more like 30. She further stated the Board was making it more difficult for the provider or the vendor to meet the deadline. She said this only made the children suffer. She said she doubted a vendor would apply giving the discussion today. She said the Board talked for 45 minutes on this item and now it would get tabled. She stated the Board had to make a tough decision. She further stated the legal requirements were met and it was a time sensitive issue, and these services were needed to get an education. She said the CFR was waived but the Board wanted to wait another week.

Commissioner Hinson asked if everything was waived and the bidding process did not have to be gone through.

Attorney Knowles said no, that was not what was being said.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Miller what was waived.

Mr. Miller, reading from the compliance requirements, said the following two CFR Policy Requirements applied to the Broadband item. Sub-Part F, Audit requirements and the following two CFR Policy Requirements were excluded from coverage under this assistance listing; Sub-Part B- General Provisions, Sub-Part C- Pre-Federal Work Requirements, Sub-Part D- Post Federal Award Requirements and Sub-Part E- Cost Principals. Fund Payments are only subject to the requirements in the uniform guidance and help provides those two sealed requirements 200.303 regarding internal controls, 2 CFR 200.330-200.332 regarding sub-recipient monitoring and management. Sub-Part F regarding auditor requirements. Those were the requirements listed by the Federal Government under the catalog of Domestic Financial Assistance applicable to this CARES Act Funding.

Commissioner Hinson asked if approved, was the Board moving in the wrong direction.

Mr. Miller said that was a legal question and he was not an Attorney, but as an Auditor, the County would have to point out exceptions from the normal

Commissioner Hinson asked Attorney Knowles if there was a problem.

Attorney Knowles said he agreed with Mr. Miller when he said any contact with a bidder outside of the Code of Silence was always a problem. He did not know when the conversations Commissioners had with bidders took place, but for future reference, when a bid was out, no one on the Commission should talk to any bidder in any form. He said there was nothing against any bidder, and he was here to protect the Commissioners because if it went south in a month or years, it was his license in jeopardy. His concern was that the

Commissioners abided by all of the provisions in the CFR, Florida Statutes, Guidance or anything.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to listen to the Attorney.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM GOING TO RE-BID.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

Commissioner Taylor asked how soon before the item would come back to the Board.

Attorney Knowles said the first meeting in October, (two weeks) or a special date could be made.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted it back the last Friday of the month.

Commissioner Hinson disconnected from the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted the Administrator and Attorney to look at other items. She stated the Board could not address things if there was no money.

Dr. Grant wanted to clear up one thing. He said he was hearing that the remaining 75% of the funds were coming no matter what, but that was not the way it was set up. Right now, it was set up that the County would spend their money and ask for reimbursement, and if the money was not spent, it would not come to Gadsden County.

Chair Viegbesie said that was what the letter from the Sheriff to the Governor said.

**8.  Bid No. 20-18 Results/Gadsden County Radio Tower Civil Work
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Chair Viegbesie said with any agency his suggestion was the motion and agreement should say "no change order."

Commissioner Holt said she was puzzled. She had asked to see the bids and did not know why the Commissioners did not get them. She asked where the bids were. She stated the Board was looking at what a committee choose. She further stated directors of the departments where bids were being taken should not be on the Bid Committee. She asked who was on the Bid Committee and stated it should all be in the packet.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 3:05 p.m. and back in at 3:05 p.m.

Mr. Meeks handed out the packet Commissioner Holt was asking for.

Chair Viegbesie asked him to make enough copies for the Deputy Clerk and each Commissioner. He questioned how Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Hinson would be able to see the information.

Commissioner Holt said this could have been put in the packet and the Commissioners should have had time to review it. She said Commissioners needed to know what they were voting for. She stated the Board had to have a process in place. She further stated there were no tabulations and asked what made one a couple hundred-thousand less than the other.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Motorola got the bid, and the County paid \$435,000 up front, would it cover all the services, and how did the other providers equipment compete for effective communication.

Commissioner Holt said that was why the Board needed data when things were on the agenda.

Commissioner Taylor asked if approved, would payment have to be paid in full to whomever was selected.

Dr. Grant answered all but Motorola and Motorola would finance for 7yr@ \$71,000 a year.

Commissioner Taylor asked if someone else was selected, could the County still get it financed if the Board choose to. She said the County had a Bonding Attorney who could look for the best interest rate. She thought the price was too high but was willing to move. She did not know why the lowest bidder was not chosen. She asked who was on the committee and were they qualified.

Dr. Grant answered yes.

Commissioner Holt asked, for the record, who was on the Bid Committee

Dr. Grant answered Mr. Meeks, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Patterson.

Commissioner Holt said the County needed to back out of the departments and when there was a Bid Committee, each department knew the conflicts, and if they had a preference it was easier for the bid to be altered a bit. She further stated it was not a good idea to have department heads on the committees.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the Board had kicked the can around enough and it was time to get communication for First Responders.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted Florida TelCon.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR NEW TECH WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

Commissioner Holt said she would not vote for that because she did not know what the tabulation sheets looked like.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to get this off the ground and moving. She said there was a big difference between the bids and she wanted more of an explanation on why the prices were so different.

Chair Viegbesie said he wanted staff to get specifications from all providers to each Commissioner to compare.

Commissioner Holt said it was okay to look at it again on Friday.


COMMISSIONER TAYLOR WITHDREW HER MOTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

Chair Viegbesie asked Dr, Grant to work with staff to make sure the appropriate documents were at the beginning of every item so Commissioners could preview them before the meeting.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE ITEM WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.

THE BOARD VOTE 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO TABLE THE ITEM.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

9.  **Request Board Approval for Changes to the Application and Required Documentation for Support of Applicant Related to the Gadsden County Cares Resident Assistance Program (Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Commissioner Holt said she needed a break 5-minute break.

5-Minute break was taken

Dr. Gant called on Frederica Hamilton from Integrity. She came before the Board and deferred to Daryl Cox to speak on the requested agenda item.

There were audio problems with Mr. Cox.

****Chair Viegbesie said the Board would come back to this item, and went on to item 10****



Returned to the item above

Daryl Cox, from The Integrity Group, said there were minor changes. He said they were trying to make it easier to get money out. He said the goal was to protect the BOCC and stay in compliance. He stated the contract with Integrity was competitively bid through an RFP process and they were the highest scoring. He stated the contract was for services when they were needed. He was going to get with Dr. Grant to set up a workshop next week concerning CDBGDR HUD Funding because the application period was open and the due date was November 30. Concerning the Residential Assistance, the changes were: Criteria from past due to include overdue. Adjust the proof of number in household to Attest. Other COVID related costs with receipts. He said there was one grant per household. There needed to be reduced income to qualify. He said it was set up in the Residence Assistance Grants that the money would go to the utility or the mortgage. Mr. Cox stated it had been clarified that should not be done. The County should award the grant to the individual and notify the utility that the customer had applied for the grant. She said the citizens had to fill out a W-9 so they could be mailed a 1099 later. In regards to the overdue rent, some did not match who owned the home.

Commissioner Taylor wanted an affidavit in regards to people who could not prove their income.

Mr. Cox said there was attesting in the application and any false information given could be criminal. He said do not reduce the level of required documents for the County's protection in case of a Treasury Audit.

Commissioner Taylor said a Gig worker would not have those required documents. She asked how the County could help those people.

Mr. Cox said Integrity was trying to help by taking reviewers in Tallahassee and making them available in Gadsden. Under the current required documentation, there was an "other" box and other ways and Integrity was going to have people to help.

Commissioner Holt said on the application, in the documents to be provided, was if you had a business registered with the State of Florida. If a landlord filed property income on personal taxes, you would not have a Florida license. She asked if there was a substitute to put in that slot.

Mr. Cox said some things were being reworded. He stated a home based, sole proprietor statement or a Schedule C to show taxes were filed in their own name may work.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MOVED APPROVAL WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT

THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE

COMMISSIONER HINSON

ABSENT

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

10. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-53 (Talquin Letter/Resolution Compliance)



(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.



Attorney Knowles said he spoke with Col. Collins and he was ok with a gradual relaxation of the curfew. He said he had other questions and they were how the Board wanted to deal with 50% capacity for bars and night clubs and how they wanted to deal with football and masks. He further stated the Boy Scouts of America had a request to do camping on their own private property. He said it was proposed as 10 individuals on over 20 acres. Their Attorney, Mr. Bush, was on the line. Mr. Knowles said the Resolution did not need to be altered, but the Boy scouts wanted to make sure they were not running a foul on the Resolution, much like Talquin made sure.

Chair Viegbesie said Talquin sent a plan of action and he wanted one from Boy Scouts as well.

Attorney Knowles said the curfew relaxed to 10 pm was okay with the Chief.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not agree. She wanted the curfew to stay at 9 pm until the middle or end of October.

Commissioner Holt said to go to 10 pm and leave it for 2 weeks.

Commissioner Taylor said leave the curfew at 9 pm for 2 more weeks then go to 10 pm.

Chair Viegbesie he wanted to give the citizens freedom, however, giving the COVID cases in the schools and the County, he was hesitant to raise the curfew to 10 pm but the County needed activities to go on and as well as keep citizens safe. He asked to keep the curfew at 9 pm and hoped things would get better.

Commissioner Holt said leave curfew at 9 pm for two weeks. She said the issue with bars was you could not get people drinking to follow CDC guidelines. She said 50% capacity at bars would make a virus spread.

Mr. Knowles said the State said the County could do 50% but did not have too. Miami was not doing it at all and others said they were.

Commissioner Holt asked Chair Viegbesie for infection rate and death numbers.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Dr. Cooksey was on the line, and she was.

Dr. Cooksey appeared remotely and said she had provided a letter.
The letter read;

Update for Gadsden County Schools

- **As of 09/17,**
- **18 students positive with COVID.**
- **3 attended school physically. All others attend school virtually.**
- **Students attend schools in Gadsden, Leon, Jackson.**
- **97 students living in Gadsden County are currently on Isolation/Quarantine.**
- **No cases associated with school sports teams**
- **Routine screenings are scheduled next week for football players**

Gadsden DOH is providing free testing to symptomatic employees and students at this time. We have been scheduling appointments with individuals during interviews that meet the criteria for testing and sending tests to the State Health Lab in Jacksonville, FL for faster processing as school safety is a top priority.

**Regards,
Adrian Cooksey, DrPH, MPH- Health Officer
Florida Department of Health- Gadsden**

Commissioner Holt asked how many infections were reported and how many screenings were being done.

Dr. Cooksey said there were 2672 infections and 44 deaths. She said there was less screening now compared to July because of demand. She stated testing was Monday- Friday, 9am-11am daily at the Health Department for school students, employees and their contacts. Tuesday at CRMC from 9am-1pm. There were private providers who have begun to do their own testing and there were CVS, Home Depot and other options that continued to operate daily.

Commissioner Holt asked if players were tested before the game.

Dr. Cooksey said they would be tested Tuesday with games on Friday.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were already tested once.

Dr. Cooksey said yes, before school started and are trying for another scheduled testing.

Commissioner Taylor asked if 9 am-11am, M-F was for just students and staff, or parents too.

Dr. Cooksey said yes, any players or their contacts.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was mandatory testing for staff.

Dr. Cooksey said no, it was just to make them aware of the options and they were also made aware of other positive tests.

Commissioner Taylor asked if staff would be required to report test results after testing.

Dr. Cooksey said if staff tested positive, the school would be aware. There was an automatic quarantine with a return date. She further stated any positive cases were reported to the school.

Chair Viegbesie asked what was the time lapse of exposure and a positive reading.

Dr. Cooksey said exposure to infection was a couple of days.

Commissioner Holt said she was concerned about bars and asked if that would get the County in trouble with the Governor.

Chair asked if the Board made the numbers for bars less than that of the Governor, would it exercise a preemptive authority over the BOCC.

Mr. Knowles said the Governor could always preempt in a State of Emergency. He said the County could not open more, but could open less.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW 50% CAPACITY IN BUSINESSES, HAVE MANDATORY MASK IN PLACE, A 9 P.M. CURFEW, AND SOCIAL DISTANCING MANDATED BY THE BARS WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

Commissioner Holt asked if all businesses were at 50%.

Mr. Knowles said gatherings was at 10 people. He said if bars were to re-open, and there was still a 10-person restriction, bars would not be able to have more than 10 people in any one particular area. He further stated no restrictions were placed on other businesses. The only businesses that had the 50% restriction were bars and restaurants.

THE BOARD VOTE 3-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

PASSED 3-0 PASSED

Returned to item #9

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Viegbesie adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY O. VIRGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 2, 2020 AT 10 A.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1-absent
Gene Morgan, District 3-appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5-appeared remotely
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Leslie Steele, Public Information Officer

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Viegbesie asked for approval of the Agenda.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

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

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-057

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

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

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

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

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

Chair Viegbesie asked if Commissioner Taylor had any comments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE:

COMMISSIONER HINSON: NOT PRESENT

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

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

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

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

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL. ON SEPTEMBER
21, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1 – appeared remotely

Staff: Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Jeff Price, Sr. Management Budget Analyst
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

These meetings are being held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-69 as extended by Executive Order No. 20-179.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

At 6:00 p.m. Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for heads to be bowed in silent prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Citizens to be Heard on Non- Agenda Items (3 Minute Limit)

Public comment of the meeting should be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on Monday, September 21, 2020 in order to allow sufficient time for provisions to the Gadsden County Commission prior to the meeting. Any comments submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

None were had.

*Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:02 p.m.
Commissioner Hinson joined via Zoom*

General Business

1. Budget Overview and Discussion (Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)

Public Hearings

2. Final Budget Public Hearing for Adoption of Final Millage Rate- (Resolution 2020-051)
(Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9064 WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

3. Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021- (Resolution 2020-052) (Henry G. Grant, Ph.D., Interim County Administrator)

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant if the County had a balanced budget and Dr. Grant answered yes.

Commissioner Holt asked what the amount in the Reserve and the General Fund was.

Mr. Price stated the Reserve was what the Finance Department told them last time at \$3.2 Million. Commissioner Holt then asked for the General Fund Balance and she was told they were the same thing by Mr. Price.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

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

MOTION PASSED 3-2 COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR
VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:05 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman
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 6, 2020 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 – appeared remotely
Gene Morgan, District 3 – appeared remotely
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Taylor would be phoning in and Commissioner Hinson would soon be joining. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 6:03 pm., then asked everyone to bow their heads for moment of silence and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. June 16, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Approval of FY2021 SC108 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)**
- 4. Approval and Execution of State Aid Grant Agreement**
- 5. Big Bend Jobs & Education Council, d/b/a CareerSource Capital Region, Gadsden County BOCC, Leon County BOCC and Wakulla County BOCC**
- 6. Scotland Dover Road Safety Improvements – Bid Award**
- 7. Iron Bridge Road Safety Improvements – Bid Award**
- 8. Approval of Resolution 2020-056 Budget Amendments for FY 2020**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.
V read aloud the statement for citizens requesting to speak.

Louise Jones, 4577 McCall Bridge Road, Quincy, FL

She appeared before the Board and said everyone that had property there received a letter about a meeting with Planning and Zoning. She said even though there was no cul-de-sac to speak of, you would go to the end of the road to Idlewild Fish Camp and could circle around the big oak tree and could go back out. Idlewild Homeowners Association put up a double gate. She did some investigating and found out that the County had received approximately \$5,000 from the homeowners' association. She said they had a house there and after the gate went up, her fence was torn completely down. Her Commissioner, Commissioner Taylor, could attest to that. Her home was destroyed when Hurricane Michael came through and they rebuilt. Her driveway is county property and as she left tonight, she has people that turn around in her yard constantly. She said there are signs that say dead-end and there is no turn-around. She said the County did put a turn-around up past Talquin Lodge and it was asphalted. She said Commissioner Taylor has tried to help but people do not pay attention to signs. She asked the Commissioners for their help in resolving this issue.

Chair Viegbesie asked her to make an appointment with the Interim County Administrator and the attorney and see how they could help resolve this matter.

Commissioner Holt said she did not vote for that and added that it made no sense to put up a gate on a road that the County owned. She added that all they could do was have the attorney look into it and look into the history.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Interlocal Agreement between Greenshade-Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department and Gadsden County

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an Interlocal Agreement between Greenshade-Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department and Gadsden County.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND HAD A COMMENT AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if this agreement was comparable with the other fire stations and was told yes. Dr. Grant explained this was a single agreement, when it expires, they will all be on an

agreement together. -She asked that when it comes back, she wanted to start looking at what they were doing for the County.

Commissioner Morgan said the amount of money each fire station received was based on several factors, one being the number of calls they respond to.

Commissioner Holt said she was aware of that, but relative to number of calls, sometimes the calls were not equal according to locations.

Commissioner Morgan said the agreement was revised after he was on the commission because he started asking about that.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	DID NOT RESPOND
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-0

10. Approval of Proposal for Professional Services for Repairs to the Massey Building

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the proposal for professional services for repairs to the Massey Building.

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

Commissioner Holt asked if \$7,500 was an in-house bid and was told that was the costs for Dewberry to do an assessment of the building and develop a task order. He added they had to have something to put out to bid and had to get a task order so they would know what to bid out.

Chair Viegbesie said that was exactly the same question he had.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NO
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	WAS NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-1

Commissioner Holt said she would vote yes but she wanted to know more about this item.

11. Re-Location of Social Security Office in Gadsden County

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction for the re-location of the Social Security Office in Gadsden County.

He added a letter was received letter from Sheriff Young requesting the office be removed from Sheriff's Office as soon as possible. He explained there were three locations staff had researched and found:

- 1) Gretna Post Office;
- 2) Current location of Extension Services; and
- 3) Gadsden Senior Services Center

Commissioner Morgan said based on the locations seen, he felt the Extension office was the best choice of the three. Chair Viegbesie said he thought Gretna Post Office was best because of accessibility and he had had a walk-through of the building. He added they had enough room for privacy that was needed. Gadsden Senior Services was not the best place, he has heard of altercations of behavior and conduct from some when it was located at the library.

Commissioner Holt said most of the people that use the office was seniors and she liked the idea of them being there.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Holt's comments but felt the Extension Service would serve better; the lighting and parking was more appropriate.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had discussed the health department. Chair Viegbesie said the health department was currently EMS headquarters and they have done a lot of work themselves to retrofit their needs and services. Commissioner Hinson said he thought some of the Commissioners had directed that they go with the Health Department and wondered why it was not on the list.

Dr. Grant explained the health department was not considered because of them previously being EMS headquarters.

Commissioner Holt said this was brought to them but did not know if it was for a vote. He said the only hiccup with the current location of the Extension Services, was there was too much traffic and they were talking about disabled people and a lot of traffic.

Allan Meeks, Facilities Director, appeared remotely. Commissioner Holt asked if the County owned the property and parking lot directly behind Don's Hair Par and jewelry store. Mr. Meeks said the building was not wheelchair compliant.

Dr. Grant said there was one-way in and one-way out of that building.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they could construct an entrance in back so patrons could use the back exit and they could also use front entrance? Mr. Meeks said he could contact the property owner, looking at the Property Appraisers' website that Padgett's owned a lot of the parking lot.

Commissioner Hinson said they may have to add disabled parking in the front.

Commissioner Morgan proposed they table this until further research was done.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

12. Sheriff's Office – Training Funding Request Daytona Beach, Florida Chris Fuller's Advanced Undercover Techniques and Survival

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund to pay costs for Deputy Emmanuel DeLeon to attend the Charlie Fuller's Advanced Undercover Techniques and Survival course.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NOT PRESENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-0

13. Bid No. 20-18 Results/Gadsden County Radio Tower Civil Work

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was presented to award Bid 2020-18 for the Gadsden County Radio Tower Civil Work on the three tower sites (Peavy, Midway and the Jail).

Commissioner Taylor phoned in at 6:44 p.m.

He added that Motorola was the only company to provide financing.

Commissioner Holt asked if all items were in the bid packet and Dr. Grant said yes. She asked if all contractors had that and he stated yes. Commissioner Holt asked if they did not select Motorola, where was the money coming from? Dr. Grant said they had budgeted the amount. Commissioner Holt said they did not have to finance and Dr. Grant stated no. She said when they have bids, do not have Department heads be one of the evaluators of the bid. She said she was ready to vote and she had no problem with this; they needed to get it over with. As long as all the bids were equal, she had no problem. She asked who wrote the bid packet up? Dr. Grant said Sandy in Purchasing. Commissioner Holt said with the Massey Building, someone else wrote up the bid. Dr. Grant said with Motorola, it was already done. She said to take the top person out when it comes to evaluating to stop buddy-buddy bids.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were doing something wrong on this and Mr. Knowles asked him to be more specific. Commissioner Hinson asked if this was in-line with what they were doing and was it being done correctly. Commissioner Holt said she had an issue with the bidding practice, they have a department head over the process of selecting and was there problem.

Commissioner Holt clarified that it was not illegal but the best practice was to not do that. Mr. Knowles asked for what. She explained if she was hiring someone to be a contractor for her department and she was working under the manager, normally the three that score the bids would not be her because she could set and could tell the contractors what they needed to bid. That way she could get the contractor she wanted.

Mr. Knowles asked Commissioner Hinson if he was asking if it was OK for a department head to be a part of the bid committee and Commissioner Hinson responded yes. Mr. Knowles asked to look through their procurement policy.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with Commissioner Hinson proceeding with this. She said even if this was not in their Policies and Procedures, it needed to be in there.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not want this item to go past today as it had been tied up for too long. He said whoever they went with, they needed to make sure that person was going to provide everything they were asking for without any chance for an increase change order. He said whether they went with the less or higher, whomever, there will be a guarantee of no change orders in the bid they submitted.

Commissioner Hinson asked/said felt comfortable with the RFP that they have the company come explain what they were offering and the County getting.

Commissioner Morgan said comments made previously was on par; the project needed to be completed and not held up. The most important thing they could do was choose the correct vendor in completing the project. He encouraged the Board to support Motorola and said that would be his motion at the proper time.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN SAID HIS MOTION WAS TO HIRE MOTOROLA, THE WORST THING THEY COULD DO WAS HIRE A VENDOR THAT COULD NOT COMPLETE THE PROJECT ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAVE TO CORRECT A PROBLEM AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Mr. Knowles said within their Procurement Policy, Section 10.2, where it talked about participation and Employee conflict of interest, it read “it shall be unethical for any County employee to participate directly or indirectly in a procurement contract where the county employee knows that 1) the County employee or any member of the employee’s immediate family has financial interest pertaining to the procurement contract; or 2) any other business, person, or organization with whom the employee or member of the employee’s family is negotiating or has an arrangement concerning respective employment is involved in procurement contract”. He said this was County dollars. If someone had a beneficial interest/financial interest in the outcome of it, there was cause for concern; he agreed that it

would be good and thought there was some merit in having them present to the Commission after an RFP when the bids come in.

Commissioner Taylor said at a previous meeting, one bidder had a bid that was not complete. A Commissioner directed the Administrator to reach out to ensure all information was requested. She asked if Dr. Grant had the opportunity to reach out to the potential bidders to ensure all information they needed to the potential bidders. Dr. Grant said he understood his instructions was to bring back the bid material because they were not included in the agenda item that night. They brought back the item that was presented to them for the bid conference. She said there was specific materials that was directed to the Administrator to get, did he reach out to the bidders to ask for specific items that was missing from previous bid.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly, what Commissioner Holt asked was she wanted to know the specifications that each provider presented in their bid. He said he had his folder with him and staff prepared a folder containing what each vendor specified that would be in their services. He did not recall staff was asked to reach out to the bidders on missing information.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Hinson was right that they normally had bidders come to the room and tell them about the bids and they have the score sheet and who was on the scoring team.

Commissioner Hinson said he was being consistent with the process; he did not mind coming back Monday and have a meeting and have everyone come by and them interview all four because he wanted to make sure it was the right way.

Commissioner Taylor said since the beginning, she has never stood with Motorola, they were too much money and she was not going with them, she still thought they could bring the bid in lower. She concurred with Commissioner Hinson to talk with other bidders. If they could bring the bid in for a lower amount for the same quality of work, why not do it and save the County hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Commissioner Holt asked who would monitor the work to make sure the done was correctly. Mr. Meeks said they would have to have permits and get grounding and all. Commissioner Holt said they had no project manager on this. Mr. Meeks said that Al Smythe has worked on towers. Commissioner Holt said she was not going to address that. Dr. Grant said the only one that has a project manager was Motorola. Commissioner Holt said who would manage the project. Dr. Grant said he guessed Motorola would because they have other equipment that would tie into this equipment. Commissioner Holt said before he came, they did a change order for \$400,000. She said she had no problem with bidding, this had been going on long enough.

Commissioner Morgan said to her point, the project manager fees were included with Motorola's bid and assured they would not be project manager with no costs involved to the County if they were not the vendor selected.

Chair Viegbesie said the Motion and second was to award this to Motorola and asked for vote.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	NO
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NO

COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 3-2

14. Gadsden County Agreement for Architectural Services

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a contract with Clemons, Rutherford and Associates which outlines the services required for renovating and building-out the Gadsden County Hospital portion that has not been built-out so that it could be utilized for a COVID-19 Special Needs Shelter.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a project manager on this and Dr. Grant stated yes, he would be provided. Commissioner Holt said this was to be used as a special needs shelter but built out like a hospital and Dr. Grant said yes. Commissioner Holt asked why it was \$781,365. Dr. Grant said it was not coming out of County money; it was clearly stated it would be CARES Act money. Commissioner Holt said this had to be invoiced before the last day of December. She stated she wanted to make sure everything was invoiced by the last day of December.

Commissioner Taylor said she was looking at the packet on this item, was she to understand that the actual amount would be a percentage of the entire project. Dr. Grant said that was on page 30 of 30; the amount was \$781,365. Commissioner Taylor said they were giving the architect that amount.

Dr. Grant said it was for Phase 1 and was about three wings and the center court. Commissioner Taylor asked if there were any other bidders and he stated yes. Commissioner Taylor asked if they were under/over or not qualified bidders. Dr. Grant explained they did not have the credentials that this company had.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was credentials or ACHA requirements. Commissioner Taylor said she was not voting for this; it was ridiculous to give this company this amount of money.

Commissioner Morgan said this was a \$10 Million project, an expansive design of the hospital.

Chair Viegbesie said in looking at Integrity, the hospital construction was about \$10 Million that they would be requesting; the \$781,000 was what they were paying just for the hospital architectural plans and services.

Commissioner Hinson said he always was told just be fair when was younger. He added there was one company that did not meet all the obligations. He heard Gadsden County residents were not going to get more relief and they need to help the residents instead of doing this. He felt they should put half the money into the residents' program and the other half into the small business program and he could not do this because it was not fair. He added they opposed other companies from coming and they had the bid in their hand.

Commissioner Holt asked if the attorney would address some of the issues that Commissioner Hinson brought up regarding the sole bidder. Mr. Knowles stated there were two bidders. It

was mentioned that Hoy Stark Hagan was the other bidder. Commissioner Hinson stated they did meet the qualifications but the other group was the only one that met the qualifications.

Chair Viegbesie said in the background (of the Agenda item) it stated “CRA Architects and Hoy Stark Hagan submitted qualifications by the deadline. Also, a committee was chosen that conducted an evaluation of both vendors. The evaluation results were unanimous, with CRA Architects scoring 295 points.” Commissioner Hinson said he understood where they were coming from, but the other company did not meet the qualifications.

Mr. Thomas said for the record, he forwarded to the Board documentation from FDEM and it seemed to indicate this project might not be eligible for CARES Act money.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not going to support this item and “Gadsden County cannot have a full-fledged hospital at this time. You are talking about \$10 Million from FEMA or HUD, that’s a bid, that’s a bid we have to put in for, that’s not an entitlement like the CARES Act money, that’s a bid. We have to be competitive to get these dollars. What could very well happen, we will have almost a \$1 Million worth of design and not come up with the \$10 Million for the build-out because we have to compete for it. I understood Integrity to say that our chances are good (inaudible). The reason why we put that Million in there was that when the hurricane season comes, we would have something there that could take care of our people with COVID. That’s the reason we put that money in there initially. All the money we put there for the build-out and construction was being taken up from the architect. That’s not what we originally said. Now my understanding, there was already designs down there and it was a matter of using those designs to build the place out. Now to have someone come back and do more designs on top of what was already down there, because there was designs drawn up for the County hospital to be built out but we didn’t have the necessary funding to do it initially, which is why it wasn’t done. To throw money after this and hope and pray we get \$1 Million and then you ask a question, Mr. Chair, a few minutes ago, or someone, whether or not the \$750,000 would come off of the \$10 Million? No, the \$10 Million was being asked specifically for the build-out. You are taking the CARES Act money for the architect and then going to ask for \$10 Million for the build-out. The answer should have been no to you...What hurts me, the people that will need this shelter, it will not be made available to them because we’re looking for a pie in the sky that we don’t even know if it’s available to us or not. Thank you.”

Chair Viegbesie said he just read what the Clerk said and he entered into record the comment of his concerns as the Chief Financial Auditor and asked him to enter that again.

Mr. Thomas said yesterday he forwarded documentation from FDEM that indicated to him this project might not be covered by CARES Act money and thought they should review and make their determination.

Commissioner Holt said if they did not have a project to move forward through CARES, then they would get no money and no design and felt they should approve the item contingent on getting CARES Act money for this project and said that was her motion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF THE HOSPITAL CONTINGENT ON RECEIVING MONEY THROUGH CARES ACT.

Mr. Thomas said the \$1 Million they have in the 55% remaining, they have documents on how they were spending the \$1.9 Million; supposed to get 25% more and they decided how that would be spent. What he was understanding was that they want to see that they have significantly spent the \$1.9 Million before they receive the \$1.5, even though the Governor has said 55 Counties would be getting their second disbursement. If the \$1 Million they were going to spend on the project is in the 55%, it appeared to him that all that would be reimbursable and they were saying essentially that they would put the money upfront and then seek reimbursement based on how they have agreed to spend the money thus far. By approving this, they were saying that they will fund this money and seek to get reimbursement through the CARES program.

Chair Viegbesie said what he said was the question he was going to ask. The 55% that they have not received, he understood they would have to front that from their pockets and it was a reimbursable expenditure. If they spent almost \$1 Million on this item, that was almost all the additional 20% that the Governor has just approved in addition to the 25%. He said he did not know how they would go with that being contingent on the CARES money.

Commissioner Holt said if they spent the \$1.9, no matter what they spent it on, could they go after the other percentage. Can they be reimbursed for that or for the hospital itself?

Chair Viegbesie his understanding of the Governor's position with regard to CARES Act for the 55 Counties, was the \$1.9 they have already received, and then they submitted a plan as to how they would be using that \$1.9 Million and based on after they have spent a certain amount of that, then they would receive the \$1.5 Million, which was the 20%. Then when they show what they were doing with the 20%, then they could continue to spend the 55%, but that would come from their coffers and would then apply for reimbursement of the 55% of the \$7.9 Million that was granted to the County.

Mr. Knowles said there was a conference call last week with FAC and some of the folks from DEM and they put out a pdf. He said "Phase 2 funding disbursements will be for 20% of the overall previously identified County allocations. Counties will be required to sign an amendment to their Funding Agreement. In order to get phase 2, counties must expend the first 25% allocation; report the expenditures in Salesforce; submit a plan outlining how the county intends to spend the 20% allocation and how the county will spend any funds they intend on accessing on a reimbursement basis. Submit the plan to the FLCares email address and clearly identify the county in the subject line of the email. If the county has not yet expended all of the 25% allocation; once the county has expended the first 25%, please report in Salesforce and send an email to FLCares notifying FDEM that the county is now ready for Phase 2 funding. He said in light of that, they had to be careful. He added that he did not necessarily agree or disagree with the Clerk's assessment, he thought Mr. Miller was on and could enlighten them more. He thought the disconnect in the guidance the Clerk provided versus what they were doing, which was treading a fine line, and as Commissioner Taylor said, they were allocating a substantial amount of money to not do any build-out, but that might be why this was an eligible expenditure because it doesn't involve a permanent structure, it was the planning for the permanent structure. He said from what the Clerk sent out, which was good, and stated Question 28 of the Treasury's September 2, 2020, Frequently Asked Questions generally addressed capital improvements, that's building out new things, stated that "Fund payments may be used for the expenses of... establishing *temporary* public medical facilities and

other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity or improve mitigation measures, including related construction costs.” He said he would venture to guess that the related construction costs would be that initial architectural sort of design build services they were doing here. He said he was not commenting on whether or not that was a value service, just whether they were good under CARES. He believed the other money would come from FEMA or HUD where they would do the actual build-out. He said he understood the Clerk’s position because he was saying...

Mr. Thomas asked that he go on down and Mr. Knowles read “Some counties have asked whether they can use Fund payments to purchase real property or construct permanent buildings. For the reason stated below, the State believes that the purchase of real property and the construction of permanent buildings are ineligible expenses but thought where they differed was, they were not constructing a permanent building with the money. They were related construction costs.

The Clerk said the bottom line was, they got this in the 55%, haven’t spent the 25%, and they have to spend that and demonstrate they have spent that to get the 20%. He said the \$1 Million was included in the 55%, which was after the 20%. Mr. Knowles said which they would have to pull from their own coffers. Mr. Thomas said even just based on time, they were running out of time. Mr. Knowles said he was not disagreeing with him on time or planning, he was saying clearly from the standpoint of actual use of this money for the architectural design services from CRA, they should be ok on it.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not disagree with what he was hearing, but what they were talking about funding was for a permanent structure and was what he thought the Clerk was trying to explain. You are either purchasing land or using the money in a way for a permanent structure and even though it was planning money they were talking about, it was for a permanent structure and gives him pause.

Darryl Cox, Integrity, appeared remotely. He said he agreed with Mr. Knowles and the Clerk. Simultaneously, the costs related to the build-out of a hospital, when they initially discussed the hospital costs as a COVID eligible cost, it was for design elements as well as some temporary that may become permanent build-out related to COVID cases going into a hospital. He said reflecting back on the three things that make a CARES Act cost eligible was unbudgeted, COVID related and spent by December 30th. He added that obviously they have received some additional guidance and have received an opinion from DEM on what was eligible and not and said it was a decision the Board would have to make. He added in their opinion, it was a borderline cost and would have to be the Board’s decision. He said they would be updating the Salesforce costs as they are spent and could update the plan as they went. He agreed with the Clerk that the way the costs were currently budgeted coming out of the 55%, could make reimbursement more difficult on that item rather than coming from the 20% and requesting reimbursement on some of the additional business grants as they come through. He said they could do an invoice pull-down Last point he wanted to make was in the October 1st webinar there was some clarification from the Interim Recovery Bureau Chief on what incumbered or incurred costs could be eligible and it sounded like from her discussion along with the questions Mr. Suggs was asking, the County could invoice those costs before they were technically in the County’s Finance Department actually spent. He said once the costs were encumbered, they could be recorded through the Salesforce website as spent, which would help the County.

Commissioner Holt said that was why her motion was contingent on getting the CARES Act funding. She said the reason she asked about reimbursement in the first \$1.9 Million, that was disbursed, then they would be able to get the \$1.5 Million under the 20%.

Mr. Cox said they needed to submit the plan to DEM and then create in Salesforce a financial activity report and show the first 25% had been spent. Once that was done, they would send an amendment to the Agreement and start the process of receiving the additional 20%.

Chair Viegbesie said his question was, contingent on what part of the CARES Act funding, the 55% or the 25% already received or the 20% that they were not even sure they would receive until they have proved they have spent. Commissioner Holt said the \$1.9, the 25%, they already owe to the citizens. She said the State would not let them be evicted and was done under the direction of the State. She said they need to do what was promised to the citizens they would do. She said they were stalling and it was already October 6th.

Mr. Thomas said to follow-up what Commissioner Holt said, if they looked at the 25% break-out, there was only \$11,000 in the Residents' Assistance Program and \$195,000 in the Small Business Assistance Program in the first 25%. Commissioner Holt said that could be adjusted; what they were doing was turning in a plan they were hoping they would get.

Commissioner Taylor said when the attorney read the interpretation earlier, when he talked about temporary build-out that could be used, was why they were leaning on when they put that money in for the hospital. She said she was pleased when she understood that there were some old drawings that were available through CRA to use for the temporary buildout. She added she could not hear the Clerk, but thought he was saying that reimbursement for the architect was not allowable. She asked where was Integrity. Chair Viegbesie said their opinion confirmed some of what the Clerk and the attorney said.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the Administrator could come closer to the mike as she had a question. She asked if there were drawings that could be used to help with the build-out and COVID citizens, could CRA work with them and build the place out. She said there were some that wanted a hospital, but they could not cut off their nose to spite their face.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO SEE IF THERE WERE DRAWINGS WHERE THEY COULD DO A TEMPORARY BUILD-OUT, WHICH WAS WHAT WAS APPROVED WITH CARES ACT MONEY THAT THEY COULD HOUSE CITIZENS IN THAT AREA AND USE AS A SHELTER AS NEEDED AND USE CRA AS A CONSULTANT ON THE DESIGN AT AN AMOUNT THEY COULD AFFORD. MOTION DIES FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if Integrity was still on and they were. She said the Clerk made a comment about the 25% plan, could those numbers be altered for residents and businesses and was told yes. Mr. Cox said those numbers were for qualified residents and business grants at the time they had to submit the First Quarterly Report and they attempted to show in that first report that they had at the least, encumbered all of the 25%. Since then, in the last 5 days, they have qualified more, the encumbered costs, they can show DEM they were into the 20%. Commissioner Holt said she was talking about the residential and business part. If they were able to go ahead and fund some of these people, that left them to deal with government costs.

She added in order to get the 20%, they have to show they have spent or encumbered the 25%. Mr. Cox said they could easily show the 25% been encumbered. She said she was trying to get the individuals out of the way in order to go ahead and then move on with the plan and cut the deadline and keep moving. She said if they were able to get it and get some help, this was the time to get the help for the hospital. She said she did not understand who they would not get the architectural stuff done.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BRING THIS ITEM BACK ON FRIDAY. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor asked the attorney that he said earlier what CARES Act could do with regards to the build-out. She asked that he re-read it so they could clearly understand with regard what could and could not be done with the money. She asked if the design was an acceptable expense.

Eric Miller, Integrity, said the most recent guidance issued by FDEM, spoke to the purchase of real property and permanent structures and it said the “Federal guidance does not expressly make purchase of property and construction of permanent structures explicitly eligible or ineligible. He added the State posted directly to Treasury and had yet to receive a direct response.

Mr. Knowles said to answer her question, he agreed with Mr. Miller and the Clerk, they were treading a thin line, and if they moved this into their first remaining \$1.4 Million.

The Clerk said the first \$1.9 Million was basically already encumbered as stated by Integrity, but not all had been disbursed yet and was impossible to put the \$700,000 into the 25%. He said that would put it in the 55%, which made it reimbursable.

Mr. Knowles said if he heard correctly, it was not set in stone, they could theoretically change the amount to what they wanted with the 25% they had now. He then said he thought there was some credence to Commissioner Taylor’s point in that there was a possibility that the State could come back and say this was ineligible expense and deduct it from the County’s amount and they were \$700,000 in the red for other expenditures; OR as the Clerk was saying, it was in the 55% for reimbursement, they could not get reimbursed. He asked if that was correct and Mr. Miller said that was correct. Mr. Miller said if that were to happen, there were other options. Mr. Knowles said he agreed with Commissioner Taylor, it may be better to air on the side of caution. If they were going to run the risk of taking a \$700,000 bath, that may be a problem. He said he wanted to be on the record saying maybe they should re-evaluate this and bring it back at a later meeting.

Commissioner Holt said that was why she said “contingent upon getting funded” and her second motion was to bring back on Friday. She said there was no need to discuss if they were not getting funded. She added it made more sense to table until Friday.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL FRIDAY.

Commissioner Taylor said the reason she did not second this item, she did not think CRA should get that much of the build-out money.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion to table until Friday and he would make the second. He then called for the vote.

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

MOTION TO TABLE PASSED 3-2

15. Johnson Controls Sale and Installation Agreement

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

16. Approval of Elected Official (Commissioner) Appointment to the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint one elected official to serve on the Community Development Advisory Committee and advise the housing needs for Gadsden County.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were re-appointing Commissioner and Commissioner Holt said this was a new appointee.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1

17. Approval of New Road Name (PCJC Cemetery Road)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a new road name-PCJC Cemetery Road.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIOENR MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE CHAIR CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

18. Approval of New Road Name (Teague Lane)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a new road name-Teague Lane.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CLERK OF COURT

19. Updates

Mr. Thomas said he had no reports.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

20. Updates

Dr. Grant said the Integrity Group requested they have a workshop to deal with the HUD applications due the end of November. They set the date for October 22nd-and would be a workshop to discuss and prioritize the HUD projects that have been requested.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood that a Commissioner ordered campaign signs and billed the County. Commissioner Taylor said the sign company thought since she was a commissioner, the bill should be sent to County. No-one directed the company to send it to the County, the sign company made that assumption and it has since been corrected.

Commissioner Taylor asked when would the County Administrator position be brought before Board. Dr. Grant said it was his understanding it would be brought at the second meeting in October. Commissioner Taylor said since they were getting ready to entertain a new Administrator, asked the Board to consider a moratorium on the Administrator giving raises and firing unless it was detrimental to government. She said they needed to make sure no raises were given. She said the other thing, she spoke with someone from the Sheriff Department, and she thought they included requests of the Constitutional Officers in their budget. She said she understood there was quite a bit of money the Sheriff wanted put back in because he wanted to be competitive with salaries.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

21. Updates

Mr. Knowles said for the shade meeting scheduled for October 20th at 4 p.m., he requested the Commissioners be present physically, they could not do Zoom for this meeting. He said there was confusion on Friday, the Resolution said the curfew started at 11:00 p.m. and should have been 10 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

22. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he thought the last three-four years, the Board has been attacking other Board members and they need to stop.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:36 p.m.

All of them have degrees, etc. and things were being said that was not appropriate in meetings. They need to put a positive spin on the County; like what was said earlier, that was a question that could have been asked in private. They need to stop throwing innuendos out there. He then thanked the citizens for another four years for him to represent them.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had no comments.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Holt asked if Department heads in charge of departments – yes

If any write-up coming from department go through him or who-Grant said depending – one type goes to HR and other goes to HR and Administrator. She asked to see Policy and Procedure on that

When contractors do bid on individual items, want to see bids on items.

Would like to get Integrity to move as quickly as possible on individuals – get out of way then only have to deal with their costs and what going to fund. Have sent list to Trudei in Finance. Should move quickly.

Don't believe staff should be part of scoring process.

Grant asked if want score sheets or scores. Raw score sheets

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked if they had entertained the broadband bid yet. Dr. Grant said it would be brought back at the next meeting on October 20th.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:38 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could meet next week, if possible, about broadband.

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

Receipt and File

CARES Act Quarterly File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED IT ADJOURNED AT 8:46 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
OCTOBER 9, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Dr. Anthony Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4
Gene Morgan, District 3- absent
Sherrie Taylor, District 5- called in
Eric Hinson, District 1- appeared remotely

Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
Beth Bruner, Deputy Clerk

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

At 10:08 a.m. Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for heads to be bowed in prayer, followed by leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

None were had

Consent

None

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-Minute Limit)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Chair Viegbesie said he had one citizen requesting to be heard.

- A. **Penny O'Connell**, Quincy Main Street, Executive Director- Read into record.

General Business

1. Approval of COVID-19 Resolution 2020-60 (Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney to give an update of any revisions.

Mr. Knowles said the only changes were dates and the Resolution number. He asked the Commissioners to look at the curfew, mask requirement and requests for events.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they were part of the Resolution document.

Mr. Knowles said events were not in the Resolution but if approved, they could be or they could just be verbally approved. He suggested it be in writing.

Chair Viegbesie said to be fair to other who were asking for activities to go on, it should be on the agenda like the others were.

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney if there were any calls on changes.

Mr. Knowles said no, and he had not spoken to Col. Collins. He stated it seemed to be working.

Commissioner Holt said she would find out at the meeting later. She said she wanted a progress report and asked if there were school numbers.

Dr. Cooksey said the school report was posted on the Department of Health website weekly on Tuesdays. She said there were 12 cases in schools, 5 were virtual students, 7 were on-site students and 91 contacts were quarantined. She stated this impacted 6 schools. She said she would send the link to Dr. Grant. She stated it was updated once a week and would show the number of cases by school or students, teachers and staff.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was an uptick in the number

Dr. Cooksey said schools specifically saw a decrease in persons' quarantining. She said the County was up, at 8.2% and increased slightly. She further stated last week was a little lower and testing was stable. She said at an average, 200 people were tested per day.

Commissioner Holt asked for testing location spots.

Dr. Cooksey said CRMC on Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or go to your personal provider. She said CVS in Quincy was a self-swab, she said you must be symptomatic. Home Depot off Capitol Circle in Tallahassee. All of the places she listed were working with school and Emergency Management for rapid testing for students, staff or symptomatic people 55 and over.

Commissioner Holt asked Dr. Grant to get the report from Law Enforcement and the Department of Health each week to have numbers to judge.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER HINSON.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to find out if essential workers for the County were being compensated. She said it needed to be talked about. She said the Board needed to meet with Integrity. She made sure the curfew was 10 p.m. and there was a mask mandate.

Mr. Knowles said yes, but the County was unable to issue citations or enforce penalties.

Commissioner Taylor asked when food truck requests would be entertained and said she was for it. She thought they wanted an answer today.

Chair Viegbesie said in the past, the Board asked for others to submit a plan. He suggested the plan be presented and then voted on to follow the same procedure for everyone.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	Y
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

2. Approval of the Agreement with Clemons, Rutherford and Associates, Inc. for Architectural Services (Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item. He said this item was asked to be brought back because there was concern if CARES would fund this project. He said The Integrity Group did a thorough investigation of the concern and they said CARES may be at risk of retention by FDEM if used for activities related to the permanent construction of the hospital facilities.

Commissioner Holt asked Integrity if they would recommend doing the hospital project under a different funding organization and not under CARES.

Eric Miller with Integrity appeared remotely and answered yes. He said the HUD CDBG program would be a good fit and they would be at the CDBG workshop.

Commissioner Holt asked if any preliminaries before reconstruction would qualify with CARES.

Mr. Miller said based on other Federal Grants, Architectural and Engineering costs were considered as part of permanent construction.

Commissioner Holt said that was good to know. She asked if Mr. Miller would find out if the Department Treasury had concerns about this area. She asked if HUD was competitive, and Mr. Miller said correct. Commissioner Holt said the County should look at as many pots as possible to get a hospital. She further stated the County still had funds in the Endowment Fund.

Clerk Thomas said there was about \$1.3M in dividends and interest earnings in the account.

Commissioner Holt asked what the total in the account was other than dividends and earnings.

Clerk Thomas said it was \$9 Million and he stressed it was for the hospital only, not for a shelter.

Commissioner Holt said it would be built for a hospital and would also use it as a shelter during hurricane season. She said the purpose was so the County could get funding from the State and Federal Government in order to build out on the hospital or until it was used as a hospital. She wanted Integrity to know there was some funding in the County. She asked Integrity to consider HUD and any other place the County could get funding.

Gary Yates with Integrity, said it was best to delay the application for HUD. He said that because there was another County that had an earmark for a State plan for a hospital. She said any RFP proposal for the hospital today should be tabled.

Commissioner Holt said that was a good idea for earmarks on the Legislative session and the County needed to go all out on lobbying during this session. She said she would not approve this item until there was a funding source. She wants a company that had worked on this project and knew about it.

Chair Viegbesie said since he had conversations with people and agencies that dealt with this. He said he was told the \$781,000 should be part of the \$10 Million, where the design, client, and the construction of the project should be part of those monies. He was told that a drawing plan was not providing of the service and should not be part of CARES Act. He said during that conversation, he thought of the Ambulances purchased and they would be delivered before the December 31st deadline and the hospital building would not be. He stated this did not fit under CARES. He further stated everyone wanted a hospital and the Board should suspend the conversation and push the project during CDBG HUD funding when that time came.

Commissioner Taylor said money was set aside to build a temporary shelter for those with COVID. She said the CARES Act said you could build a temporary shelter. She did not think the County would get funding for a hospital. She was afraid the County would not be able to self-support a hospital. She said this would keep citizens from getting services. She asked Dr. Grant to look at it again and try to build a place for people with COVID. She said not to wait for Integrity, citizens needed this now.

Chair Viegbesie said everyone wanted health care services to citizens. He said the Board needed to come back and do it piece by piece.

Commissioner Taylor was asking for a Workshop/Emergency Meeting ASAP. She said the Board needed it to be put on the agenda.

Chair Viegbesie said the item was on the agenda. He told her to make her suggestion a motion. He asked the Attorney if Commissioner Taylor could make a motion to use the money to retro-fit that building for a shelter for special needs.

Mr. Knowles said he did not think she could do that, it needed to be on the agenda.

Commissioner Taylor agreed and she requested a Workshop/Emergency Meeting.

Mr. Knowles said he thought Commissioner Taylor was asking for it to be added to the agenda. He said there was going to be a Workshop next week and he thought it could be added.

Commissioner Holt said it was not impossible. She said small hospitals were being built using State and Federal funds. She said the County was paying a half-cent sales tax right now and still had no hospital because people on the Board already voted to not build out the hospital. She stated people were already paying for a hospital. She said if it was built out as a shelter, the County still needed a hospital and would have to go back and rebuild. She said no false statements should be made and if the Board wanted to do a shelter quick, take \$1 Million, go to the Stevens School cafeteria and build out as a shelter and be done, that was the plan for Stevens School already and then the Board could still do what needed to be done at the hospital. She stated the people were paying for a hospital since 2009 and deserved to have a hospital.

Commissioner Hinson called the question.

Commissioner Taylor said the County was collecting less than \$1 million a year and that would not support a full-fledge a hospital. She said with the \$1 Million, the County had a full-fledged emergency facility that had saved lives and had done an excellent job.

Commissioner Holt told Commissioner Taylor she had also messed up \$10.3 Million dollars.

Chair Viegbesie called for respect among Commissioners and for order.

Commissioner Taylor said the County should not even think about putting a temporary shelter in Old Stevens School, in a bedrock community where 90% of the citizens were elderly. She said she wanted to move forward for the County not for a County Commissioner. She stated Integrity and the Attorney said do not use the money for an architect. She wanted this item to come back and the Commissioners to come up with a conclusion.

Chair Viegbesie said he wanted a motion

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO POSTPONE UNTIL THERE WAS HUD FUNDING WITH A SECOND FROM CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE POSTPONING THIS ITEM UNTIL HUD FUNDING WAS SECURED. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	N
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	Y
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER HOLT	Y
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	Y

Commissioner Holt said if the hospital was renovated for COVID patients, it had to be renovated at hospital standards. (need oxygen and other things) Having just an emergency shelter would be why she wanted Stevens School to be used as a general shelter not for COVID patients.

Chair Viegbesie said there were two items for soccer and food trucks He stated he wanted a plan from Quincy Main Street to make sure the activities were in accordance with the CDC guidelines as the Board had requested from others. He asked for a detailed plan and also asked when the workshop would be held.

Dr. Grant said the workshop was scheduled for October 22 and the next BOCC meeting was on October 20.

Chair Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant to put all plans together for one agenda item on the 20th.

Commissioner Holt said the City of Quincy had an activity planned near the Supervisor of Elections office and streets would be blocked off. She said it may cause problems with voting and she wanted a legal opinion. She further stated there should be no obstruction or distraction when it came to voting.

Mr. Knowles said he spoke with the Supervisor of Elections and she was concerned. He said she welcomed the event but it was on a Tuesday, on the street, and in front of the Supervisor of Elections office, the street would be blocked off on both ends. Mr. Knowles said the ballot box in front of her office was the only drop box in the County. He said the County could be sued along with the City of Quincy. He suggested getting up with the City of Quincy Manager and Attorney. He said the County may have to take legal action if the City would not move the event. He further stated there could be no instance where a person's ability to vote was hindered.

Commissioner Holt said she spoke with the Attorney and the young lady in the Supervisor's office and the Commissioners from Quincy. She said it was a touchy situation because only one person had to say they could not get to the Supervisors Office to turn in their ballot. She said she asked that emails be sent to the City because the County would need documentation if there was a lawsuit. She further stated, in 2000, Gadsden County was the only County that filed a complaint with the Supervisors of Elections Office during that election. She said she filed that complaint. She wanted to make sure there were no obstructions to the ballot box.

Chair Viegbesie made sure there was still a quorum to talk about a plan, and there was.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not know what Quincy was doing.

Mr. Knowles said the City was celebrating the Coke mural. He said he had a diagram on how it would be set up. He said Madison and Jefferson would have a stage and two food trucks on Clark, police officer at each end of Crawford Street, and Adam Street would be open. His and the Clerks concern was voter suppression/intimidation. He said there was no conflicting ordinance, although, the Board could pass an Emergency Ordinance. He said he would forward the diagram he received to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt said she spoke with two Commissioners of Quincy. She wanted the Chair, Attorney and Managers to meet. She said the County was not allowing anything, but it was good to talk and get everyone on the same page.

Commissioner Taylor said she did get the information on the mural. She said the celebration was two-hours long and she did not see what the problem was. She said the City could set up in a way that this could be done. She said it should not have an impact on voting. She asked for the City and Supervisor of Elections to work together.

Chair Viegbesie suggested Dr. Grant scheduled a meeting ASAP with the Mayor, City Manager, Chair and the Attorney for both the City and County and the Supervisor of Elections.

Mr. Knowles said he did not know the length and it may be two- hours as Commissioner Taylor stated. He said the concern was not that the County would get sued, but they could. He further stated the Supervisor was worried there could be voter suppression. He also said it was an outdoor event that may go above the 50-person restriction.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought the meeting between the County and City would iron it out peacefully and that was the direction the Board was giving to the staff.

Commissioner Taylor asked to meet with Integrity and to have the moratorium she spoke about and said she wanted these on the agenda. She asked the attorney to look up the definition for essential worker, she wanted to get them extra pay in Public Works because they were opening themselves up going out into the community every day.

Mr. Knowles said there was Workers Compensation Provisions for front-line workers, and they would not qualify for that. He said the Administrator could offer Administrative Leave for those who tested positive. He said he would look into it more.

Chair Viegbesie said direction was given to staff with regards to the activities.

Commissioner Taylor asked when the next meeting with Integrity was.

Chair Viegbesie said there would be a workshop on October 22nd and Commissioner Taylor said that was too late.

Chair Viegbesie said the Governor was not making any drastic changes to any of the Executive Orders or the State of Emergency. He said Friday meetings had been held to review those changes from the Governor's Office. He suggested to suspend Friday meetings until there were drastic changes from the Governor's Office that the Board would need to discuss the Counties Resolution and how it would go along with the Governor's Office.

Commissioner Holt said she had no problem with not meeting on Friday and asked about the emergency status.

Mr. Knowles said the State was still under an emergency status, He said the County needed to keep the State of Emergency going for HUD, FEMA, and others. He said the Chair could sign the Resolution.

Chair Viegbesie said he was not saying the County was not in a State of Emergency, he just wanted to curtail the Friday meetings. He said now that the State was in Phases 3, an Emergency meeting could be called if it was needed.

Motion to Adjourn

At 11:15 a.m., with no further business to come before the Board, Chair Viegbesie called the meeting adjourned.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH.D., Chairman
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 17, 2020 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Henry G. Grant, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Reorganization of the Board

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chair

Dr., Grant said the first thing on the Agenda was the Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Green, said on behalf of the citizens, thanked Chair Viegbesie for his service to the community as Chair.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HOLT AS CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

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

Chair Holt thanked Commissioner Viegbesie and then asked for nominations for vice chair.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH NOMINATED COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS VICE CHAIR.

Chair Holt explained there did not need to be a second for the nominations and asked if there were any other nominations and there were none.

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

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant asked to add 3 items: as 13a-FDOT Maintenance Agreement, 13b-Approval to Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Goal of Affordable and Reliable High-Speed Internet throughout Florida and 13c- Approval of the Contract Supplement with Rudd's Pest Control, Inc. (In Minutes as Items 14a, 14b, and 14c)

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Briefing on the CRTPA Regional Mobility Plan 2045

Diane Quigley, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and said she was presenting the item on behalf of the Board because Chair Holt wanted to be updated on the plans.

Commissioner Hinson left the meeting at 6:10 p.m. and later re-joined the meeting by ZOOM.

Commissioner Green asked if she knew when they planned to put the County on their plan for more bicycle trails. She explained three trails were already on there and if they wanted more, the document was changeable.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to Commissioner Green he was the County Representative for CRTPA and was the immediate past chair. He added they were working on two bike trails, one from Havana to Leon County. He said it would have to come through CRTPA, FDOT would not accept anything through the County without support from CRTPA.

Chair Holt asked if there was any co-sponsoring of funding for mobile transportation/bus transportation, etc. Ms. Quigley said there was federal dollars for that and Gadsden Express was often incorporated in their general operating funds.

Chair Holt said that the City of Tallahassee also applies for half of that grant.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of the 2021 Holiday Schedule**
- 3. Approval of Library Annual Plan of Service 2020-2021**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - June 18, 2020
 - June 19, 2020
 - June 26, 2020
 - July 21, 2020
 - July 21, 2020
 - July 31, 2020
 - August 17, 2020
 - September 15, 2020
 - September 16, 2020

- September 17, 2020

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Rev. Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He stated he was happy for new composition of the BOCC. He said he was here to remind them that the citizens were very excited about the election. The County has been at or near the bottom in some categories and at the top in others. He encouraged them to work collaboratively to do the best to improve life in Gadsden County. He further added that the number one challenge was to improve employment in the County.

Marshall Williams, 211 Horseshoe Drive, Havana appeared before the Board. He stated he had a residential subdivision request that was denied. He asked the Board if there was any remedy.

Chair Holt said he could discuss this with the Administrator. There was discussion between the attorney and the citizen.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Williams. He asked if this was a county issue or state issue. He said there should be a rule in place for extenuating circumstances.

Chair Holt said this needed to be agendaed to be discussed. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was the policy of the Board to put in place or if it was something the State did and if it was the Board, it could be changed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 5. PUBLIC HEARING (Legislative) Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2020-005 to repeal Section 7001.1, 'Citizens Growth Management and Planning Bill of Rights' and to add Subsection 1306, Community Meetings to Chapters 1, Administration and Enforcement of the Land Development Code, (LDR 2020-02)**

Item Pulled

- 6. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2020-065 Budget Amendments for FY2020**

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of Resolution 2020-065 and for authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director and Sr. Management and Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2020 BOCC budget.

Jeff Price, Sr. Management & Budget Analyst, appeared before Board. He said every year they go through this process to balance the budget and they had 60 days from the end of the fiscal year to clean everything up. He said Clerk Thomas had been very helpful this year.

He explained the first two dealt with EMS; they were over budget and had to move money to bring it within a positive balance. He further stated the reason they were over-budget was some salary increases and the main reason was some EMS vehicles. They ended up leasing and was a different way to handle that accounting wise. They moved money from General Fund balance to EMS balance.

On the next two was the Supervisor of Elections. The virus took care of that little bit. There was an increase in overtime and was extra training. When there was overtime issues, there was also an increase in benefits and had to move approximately \$60,000 into that one.

The third was Landfill-Mosquito control. He said they have never had this issue before but was short a mosquito control person for a couple of months and they decided to hire a commercial contractor to come in and do some work.

The fourth was Building Inspection is its own fund and they did really good on collecting fees. He said there was a little bit of negative so they recognized some of the revenue to offset that.

Chair Holt said it showed a shortfall but had no amount there. Mr. Price stated the amount was \$6,441 and was for revenue they used to recognize to come back to zero to balance that out. He said they had to increase the revenue to offset that. Chair Holt asked where the money was pulled from and he stated the Building/Revenue source.

Chair Holt asked when he brings items, to give the definition of each one so when there is a negative balance and moved from General Fund, the why is there.

Commissioner Green asked in the General Fund, did that include money that came from CARES ACT or if some of the expenditures with EMS come from CARES Act as opposed to coming from General Fund. Mr. Price explained the CARES Act money would be in this fiscal year.

Mr. Thomas said there were some things that have been submitted and will mention in his report about getting reimbursement for EMS from CARES Act, but that did not need to be mixed up with what Mr. Price was reporting now. Mr. Thomas went on to explain they were seeking reimbursement for CARES Act funding for EMS, but was a separate issue from what Mr. Price was doing. Commissioner Green said the reason he asked that question was they were talking about moving \$370,000 if his numbers were right from General Funding and if they had money that was available in the GACRS Act, maybe that money could have been used for some that needed to be moved.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the second item on Page 4. Was EMS also-have to have 2 separate budget amendments, one for General Fund and one for EMS fund.

Holt asked for explanation on what happened with EMS. He said the second item recognized transferring \$120,000 from General Fund to cover the negative line and asked what that was

for. Mr. Price said it was for EMS, they had negative expenses with salaries and vehicles. In order to cover, they moved money from General Fund and transferred to EMS.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was they moved \$120,000 from General Fund to EMS.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his only comment dealt with presentation; he understood what was being done. Commissioners do not know what is going on in the head of the financial manager. The presentation should be a presentation for dummies to make it easy for anyone that comes off the street would know what was going on.

Chair Holt cautioned the new commissioners if they had any questions, to get with the Administrator.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-State Housing (Referred to as Item 6 by Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Special Assessment Lien and Rehabilitation Contract that was agreed upon by the Homeowner, contractor and SHIP Housing Rehabilitation Program for the rehabilitation of their home.

Commissioner Green asked the process and procedure for anyone that wanted to apply for the funding for their house to be rehabbed.

Sonya Burns, Housing Coordinator, appeared remotely

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 6:55 p.m.

Ms. Burns said she had put together a welcome packet and information on the housing program to help give Commissioner Green and Commissioner NeSmith a better understanding on how the State Housing Initiative Partnership works.

Chair Holt asked the will of the Board.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

8. St. Hebron Walk and Bike for Trail Amendment (Referred to as Item 7 by Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of amendment 3 for the Recreational Trails Program. He said this third amendment was to revise the scope of work.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 6:57 p.m.

Dr. Grant said the amendment allowed for a portion of the planning expenses to be recovered and extended the project expiration date by one calendar year. He added it was competitively bid and awarded to Peavy and Sons for \$364,693.75.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9. Volunteer Fire Department Annual Payment Discussion (CLERK'S OFFICE HAD NO DOCUMENTATION FOR ITEM PRESENTED AND WAS REFERRED TO BY ADMINISTRATOR AS ITEM 8)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for discussion only regarding the annual payment to each volunteer fire department that they receive for providing fire and rescue services to the unincorporated areas of Gadsden County.

Chair Holt said they did not need to look at this until they had proof of calls.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the fund, upon approval, would go directly to the volunteer fire station or when disbursed go to the municipality. Dr. Grant said fire stations in unincorporated areas go to fire station, the ones in the municipalities go to municipalities.

Commissioner Green said he also had a question on how they come up with the numbers and did they look at expenses in each facility and what it would take to operate that facility.

Dr. Grant said that was the problem, they did not know how the figures were determined and why staff had presented options 1, 2, and 3 of the methods they may go about financing the departments in the future. He said another option was the County retain the money and the fire departments submit invoices to the County for whatever they need billings for.

Chair Holt said what they have done before was have the different departments come in and explain what they were doing and the amount of calls they receive.

Dr. Grant asked if they wanted this done in the form of a workshop and was told yes

Commissioner Nesmith asked with the fire departments in the unincorporated areas, did the County acquire the equipment or did they. Dr. Grant said they pay out of the money that is budgeted to them.

10. Cooks Landing Road SCOP (Referred to as Item 9 by Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for signature of the Professional Services Agreement for construction, engineering and Inspection services for Cook Landing Road project. He added the CEI services would have a cost of \$253,710.50 and would be funded by the FDOT and would have no fiscal impact to the County.

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

11. CR159 Dover/Scotland Road LAP-Supplement Agreement (Referred to as Item 10 by Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute a Supplemental Agreement and the associated Resolution with FDOT to reduce the construction agreement by \$152,707.00. The revised agreement will be \$503,749.00.

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

12. CR153 Iron Bridge Road LAP – Supplemental Agreement (Referred to as Item 11 by Administrator)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item to execute a Supplemental Agreement and the associated Resolution with FDOT to reduce the construction agreement by \$440,796.00. The revised agreement amount will be \$366,336.00.

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

13. Willacoochee Creek Bridge Repair (Bridge #500040) SCOP Agreement (Administrator addressed as Item 12)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said was for approval and signature of the FDOT SCOP bridge repairs for Willacoochee Creek Bridge. He added this project would have no fiscal impact on the County.

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

14. Broadband Contract (Administrator addressed as Item 13)

Dr. Grant started to introduce this item and Commissioner Viegbesie stated the item was not in the book and the Deputy Clerk said it was not on the website.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Chair Holt said it was added on in an email. Deputy Clerk stated she did not receive the email. Ms. Steele stated it was on the website.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Viegbesie said did not believe the procedure was appropriate and did not think it was fair to the new commissioners as they did not know the entire story. He said he was a supporter for broadband for everyone. The School board was providing broadband to students of the County. The First Lady of Florida has proposed a plan to provide broadband to every part of the State with T-Mobile. He said there was also an item on the Agenda that was added that was to provide broadband to all rural counties.

The other concern was, in approving this item, was in total violation of the Code of Federal Regulation 200.38 and was the Code regarding federal grants. Though the CARES Act money,

the plan was on spending \$900,000 but the request is \$1.765 Million difference and was a violation of the cost analysis of the Federal regulation for funding. He added if he recalled from the last meeting, the packet that was submitted by the vendor was incomplete. The Proposal did not address how the device would be returned, it did not state who was responsible for overage cost beyond the December 30th date associated with the device rental, and did not specify and/or provide an impact analysis, engineering plans or results of service testing in remote areas to ensure the effectiveness and proper bandwidth (inaudible). All three were required by whomever submitted their proposal for service. So, this particular bid was lacking those and during discussion on approval of the bid to Figgers Communication, Commissioner Viegbesie expressed his concerns of the plan as a violation of the Federal regulation and if the Board approves; the first question was to the attorney, if the proposal submitted is lacking and not complete, how did they get to where they were now to approve the contract. In the conversation of the last meeting, Chair Holt said she was looking for the contracts and asked the attorney to make sure that all of the concerns, being the lack of information that was requested, be provided. His question was, have the three items that were not provided been provided when the service contract was drawn up?

Mr. Knowles said he received a contract from FCI three weeks ago. It was insufficient, he made substantial changes and sent to the representatives of FCI last Tuesday and around 9:00 this morning received another contract with additional changes and modifications, most of which he did not agree with. What he did to try to address the first concern with regard to the devices, the contract he proposed effectively provided the device, once the County procures it and the device became the property of the resident, the County would pay FCI on a pro-rata procurement basis. After that 30 days period was up; the service for the device would be the responsibility of the individual who received the device and the County would not be on the hook beyond December 30th. What FCI proposed, which he did not agree with, was the devices would be procured except in the case of a breach of contract or termination without cause by the County at which FCI would retain the devices and if County terminated without cause, the County would have to pay them \$600,000 for damages and he did not agree with that. Also, the first 50 GB of service was provided by FCI, for every additional 50 GB above that, the owner of the device would pay \$50/per 50 GB per device. He said that would be costly and he did not agree with that change either but was committed to bring those to the Board. He said the best way they could address the devices was that they bought them, they own them, they keep them; we being the citizenry of the County. The County was only providing service for whatever amount being allotted in terms of the data usage, that was what the County was buying. He said he would not advice the Board get into a scenario where they did not know. He said what he understood from IT, it was 500 MB to a GB for every hour streaming and one thing Commissioner Hinson said that he wanted to use this for was for tele-work and was for school. Mr. Knowles said someone was doing back and forth like on Zoom and tele-work and using a gigabyte every hour, a person would run out pretty fast and the County could be charged a significant amount of money moving forward. He said they wanted to be fiscally responsible. The Clerk sent an email and they needed to make sure they were fiscally responsible. He said there is a contract that dealt with that and was what has been provided. He added if they entered into that, it should address a majority of the concerns.

Commissioner Viegbesie said all his concerns have been registered. He said before and will again, he may be wrong but he may be right. If the Board approves the contract, he will personally file a complaint with the Federal government with regards to how they were using

the grant money in violation of their requirement unless the Treasury Department told him he was wrong. He said he would not support this item. Has said before and will again, when FBI comes knocking, he has done nothing for them to knock on his door because he was not going to vote for it and would not support it. If the Board approves this today, within 24 hours, he will file a complaint with US Department of Treasury and let them prove him wrong that his concern was wasteful. He said he would rather be wrong and be cautious.

Commissioner Green said although he was not a part of the original conversation, he followed it. What was the deadline this must be approved? Could they see dialogue between the attorney and their representative and he would love for the representative come to answer questions?

Mr. Knowles said they have until December 30th to expend the funds. He told Commissioner Green that he would be happy to forward to all the Commissioners the conversations that have been had and could send all contracts. He reminded them time was of the essence.

Commissioner Hinson said broadband was something he had been proposing the past five to six years. There were questions that concerned him. He said he thought a lot of the dogmatic conversation that someone relayed earlier, was said they started at \$900,000 and was illegal if they went up to \$1.7 Million. He said if he could recall, the Board agreed to not spend \$1 Million on the hospital and other things. How could it be illegal if the Board agreed to it. They were sending mixed signals to the community. If the Board agreed to something, it was legal, especially if everyone was there. Now it was being said it was time sensitive and they were right. The Board voted to move forward with this before school started. Also, it was offensive and insulting to him, with all the degrees he's gotten from Moorhouse and University of Miami, he has seen these guys on Zoom, they read and studied this and to now insult them that they don't know the history, was insulting to him. How come there's been dialogue, why haven't they seen the conversation with the attorney and their representative. If the County Administrator, Chair and attorney knew this was time sensitive, it should have moved forward. Something did not smell right to him and it was insulting. He said it was insulting and when people start talking with sweat on their head, it was a sad day in Gadsden County. He said if the attorney had information to share, let the Board know what was going on so they could make a decision and asked how often he and Commissioner Viegbesie had talked about this, it was not fair to the Board. He said he hated to postpone, but they never get anything. When one commissioner says when School Board has 5G stuff, where was it because students were telling him they have nothing. He said for them to make sure they had all their facts together before bringing to the Board.

Chair Holt asked if he was withdrawing his motion and he said no, he was waiting to get factual information. He said something was going on and "they" were making it personal and was a personal attack. They keep postponing but the Attorney never sends them anything and it was embarrassing.

Commissioner NeSmith asked, based on the timeframe, was that the timeframe they were aware of to expend money. Dr. Grant said the timeframe to submit was December 3rd and the deadline to expend was December 30th. Commissioner NeSmith said he read over and it was a very extensive document. He did speak to Mr. Knowles regarding this and asked for additional time to study the agreement.

Commissioner Green concurred with Commissioner Hinson on having factual information; he heard there were other resources and numbers were not adding up as to the number of hotspots that would be needed. He asked who was taking a true analysis on the numbers so they would know the amount they should allocate for and was not happy in going back and forth and asked for better information so he could look at this.

Commissioner Hinson said he would withdraw his motion only if they could address this Thursday and invite the company in to discuss. Chair Holt withdrew her second.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was going to reserve his comments with regard to what he was expecting of the Board. He said again he had nothing personal about anyone. He said he saw Commissioner Green wiping sweat from his head and that did not mean a thing. If anyone says anything, preachers preach and (inaudible) if someone wanted to make comments, make the comments direct, if going to refer to someone, call them by name.

Chair Holt asked to wrap this up. She said she asked for a meeting and it fell apart. This company was the only one that submitted a bid. Then the attorney suggested it be bid again. He was again the only one that bid. FBI has been here two-three times, that was nothing new. Chair Holt asked for a special meeting next week on Monday to give the new commissioners a chance to look over the item. She told both the Attorney and the Administrator to contact the contractor and have a special meeting on Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the contractor knew what the concerns and issues were or was it something they should know.

Chair Holt said the attorney would send documentation to each Commissioner.

14a FDOT Maintenance Agreement (Administrator addressed this as 13a)

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval of the FDOT Maintenance Agreement. FDOT has agreed to design, construct new pavement markings and update signage within several school zones throughout the County.

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

14b Approval to Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Goal of Affordable and Reliable High-Speed Internet Throughout Florida

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to adopt a resolution supporting the goal of affordable and high-speed internet throughout Florida.

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

14c Approval of the Contract Supplement with Rudd's Pest Control

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the supplemental agreement with Rudd's Pest Control to provide service and maintenance to the County buildings.

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

15. Bond Measure

Item Pulled

16. County Administrator's Contract

Item Pulled

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and said he forwarded to the Commissioners a brief update of the CARES Act spending. They now have received monies from phase 1 and 2 for a total of \$3.5 Million of the \$7.9 Million reward and there were a number of deadlines. Dr. Grant mentioned one, a November 16th deadline that they were supposed to have spent all of Phase II money to qualify for Phase III. He said they were qualified for Phase III due to Dr. Grant working with Integrity and the Finance Director. They submitted payrolls for law enforcement and EMS to fulfill that requirement showing expenditures for November so they were still in the game. He said they have spent approximately \$2.3 Million and time was running short to accomplish everything. The money that was submitted for payroll would go into Phase III and they would have that money for the spending plan. He further stated they had work to do in terms of clarifying the spending plan and executing it in short period of time.

Chair Holt asked the Administrator if the Health Council had received their money. He said he did not know yet, they have to submit documentation.

Chair Holt said they need to get them back in here and needed to hurry up. They have to get that money moving because the holidays would mess them up.

Mr. Thomas said one area they could emphasize to the public and that was the Residents Assistance Program dealing with utilities, mortgage assistance and rental assistance, etc., they have not spent very much and had quite a bit allocated for that. Chair Holt said they were looking at the remaining balance and on the Spreadsheet for the Residents Assistance Program there was \$142,307 and they had \$1.2 Million allocated for Housing and have spent \$115,516. Her suggestion was to do like Leon County had done and revitalize their program because they were losing money.

The Clerk said they have done well with the Small Business Assistance Program, \$608,000 had been spent and had \$287,000 left and \$305,000 for Phase III.

Chair Holt said the reason she asked about the Health Council, they may need to look at that and a couple of other non-profits to help them out. She said they knew the people and may need to help move the money and if Integrity did not move the money, they would lose money. She asked if they could see what Leon County or other counties did differently to get their money out the door.

Dr. Grant said they had to realize they put it on Integrity that if the money was not spent correctly, they were held responsible. Chair Holt said she was sure Leon County put it on someone to be held responsible also to do it correctly. They need to find out what they did. Dr. Grant said documentation was the key to everything.

Frederica Hamilton with Integrity appeared remotely before the Board. She said the balance that remained in Phase II funding was \$2,141,867 and that amount did not include the \$400,000 for the municipal pass-through as well based on the numbers as of this morning, with the Residents Assistance Program, they have received 564 applications and of those, it was not the issue of getting the word out, the problem was having applicants that qualified and was eligible for the assistance, provide the required support documentation. She added that of the 564 applications they had in-house, 331 of those were missing support documentation. She said some have provided the necessary documentation, it was a matter of getting them to provide same.

Chair Holt said she did not have a problem with what she was saying, but if they were going to provide an organization with funding and some of those applicants did not know how to get information, to help them get it.

Commissioner Green asked how many people were there working in that department and Ms. Hamilton stated there were three in the building and five remotely.

Commissioner Green asked how many applications were being processed on a daily basis and Ms. Hamilton said it was a number of things. It entails meeting the applicants, them walking up requesting information on the application, turning in supporting documentation that might have been missing from the application, landlords walking up, calls to applicants requesting missing support documentation and said there was quite a bit that goes into it, not just one thing. Commissioner Green pointed out that he was sure they were aware there may be people that did not have the accessibility or a way to get the supporting documents and wanted to make sure they were communicating to the best of their ability on all levels to ensure the money moved as quickly as possible.

Chair Holt said she was getting the same calls about being contacted and wanting to know what needed to be done to advance the process and they needed help and needed a meeting ASAP.

Commissioner Hinson said he was receiving complaints regarding the application process too. He talked with staff and they were working well. Constituents were telling him they were still having issues. He said he has asked for a workshop with Integrity so there could be a common language to share with the constituents and did not want to prolong this matter.

Chair Holt asked for Ms. Hamilton to get with other members of Integrity and see if they were available for Monday at 6:00.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to help Integrity, they needed to consider GCDC as an agent to work with small businesses to work in collaboration with Integrity.

Chair Holt thanked the Clerk for the information.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Dr. Grant reminded everyone of the special meeting scheduled for November 19th at 6:00 for the CDBG Disaster Relief Application public hearing.

He said there were two department heads, Curtis Young was back at Public Works and the Extension head is Marcus Boston.

He said they needed direction from the Commission on how staff needed to pursue the Administrator position.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if it was appropriate to re-advertise the position and whomever wished to apply, could apply. He added he did not think it was fair to the two new incoming commissioners and suggested it be re-advertised, sent through the process and let everyone decide who they want in that position. He also said there could be a motion from the body to make the Interim permanent if that was the direction they want to go. He said his input into the conversation was for them to advertise and go through the search process and the ones that desire to apply can do so, whether local or outside of this jurisdiction.

Commissioner Green said in respect to the vice chair, what was the longevity of the process if they took that direction and selecting an administrator because he knew there were a lot of issues that needed to be taken care of as soon as possible. He said he had mixed emotions in the direction they were heading in relation to the County Administrator. He said he wanted to make sure they were doing things in the right way and has the person that was previously selected been properly notified that the contract was denied.

Mr. Knowles said he did speak with Mr. Elias and he was curious as to why the item was pulled. He stated he was aware of the Board's action of October 20th and was aware that their counter-offer to his offer was still at \$105,000 and his response was he would not accept \$105,000 but was still willing to negotiate. Mr. Knowles said the caveat was, according to the HR Director, this Board, as was constituted here today because of the new commissioners, would not necessarily be able to take action on the prior vote from the prior Board. He said he was not an employment law expert and was trusting her judgment. He said Mr. Elias was aware and was still willing to negotiate, he just needed guidance on how the Board wanted to proceed. He said, as Commissioner Viegbesie stated, they may need to re-advertise.

Chair Holt passed the gavel to Vice Chair Viegbesie.

CHAIR HOLT (after passing gavel) MADE A MOTION FOR FORMER COMMISSIONER EDWARD J. DIXON TO BE OFFERED THE SAME CONTRACT THAT WAS OFFERED TO MR. ELIAS AT \$105,000 FOR 5 YEARS.

She said she made this motion because he had more experience than anyone else in County Government. Also, when he was chairman of the Association, he wrote the legislation for SCOP, SCRAP, etc., he has a keen eye for government, and they needed help. There was not an

assistant administrator or someone to step in. She said it was not required that it be advertised.

VICE CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID MOTION WAS DENIED FOR LACK OF SECOND AND CHAIR HOLT SAID A SECOND HAD NOT BEEN ASKED FOR.

Commissioner Green said he agreed with Chair Holt in reference to the qualifications that Mr. Dixon holds, however, he would like to have the opportunity to see what was out there and would love for him to apply and for them to follow the process. He said he felt he could be a great asset to the Board but wanted him to apply. He also felt whomever was selected should hire the assistant.

VICE CHAIR VIEGBESIE THANKED COMMISSIONER GREEN FOR HIS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCED CHAIR HOLT'S MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

He stated he had confidence in Mr. Dixon's skill and he had worked with Mr. Dixon tremendously with CRTPA and his skill was unquestionable. He said he wanted them to go through the process of hiring, he was local, knew people, knew the history, and let him apply. If the position is re-advertised and he applies, he would have all the credentials needed, he has the degree and everything the requirement called for. He said if he went through the process of applying, he would have his vote but he had to go through the process.
(Passed gavel back)

Commissioner Hinson said fair was fair. Personally, he did not have a dog in this fight and he did not know Derrick Elias too much.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 8:27 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson continued and said he heard Mr. Elias withdrew his application and now heard he may be willing to negotiate. He added if she had two people with her that was ready to vote for the person of her choice, in all fairness, the Vice Chair was the main one that said something about the process and if he had a person of his choice, he would throw the process out the window. He said they needed to do what was right for the citizens of Gadsden County. He was ready to move on, they could vote tonight.

Chair Holt said if she remembered correctly, they have not selected one person off the advertised list since 2008.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 8:30 p.m.

Commissioner Green said Commissioner Hinson suggested he was ready to move on but in defense to the statement, there was no second. He said Commissioner Hinson made another good point, on the motion made, the individual was without a doubt qualified.

Commissioner Hinson said if there was someone that applied for the job, have three commissioners that committed, why go through the motion because there were three votes tonight, to move on.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the item died for lack of second. Why were they still continuing the conversation on that motion if it was dead and were they discussing a motion that was dead or were they having a discussion to give staff direction on what to do to fill that position?

Mr. Knowles said what he was hearing was they wanted new process with a new RFP/RFQ, for whomever to apply, based on metrics that the Board selected and have a process. He said what he was hearing was they were discussing board direction to staff as to how to proceed on the County Administrator contract.

Commissioner Viegbesie said why is there resuscitation for a second motion that will be a motion that has already been killed. He said a motion made died with having a conversation and now there was resuscitation for the same motion to be made. He said they had the process before and was of great concern and he did research. When a motion made died and then someone else made the same motion after conversation and then the second, was discussed and was approved. He said that bothered him when he was the Chair and he read up on that specifically and was about to happen again.

Mr. Knowles said he did not believe so.

Chair Holt said that motion died for lack of a second. But if that motion changed, you could still make a motion. She said what they were saying was the motion could not be changed, they could debate back and forth as much as they wanted on anything. She said his opportunity was given to him and now was time for another commissioner.

Commissioner NeSmith said he would like for there to be a new process, he knew Mr. Dixon was qualified but wanted for him to be part of the process so they could go through, for him to submit his application to have on record.

Chair Holt said he was qualified, had applied at least three times and every time he applied a motion was made and someone else was chosen, whether they applied or not. She said that was what frustrated people with the County. She asked what the Board wanted to do, put out for a bid and stop discussing.

Commissioner Green suggested that the they come to an agreement that they would not make any motions without deliberating and not make a motion at the end of the last process.

Chair Holt said for them to listen to the attorney and they would try to get this out of the way.

Mr. Knowles suggested if they could have an action workshop on this matter where they sit, discuss and Chair Holt said to add on to the Thursday. Meeting.

Chair Holt said to start it at 4:00.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would not be available at 4:00; he had the Canvassing Board at 1:30. He said for clarification, Chair Holt stated Mr. Dixon had applied before and it must have been before his time.

19. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they had the Resolution that was out with regard to the mask mandate, no curfew, gathering size and he needed to know how to best address that with the new Commission and Board members. He said it would expire on Friday and asked for guidance on how they wanted to do that. Was it something the Chairwoman would sign again as she had been doing historically or did they need to have another emergency meeting? Chair Holt asked if Commissioner Hinson wanted to change anything on the Resolution. Commissioner Hinson said he would love to hear the Board's comments because he had some heartburn on some things, especially as related to the curfew.

Commissioner Viegbesie said on that Resolution, suggested they have an Emergency Meeting where the items on the Resolution were discussed so the new commissioners were involved and if there were new items they wanted to add.

Commissioner Green said he could do it Friday at 10:00; Commissioner NeSmith said he would be at work, he could do any time after 4:00.

Commissioner Viegbesie said since they were coming into the holidays, he felt the Board needed to meet and come up with a Resolution before going into the holidays.

Chair Holt asked if there was anything new from the Governor. Mr. Knowles said not that he had seen.

Dr. Grant said the Thursday meeting was advertised as an Emergency Meeting and it could be added to it.

The Emergency Meeting was changed to Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked his constituents for a chance to serve for another four years in District 1 and he congratulated the two new commissioners. He told them to remain positive. He knew they had the Assistant Administrator position open and felt they should put a freeze on all positions until they filled the top-level position.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO PUT FREEZE ON HIRING ALL POSITIONS UNTIL HAVE A NEW COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Chair Holt asked Dr. Grant if he was hiring an Assistant Administrator and he said yes, because he needed help.

Hair Holt said she did not think he should hire the Assistant, that should come from who they hire for the Administrator position.

Commissioner Viegbesie said given the direction the Board was going; would Commissioner Hinson consider amending his motion to not freezing all positions but freezing management level positions until a permanent Administrator was hired. Commissioner Hinson said he could agree with that. Commissioner Hinson said the reason being, the Board never gets into the hiring and firing but he was also trying to keep down lawsuits.

COMMISSIONER HINSON STATED THE ALTERED MOTION WOULD ONLY AFFECT LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT LEVEL POSITIONS AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they were clear on what positions made up management and leadership positions.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked about the management positions that were needed like yesterday.

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

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Commissioner Hinson for his words of support and thanked everyone for the years he had worked with them outside of the Commission.

Commissioner Ronterious “Ron”, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked everyone for the job they had done thus far and thanked the constituents of District 5 for the opportunity. He assured them they had a Commissioner and a leader that was approachable that they could talk to at any time. He said he did not expect the meeting to go so long due to some personal issues. He said he knew there was a lot of work cut out for them and there were things he would be tackling in the next few weeks.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie read the below aloud:

“Progress in Gadsden County.

Commissioners, borrowing the words of Martin Luther King Jr, “we have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of collaborative love and honest dedication into the veins of our county's growth and prosperity”. Commissioners, we don't have to agree on all things as long as we agree that we all love Gadsden County.

If everyone agrees on everything, then someone is unnecessary". It's okay to respectfully agree to disagree agreeably. "There is never a wrong time to do what is right".

Progress should not be compelled by where a person was born; their family; or a person's race and ethnicity.

We must not let the politics of fear and sense of divisiveness stand in our path of progress and prosperity and integrity for Gadsden County.

Commissioners, I truly hope and pray that our Modus operandi forward must be a "unity of purpose". We must not see ourselves as a district Commissioner. Rather, we must see ourselves as Gadsden County Commissioners if we are going to make Gadsden County a better place for all of its residents.

Remember that the mission of the GCBOCC is "To build a better community by offering efficient, sustainable services, encouraging economic development and providing safety to improve the quality of life".

In closing, my question to us is "Can a Community progress, grow and prosper if its people insist on continuing with a culture of self-cannibalism due to individual narcissistic personalities and idiosyncrasies?" I declare not. In this position, as a Commissioner, I do not have a permanent friend nor a permanent enemy. I, however, have a permanent purpose of making Gadsden County better for all to live in.

So now Commissioners, let's go to work for the good of Gadsden County.

Thank you and God bless Gadsden County.”

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt asked if CareerSource called today and Dr. Grant said yes.

She said they needed to get a paving lists for all the Commissioners and needed to look at Board appointments.

She said they must look at the Comprehensive Plan.

She also mentioned that FAC was doing training for the new commissioners.

She asked for a Proclamation for Maggie S. King.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR MAGGIE S. KING AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comment was a congratulatory comment for the new commissioners and was looking forward to working with them.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
November 17, 2020 – Regular Meeting

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:16 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON NOVEMBER 23, 2020 AT
6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., asked for moment of silence and then led in the Pledge to the U. S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. **Big Bend Jobs & Education Council, Inc. d/b/a CareerSource Capital Region, Gadsden County BOCC, Leon County BOCC and Wakulla County BOCC Inter-Local Agreement**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Chair Holt read aloud the COVID statement.

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL 32351, appeared before the Board. He encouraged them to share the information regarding the status of the contract for the broadband. He said he understood there was one vendor and that vendor was working with them trying to resolve the issues of the contract. He hoped they could resolve the issues and he asked what the issues were and did not understand why they had not been resolved.

He said he was also concerned about the language between commissioners when things get heated. He asked them to remember they had the public listening and the meetings were being recorded and when they use terms that may be derogatory towards one another or make statements that may be across the line, while they mean no offense, there may be someone listening that may be offended by it. He asked they please be aware of the language and conduct they use toward one another.

Mark Glover
Chair Holt read aloud the email.
“Good evening Commissioners,

Phoenix Claims Consulting has worked with several public sector clients pot catastrophic storm damage to recover insurance funds. In the state of Florida, per Florida state statue, only licensed Public Adjusters or Attorneys can legally review/adjust an insurance claim for policyholders. We are very interested in performing a free no obligation review of your policy and assets. We are simply requesting a copy of the policy so we can provide you with an order of magnitude for the opportunity that exists for Gadsden County. The salient point is, if you were owed a good sum of money, would you want to collect it? As good stewards, I trust the answer is a resounding yes. We are available at your request.

PUBLIC HEARING

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. Broadband Contract

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board to provide results of the Broadband Services Project Request for Proposal and a proposed Contract with Figgers Communications, Inc. (FCI). He explained the Board allocated approximately \$900,000 for the broadband project from the approximately \$7.9 Million the County received in CARES Act funding. Procurement of all 25,000 hotspot devices (and associated monthly service) at the contract price would cost approximately \$1,765,000.00. He said Option 3, Board Direction, was the recommended option.

Commissioner Viegbesie said before they go into discussion, he had a question for the attorney and also wanted to register his position, which had not been a secret on this item. He stated there was only one applicant and, in that packet, it was determined to be lacking of three of the requirements that the bid required of service providers. 1) That the proposal must address who would be responsible for the ongoing costs associated with the device rental and wireless service; 2) Proposal should specify and provide an impact analysis, engineering grant or results of services tested in a remote area to ensure effectiveness and proper broadband endurance; and 3) The proposal should also address some of the other issues, which was why on the meeting of October 20th, (now) Chair Holt said the concerns should be addressed. He asked the attorney if those questions had been addressed and the information been provided before they get into the contract.

Mr. Knowles said one of the issues had been addressed in contract he proposed. He stated the County would be purchasing each device and then that would become the property of the qualified resident who received that device. The said the amount listed in the contract for device

rental or device receipt would be the purchase or procurement of that device. He added to answer the Commissioner's second question, he had not personally received that, he believed that FCI had two individuals and their attorney and Mr. Bebe on the line to address the concerns and were prepared to address those issues this evening.

FCI Attorney, Joycelynn Brown, appeared remotely and asked that the questions be repeated.

- 1) Who retains control or ownership of the devices;
- 2) Was any impact analysis done; and
- 3) In the October 14th meeting, three questions that were not addressed by the service provider, did not address how the device would be returned to FCI at the conclusion of the contractual term as specified in the RFP; the proposal did not address who would be responsible for the ongoing costs associated with device rental and wireless services as also specified in the RFP; and an impact analysis, engineering plan, or results of services testing in remote areas to ensure effectiveness and proper bandwidth endurance.

COO Germain Bebe appeared remotely before the Board. He stated:

- 1) Based on the Agreement they sent over in their negotiations with Mr. Knowles, they decided that the hotspots would remain under the care of the resident it was distributed to;
- 2) He said each hotspot will be given three months of service at the time of activation. For a one-time fee of \$32.00, a resident will be given three months of service; after that time, if they want to continue service, they will be responsible to renew with FCI. The County would not be responsible outside of contract terms of the three months. Commissioner Viegbesie said his concern was the CARES Act provision for this service ends December 30th, who would be responsible after that. Mr. Bebe said FCI would collect the rental fee for the device.
- 3) Commissioner Viegbesie stated the proposal did not provide an impact analysis engineering plan and the results of service testing in remote areas to ensure effectiveness and proper bandwidth endurance. Mr. Bebe referred him to their coverage map and to look at the service in the County and in most places it was adequate. He said in the last 60 days, they had FCI agents go into areas, Coonbottom, Robertsville at the Ga-FL border, Hardaway, St. Mary, St. Hebron, Scottown and Dogtown, where they felt there were problem areas. They found in their testing, that it provided more than adequate service for those hotspots.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney if he had received those findings so they would be privileged to see the testing, as the RFP called for that to be provided along with the proposal.

Mr. Knowles stated he had not received that but maybe something FCI could provide, they might could give to Ms. Steele and she get it on-screen.

Mr. Bebe said he understood there were a number of concerns that the Board had and wanted to make everyone aware, most of the concerns were made to them very recently. If they had more time or adequate time to put together reports, he would have. He stated most of the communication with the County has been very spotty, there had been a great number of delays in speaking with anyone in addressing some concerns. He said he just recently were provided with the concerns the County had as recent as the 19th.

Commissioner Viegbesie pointed out the requests he was stating he just found out about, were actually part of the RFP, and were requirements that must be met, and was provided in the

packet and was specified in the RFP that should be met. He said he did not understand why it was a new story at this point of discussion.

Mr. Bebe said he did believe that the response to the RFP they sent in addressed all concerns that were asked. He added that was recently made known to him that they were not addressed.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the concerns were from the committee or group that received and evaluated the proposal and it just happened that FCI was the only one that submitted a bid and that was a concern.

Mr. Bebe said those concerns were not addressed with anyone at FCI after they submitted the bid, they had not heard anything from anyone up until the 19th.

Chair Holt asked for the conversations between Mr. Knowles and FCI.

Mr. Knowles stated he did not agree with Mr. Bebe's contentions, there had been numerous conversations back and forth. He added it was not his job to inform people until such time as he received direction from the Board. He informed them via email and was given a revised contract today at 9:00 am.

Chair Holt stated she thought it was in October, she asked and those things were listed on the comments on the analysis from the Manager; it was in the item and had in there what the things were. She asked him and the Manager to get with FCI to see what their response was.

Mr. Knowles said the original Board voted on October 20th, the next day he spoke with FCI and asked for a contract; it was provided the following Friday after the County's emergency meeting while he and the former Chair was in their Canvassing Board meeting; he informed Mr. Bebe that day that per Board instructions during the meeting on the 20th, there were concerns he had with regard to the contract and Chair Holt directed him explicitly and asked how they were going to address the problems and concerns. Mr. Knowles said it would be in the contract. He asked Mr. Bebe, per Board's instructions the following day to send a contract; he received it after the next emergency meeting. HE said that meeting took place on the 24th at the same time as the Canvassing Board because he had to appear via Zoom. Subsequent to that, it was insufficient for Mr. Bebe, he told Dr. Grant he wanted to call a special meeting. It was relayed to the Board; the Board decided via the Chair or Board members, to not have an additional meeting until November 17th. Prior to that on November 10th, Mr. Knowles sent Mr. Bebe an email with the revised contract with his revisions. The following Tuesday was...Chair Holt interjected and asked if his revisions included these things and Mr. Knowles responded yes, it included everything but the study, which was listed in the RFP. It dealt with the device return, ongoing costs and the only thing it did not deal with was the effectiveness and proper bandwidth that Commissioner Viegbesie spoke of earlier. Subsequent to that conversation, he received a revised contract from Ms. Brown on the 24th in advance of the meeting. That contract was also attached in the book and the contract he originally received from FCI was also attached. In addition, after that this morning, he received another amended contract and had not had a chance to review in full. He submitted, respectfully, he has done his due diligence, addressed concerns of the contract as directed by the Board. Last week he was directed by the Board to call FCI. Someone from his office spoke directly with Mr. Figgers and he told the Board he would contact them in writing to make sure all concerns for today's meeting were addressed. He did that the next day. He

believed that information was presented to FCI the last week and received a revised contract this morning. He further stated he responded to the best of his ability as soon as he could as directed.

Mr. Bebe said as far as communication-wise, he has been stumped with the communication he's had since October. A lot of what Mr. Knowles stated was correct, there were a few issues communication-wise he wanted to address. On October 21st or the day after, he reached out himself, he called Dr. Grant and received a return call from Mr. Knowles. Mr. Knowles asked that they provide their contract first and they did that. He was told there were concerns and he would need to address the concerns on the 17th. Mr. Bebe asked if there were concerns, to let him know right away so they could be addressed because the next Board meeting was 26 days away and they had not gotten approval for a project he felt was time sensitive and the Board had requested a certain level of service. He stated he sent that and did not get a response from that email; then sent an email to the County Administrator stating he needed a response from the County Attorney if he could intervene and perhaps call an emergency meeting to address the concerns and did not hear a response from that. On the Monday, he did call the Administrator again and was told it was out of his hands, that Mr. Bebe had to deal with the Attorney. He said his assistant made several calls and did not receive any response from Mr. Knowles until November 10th. He added he had a list of approximately five concerns from the County Manager and did not receive those concerns until November 19th. He said that had been a source of consternation for them. He said he could confirm that no-one spoke to Mr. Figgers or himself over the phone or by email.

Commissioner Hinson said the correspondence was asked for last Tuesday, if they could have a recess for 10 minutes, he would like to read the correspondence so he would know what was going on.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to be assured that the questions that were asked by Commissioner Viegbesie were answered so they could move forward; this has been lingering for much too long and they had to make decisions on which area they wanted to go in. He said his concern was the numbers part of it and they had not yet begun to discuss that because of trying to clarify communication. He stated he raised his hand to bring an end to the back and forth between Mr. Bee and the attorney because at this point, they need to move forward.

Chair Holt asked if Mr. Bebe heard the concerns of Commissioner Green for the answers to Commissioner Viegbesie's three items he asked about.

Mr. Bebe stated he felt he addressed: 1) one the resident has received the hotspot device, they would keep the device; once they have gotten service and the contract had ended, the County was not required to renew with Figgers or provide continued service, that was up to the resident to enter into a contract with FCI themselves or could take it somewhere else to continue service on that particular device, it was up to them. He said he provided within the proposal a map that showed the active coverage within Gadsden County as well as had field agents to check on concerned dead-spots.

Chair Holt asked Mr. Knowles if he had received the proposal and Mr. Knowles stated he received the response to the proposal several months ago and believed the Commissioners were given copies of that.

Commissioner NeSmith said he read over the contract the weekend, made notes, contacted Mr. Knowles with questions, while they were meeting this afternoon, he was given a new contract. He said based on the motion made last Thursday regarding drawing down the rest of the CARES funds, were they still under a deadline to have it done by December 3rd? He asked if they had additional time or were they still under the same deadline?

Chair Holt asked Dr. Grant when money drawn down, is that the last that can be drawn down? Dr. Grant stated yes. Chair Holt asked if the money included was to be used by December 31st? Dr. Grant said not if they drew it all down, they could go ahead into the next year.

Chair Holt asked the attorney if he had time to go over the proposed contract and Mr. Knowles stated he reviewed it and advised the Board to go with the contract they presented and was why he asked Ms. Brown to explain to the Board why she felt the revisions sent today was necessary.

Commissioner Green said Commissioner NeSmith asked one of his questions, do need to move forward and come to a conclusion. In Section 1.1.1. (2) stated that “individual does not presently have access to any high-speed internet service” and was one of the things they were asking to be a requirement in order to provide services.

Mr. Bebe said the concept was 1) FCI would provide 25,000 hotspots to Gadsden County residents; if they sign a waiver that they are qualified, which means 1) they are a resident of Gadsden County; 2) does not have access to a connection to high-speed internet; 3) the individual desired to be provided with a device; 4) that they understand that after December 30th, they would be responsible for payment of all services to FCI; and 5) that the services provided were provided with no warranty of any kind to the resident by the County and the continuation of said services can be terminated in the sole discretion of the County and be disconnected at any point without prior notice from the County. He said with regards to payment terms, they required a deposit up front and to pay upon termination of the contract for the rest of it, but also guaranteed service in the dead area deliverables by having a surety bond in place so if anything was to happen, so the County would be refunded the funds for anything unused.

Commissioner Green said his concern was, it stated “up to 25,000” and with the \$1.765 Million that they were agreeing to give for the contract, if they only had 10,000 people that utilized the devices or services, that meant up to the amount would be dropped down. Mr. Bebe stated yes, that was the reason for the surety bond; if they got to 17,000 or 10,000 and that was the end of it, the surety bond would kick in and guarantee the funds would be returned.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his position and concern regarding this item was not a secret. He stated he presented a very detailed position as to why he would not support this project as provided on the October 20th Minutes, which was very lengthy, listing the violations he saw would take place if they moved forward. He said:

“I would like to begin by prefacing my comment by saying I do not know Mr. Figgers personally and my opposition to this contract has nothing to do with Mr. Figgers. Rather my opposition is about the integrity of this County’s government.

Commissioners, I humbly and sincerely beg you not approve this contract as presented here today. This contract is dealing with spending the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (aka CARES ACT) 2020; a FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS.

As I see it, approving this contract as presented could be fraudulent, mismanagement or misconduct related to Federal Government Contracts or Grant and thus tantamount to a blatant violation of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations/Single Audit Procurement Act Part 200.323 (Title 2- Grants and Agreements Part 200 – UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS)

The current Federal procurement standards set by the Uniform Rules states that Non-Federal Entities, like the County, must perform some form of cost or price analysis in connection with every federally assisted procurement action. This section calls for including contract modifications that exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, whichever is currently set at \$150,000; including a degree of analysis that is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation. This Board has been in a rush to award this contract to Figgers Communications for some reason(s) beyond my understanding.

Why the adamant determination and obligation to award this contract to this service provider even before the solicitation of bids was advertised?

Commissioners, I have heartburn and serious concern on a contract and a process that I see as a blatant violation of some sections of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations/Single Audit Procurement Act, specifically part 200.323.

Commissioners, I urge you to not approve this contract as is without modifications that meet the requirements of all sections in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations/Single Audit Act.

Madam Chair, I am requesting that, if we must vote, that the vote be carried as a roll call vote.

Thanks and may God save Gadsden County.”

Mr. Bebe said on page 4, they did a study and the response for broadband was overwhelming, almost 76% wanted broadband. He added that cities and counties across Florida had used COVID funds for technology expenses, including many of them just purchasing data cards. He said he felt they had done everything they could to over-extend themselves to supply devices at the best possible rate to the County. He said this undertaking was done at a very limited amount of time and said they were the only bidder. He said they had trimmed down the numbers as much as possible to bring the services to the County. He also said this had come to them at a great cost, it was not just getting the devices at a local Walmart, they had to manufacture them. He further

stated this was not an unusual agreement. This was happening all across the country as to when people would return to work and return to school. He added that he had never been quoted that statute or had any issue with regards to this type of deal.

Chair Holt asked the attorney if he had a chance to review the amended contract and if there were any differences in the one he had and the one he sent. Mr. Knowles said there were significant differences, i.e., payment terms were different; 50% of funds to be delivered upfront and the remaining 50% on or before December 30th. He stated he spoke with Ms. Brown today and informed her it might be a little hard for the County to make payment in 10 days, not just from the County getting an invoice, sending to the Clerk and the Clerk sending it back; he would like that pushed out to net 30 (Standard) before having to pay the 1 ½ % service charge. The 50 GB data cap was discussed but wanted for the record, there was 50GB that a person will get for each hotspot. He said he also had a problem with FCI charging \$10/per device for each additional 50GB of data consumed by qualified residents in a single 30-day period. He felt there needed to be something in place to cap that. He said if they were procuring 25,000 devices and 10% of those go over the data allowance, it would cost the County additional money. He said his main concern was making sure the money was handled correctly. With the Surety bond, Mr. Bebe said they would provide the bond but the contract states the County shall furnish a payment bond at least equal to the contract price.

Chair Holt asked if Mr. Bebe heard concerns about the device and the payment plan. Mr. Bebe said no device had that issue with overages. He said they were guaranteeing over 50GB. With the surety bond, they were prepared to provide the bond. Mr. Knowles stated the contract said the County would provide the bond. Mr. Bebe stated that must be a clerical issue; FCI would provide that.

Chair Holt stated the standard was 10 GB and they were willing to provide 50 GB and he said absolutely.

Mr. Knowles said his question with the payment terms they had discussed. Chair Holt said for them to hash it out. Mr. Knowles stated he did not agree with paying half upfront. Mr. Bebe said upon approval of this agreement, they started launching, unfortunately there was a gap in communication they were not expecting, but wanted everyone to understand they were looking to provide service to thousands of people within Gadsden County where services were not readily available. He said the only way they could guarantee quality was to manufacture the devices in-house and was using their own funds to get them here. He said in order to get them here by the deadline and to provide the quality that they would like, they would like to request a down-deposit of working funds to get them here and get them distributed as soon as possible.

Mr. Knowles said if they were going to continue the service through the next year and if they were procuring based on the contract the County drafted, as a citizen signed up, FCI gets paid. Mr. Bebe said that was not in the terms, they guaranteed a surety bond that whatever was not used, that was what the surety bond was for is to guarantee the County was safeguarded with the surety bond.

Mr. Knowles said his question was why pay for half upfront. He used as an example, if he went to Verizon and wanted to procure 25,000, would he give them half of the money to procure it upfront or pay them upon receipt. Mr. Bebe stated he would have to ask Verizon that. Mr.

Knowles said his concern was he had not heard any definitive answer as to why County was to pay half upfront. He said he never had a contract come across his desk where 50% was paid to a vendor upfront. Mr. Bebe asked him what a comfortable fee would be and Mr. Knowles stated zero. It would be on an as needed basis. Mr. Bebe stated that was not the agreement that was sent. Mr. Knowles said he knew what was sent by FCI, but it was his duty to the County as the County Attorney...Mr. Bebe stated he could assure them if they did business with Verizon, they would request all the money upfront. Mr. Bebe stated the County was asking for 25,000 devices and Mr. Knowles stated the County was not asking for that many devices, FCI offered to provide the County with that number. What he was asking was why should the County be responsible for providing devices that they don't necessarily need?

Mr. Bebe said they provided a study and felt that was the amount that the County was looking to have. He stated they were also the ones that took it upon themselves to take out a surety bond to make sure, if they were wrong and turned out the County only needed 10,000, there will be a refund.

Mr. Knowles said he would leave it to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he received information from the School Board about access to internet. He read aloud the information he had. He said right now, T-Mobile did not own local towers in the geographic areas and was another issue to think about. Chair Holt said that was one reason the companies did not bid. Commissioner Hinson asked if Integrity felt this process was legal. Commissioner Hinson said Integrity and the attorney said was ok to bid out this for broadband and the process was in line with COVID-19. Now there is a Commissioner stating that this process was illegal. He said they bid this out, not once but it was bid out twice.

Chair Holt asked the attorney the 50% of the money set aside for broadband was how much and he responded \$450,000. He then asked if from CARES Act and she stated yes, because there was other money the County was supposed to receive from HUD, she thought \$10 Million and Mr. Knowles stated that was for a separate project. She stated for the G5 (towers) that also affected the broadband in the County.

She said assuming FCI received \$450,000 and that was 50%, the County did not need 25,000, only needed 10,000 and there is 15,000 not needed; the surety bond would give the County the money back for those. Mr. Bebe said absolutely, there was a surety for the entire amount of the contract. She said that part was covered, she was concerned about the spots in the outlying areas that did not have internet. She said for example, she dropped a young lady off Saturday that got in trouble in school suspension because the internet dropped and they could not stay on and the teachers punished them because they thought they turned the computers off and she was very concerned. She said money was coming later on for this but they did not know when. She said she had no problem with going ahead with the contract as long as they know they could get the money back. She asked Mr. Bebe is a copy of the bond would be given to the County and he stated absolutely. She said before a penny was moved the County needed that surety bond. She stated she hoped they could get the internet up before Christmas and he said they were waiting to deploy. He said to also address what was just said about the calls dropping, Gadsden County was still under TDS and a lot had not been updated since 1996 and that was where you would see a lot of major carriers were not coming in because the field of operation could not provide that service. When they did their studies, the number of places mentioned that normally

had problems (mentioned before) they tested their satellite redundancy system for service; went out and spent extensive time there and was able to get service and was very confident that everyone would be satisfied.

Chair Holt said to Commissioner Viegbesie regarding his concerns about the Federal government and federal dollars, she was interested in getting some internet out there so if the Federal government wanted to show up, they could help because the County needed help.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comments were already made. He wanted to respond to Commissioner Hinson's comment; yes, Integrity was saying that readvertising a single source provider would clear Title 2 CFR 200.318-320. He said his concern was Part 200.323 and Part 200.326. He said earlier, he may not be an attorney, but felt he understood that particular part of the Code using Federal monies for providing services. He said yes, Integrity said readvertising would take care of the first two parts of the process. He reiterated his concern was the last two parts he stated.

Commissioner Green asked FCI where their towers were and how did the County know they would work properly and how complaints would be handled; would they be aware of the complaints the consumers would have as it related to the particular devices not working or the towers not working. County they identify spots where the towers were located.

Mr. Bebe said they have two towers around Quincy and were also using a redundancy system and were able to bounce off almost every tower in the area, which was why their service would provide 99% coverage throughout the United States. He added if they would like, he could make that data available if they received customer service issues, he had no problem in reporting that to them. He said it was also in the contract they would provide seven days a week customer service from 8:00 am – 9:00 pm. He said they could also get someone dedicated on a chat line in which was available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr. Knowles asked the Board if the surety bond would need to be procured prior to the payment and Chair Holt stated yes; and he asked what number they were using for half of the payment amount. Chair Holt said 50% of the payment was...Mr. Knowles stated half of the contract was for \$1.765 Million. Chair Holt said that would be about \$850,000, and only if they had that money in the CARES Act. Mr. Knowles stated that would be \$882,000.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Knowles the payment turnaround was that extended to 30 days.

Chair Holt asked Mr. Bebe the turn-around time and said if 30 days, they had 10.

Commissioner NeSmith said they 3- or 60 days.

Chair Holt said not 60 because the Finance Department would not move like that.

Commissioner NeSmith said 60 days was more time and Chair Holt said yes, but the longer they lingered on it and he said 30 days was payment. Chair Holt said it would not take that long to write a check.

Dr. Grant said they had to receive the money first.

Chair Holt said yes and was why she said the CARES Act money must be arranged.

Commissioner NeSmith said he wanted to make sure the Department could move within a reasonable time within 30 days.

Chair Holt said should be, then asked Dr. Grant why would they not be able to move in 30 days.

Dr. Grant said because the procurement methods that was set up. Regardless if they had the money in the County to spend as they wanted, they still have to follow the same checklist.

Chair Holt said she knew what he was saying and he was not saying the payment was a concern, it was...

He said to make sure they had the money in the County, then the proper paperwork to go through the process with checking each thing out so it could be paid, the procurement process.

Chair Holt said she knew what that was but did not know it would be that slow.

Dr. Grant said he was not saying it necessarily would be that slow but he would rather have caution on the length of time rather than have the time shortened.

Chair Holt said it never dawned on her that after they had the...

Leslie Steele, PIO, interjected and stated Frederica Hamilton with Integrity was asking to be recognized.

Frederica Hamilton, Integrity, responded to deliverables regarding CARES Act. She said anything that was being purchased with CARES Act funds, has to be received in-house by December 30th, if there was anything received after December 30th, that contract and that money was voided and those funds would not be paid by the CARES Act.

Chair Holt said with that, even if the money was drawn down could not be. She repeated that before the County was told that with the funds drawn down could be used as they wanted. Ms. Hamilton stated only because this was a deliverable, they had to keep in mind that the County still has a Small Business Assistance Program that was running, applications (inaudible).

Chair Holt stated she understood that part, they needed to work on this part. Ms. Hamilton said the deliverables had to be received.

Chair Holt said they were back to doing this in a timely manner. They did not have 60 days, they had 30 days. Mr. Knowles stated 37, because the date was November 23rd (today).

Commissioner NeSmith asked if this was considered a deliverable and Chair Holt stated yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his question was, what he was hearing, was the County was about to go into the telecommunication business with regards to providing broadband services and

equipment to the citizens, elections and payment, etc. He said he felt for the County to go into that, they had to have permission of the license from the Public Service Commission to do that. He asked again if they were about to go into the telecommunications...

Chair Holt asked Mr. Bebe if he heard the Commissioner; were they paying him for the service after they get through. Mr. Bebe said only if they choose to do so, once the contract was up, it was up.

Chair Holt stated again, Gadsden County was not paying their internet bill, just like they would buy from Comcast or anywhere else, if they wanted to continue the service, they could continue the service. Right now, those people were getting no service so they needed to move on, one way or another.

Commissioner Green said for clarity, he heard Commissioner Viegbesie say he would not support this, but was this something that the previous Board had already agreed or voted on to do in reference to this vendor? He said he was interested in if they did not approve, what were the repercussions being only there was only one vendor.

Mr. Knowles said the way he understood it worked, they awarded the bid but they have to negotiate the terms, if they could not reach terms, there was no offer and acceptance, and did not have a contract. Certainly, there could be legal repercussions from that, but did not know if they were obligated to necessarily to it if it was not the will of the Board and was that way with any contract. He recommended the Board take action on the item however they chose and FCI could provide an amended contract based on what was discussed tonight and they could go from there.

Mr. Bebe said with the concern of payments, one reason they asked for it to be structured the way it was because they were required to deliver all the devices within 30 days. They have taken on the expense, because it was approved and they had to move forward well over 20 days ago so they had to move quickly to get this out. That was one of the reasons they had the payment structured the way it was. He stated they were talking over \$1 Million worth of devices.

Commissioner Hinson called the question.

Chair Holt stated the motion had to be made first.

Commissioner Hinson made the motion to call the question.

Chair Holt said there had to be a motion made first because there was no motion on the table.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM WITH ALL NECESSARY CHANGES.

Mr. Knowles recapped and stated; the FCI contract with the exception of the surety bond language would be changed by FCI to indicate FCI will provide the surety bond in the amount of \$1.765 (total amount of the contract) with half of the contract payable within 30 days or 10 days. Chair Holt said to Dr. Grant he said 60 days and Mr. Knowles suggested they take Thanksgiving away and say 30 days. Mr. Knowles also clarified that was \$882,500 within 30 days or 10 days,

for the Board to correct him of the signing of the contract, under the condition that all CARES Act money needed to be received prior to payment; three (3) months' worth of service; He said there was one concern that was not addressed that the Commissioners were concerned about, FCI wanted the attestation and the applications to be all on-line. Ms. Brown said not necessarily; they were trying to think about a better means to streamline the information and it was brought up today there were some areas of the community that did not have access to the internet and this may not be possible. She added the concern was who they made sure they got that. She said the option could be that individuals could submit the attestation on paper format or on-line. Mr. Knowles stated once those were submitted, it would be submitted to the County for payment.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Hinson if he heard what the attorney said and he stated yes. She asked if that would be included in his motion.

Mr. Bebe said they were aware of the upcoming holiday and would take into account the Thanksgiving Day and could add one or two more days if that would help.

Chair Holt stated she wanted to know and was unsure if it would make a difference, the contract had to be agreed to before the 31st of December. She added she did not know if a payment had to be made by then. She then stated that was for 30 days, approximately 30 days.

Mr. Knowles stated they could start delivering and the County could pay them. He restated that 1.5% of \$882,000 was \$12,000 and felt the Board would be a little more comfortable if after 30 days that lump be paid but if it could be paid quicker, it would be paid quicker. Chair Holt asked about the 1.5% and Mr. Knowles stated he was referring to the late fees.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Hinson if he heard the adjustments and he stated yes, along with the 30 days the attorney just stated.

CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Ms. Hamilton said a correction on the date was December 30th for contract purposes.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER NESMITH	YES
COMMISSIONER GREEN	YES AND SAID WAS NOW MORE COMFORTABLE WITH SURETY BOND IN PLACE IN CASE ALL 25,000 DEVICES WERE NOT UTILIZED
COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE	NO
CHAIR HOLT	YES

MOTION PASSED 4-1

3. County Administrator Position Discussion and Action

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for discussion and action.

Mr. Knowles said the original contract in the packet was the same that was presented to all other candidates previously as well as Mr. Dixon's proposed amendments. He explained Florida Statute only allowed for him to be provided for 20 weeks' severance pay. Mr. Dixon was requesting a car allowance of \$600/month for gas and insurance; health insurance with family coverage; FRS; vacation/sick leave, max time allowed; roll-over from employer; bringing over time from employer; termination without cause-60 days' notice with severance beginning after notice completed-all benefits continue thru severance period; termination with cause-allegations outside scope of work to be proven in Court of competent jurisdiction; paid professional development memberships and fees to be determined by Manager. He asked for some clarity on how to deal with termination with and without cause for the Board's protection and Mr. Dixon's protection. He suggested if he is convicted or pled guilty to a felony or misdemeanor, the Board would have discretion to terminate his employment or if in violation of a County Ordinance or rule, the Board has discretion to terminate for cause; if the Board didn't like how he was doing, that would be a termination without cause and he would be entitled to severance. He said Mr. Dixon accepted the salary and was ok with \$105,000.

Commissioner Green said a change he would like to see is the terms in reference to 5 years. He stated he did not want to be stuck with a 5-year contract and they have to make changes and take precautions. He would like to shorten time to 3 years as opposed to five years. Mr. Knowles said they also talked about non-renewal. He added the way the contract currently read, if the County failed to non-renew the contract at the end of the term, it automatically renewed. He suggested they give him at least 60-90-days' notice of that intent if they chose to non-renew and if the non-renewal took place, there would be no severance.

Chair Holt said she wanted to give the same contract offer.

Commissioner NeSmith said he was in agreement with a shorter term of two years as well as the 60-90 days' notice prior to expiration in case they decided they wanted to move on. He also wanted to add additional discussion he had with the attorney and asked for clarification from Board because he felt they needed to approach it in a different way. He said under **Section 2, Duties; At-Will Employment** what was his duties? He stated if they did not have goals and objectives for the County Administrator, what would they review? He stated they needed to develop a plan for what they wanted the Administrator to do because it was unfair for him to come into a job and there was no guide provided.

Chair Holt said there are and they did establish goals and objectives, they were done when Mr. Presnell was here, they have not been followed. Commissioner NeSmith asked if they could incorporate those into the employment agreement. Commissioner NeSmith said need to provide him with as much guidance as possible.

Chair Holt said she did not think that would work with the legislative session but she agreed with him.

Commissioner NeSmith said even with the legislative session that was before them, he still had no guidance.

She said it was here, it was upstairs.

Commissioner Green said his question was answered, it was available.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there were two things, one of which Commissioner NeSmith alluded to. He shared they developed the mission statement, but they did not discuss or develop a performance evaluation. He further stated if Mr. Dixon was asking for car allowance, did that mean he would not have access to a County vehicle. He said if he had access to a County vehicle, then he should not be given a car allowance. He suggested what all other administrators have done, use a County car. On termination with cause, they absolutely need a performance evaluation if that was going to be one of the causes for termination. He stated if they needed to schedule a retreat and develop a performance evaluation, or if there was one already in place, they could quickly revise for individual review of it, they needed to develop one as expeditiously as possible.

Chair Holt said they voted on objectives and goals and it needed to be pulled for the Board.

Mr. Knowles said he thought they could execute the contract tonight and made amendments later to incorporate what Commissioner NeSmith was saying after the workshop.

Chair Holt said Commissioner Green stated three years, she said five and asked if they could split the difference to four. Commissioner Green said he felt they should vote on the contract for Mr. Dixon to serve three years.

Chair Holt said he was in the audience.

Ed Dixon appeared before the Board. He said the attorney told him, they discussed the severance and was eight months. He said he had no problem with 3 years, he serves at the pleasure; 2) He knew they were looking for stability and he was committed to that and did not want the contract to be a problem. It was his personal preference to use his own car because there were things that would happen at night and his family might be in the car and he would have to explain why so he was insistent on that. He stated he was good with everything else and they would develop a work plan for goals of the county. He said they needed to be on one page from the beginning as to how to develop.

Mr. Knowles asked for Mr. Dixon to get him the vacation and sick time.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGREEMENT BASED ON THE CHANGES AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if Commissioner Green would accept a friendly amendment and asked the attorney if they had a succession plan and how long before he would start. Mr. Dixon said he could start Monday.

Chair Holt asked how long Dr. Grant would be there.

Chair Viegbesie said the other item they suggested was a succession plan, if they had developed, this would not be an issue. He added Mr. Dixon was experienced; was a President of Florida Association of Counties; but was now the County Administrator and did not think it was appropriate for him to be a sixth member of the Commission in developing the succession plan

for the position he now held. But during the discussion, he could feel free to interject his knowledge and experience.

Chair Holt stated they needed to look at the contract; they would meet the first Tuesday of December and thought it would make sense to move expeditiously and get their legislative agenda out and narrow down to five items and they would be ready for January.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE MR. DIXON AS THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had known Mr. Dixon for a while, since he was with the Department of Justice; he appealed to him since he was a Commissioner, has chaired the Commission multiple times, has chaired the Florida Association of Counties, had multiple years of ethics certification and hoped he would put into place his knowledge of ethics with regards to separation of power. He said Mr. Dixon was the executive branch, (the Board) was the legislative branch and no Commissioner should be coming to him to tell him who to hire and who to fire. He said he knew that was a violation of ethics in the State of Florida. He said he was trusting that he would do his job as the Chief Executive Officer and tell them to stay in their lane.

Mr. Dixon thanked him for that and said he made it his business to not enter there and promised them he had the greatest belief in the system. He thanked Commissioner Viegbesie for stating that publicly and said it could be a problem but would not be a problem for them.

Dr. Grant thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve Gadsden County once again and for Commissioner Hinson who nominated him to do the job.

Chair Holt said did they did not discuss Mr. Dixon's starting date. Mr. Dixon stated he could start Monday and she said they did not discuss if there would be an overlap of Dr. Grant and Mr. Dixon. Mr. Dixon said he could start Monday. Dr. Grant said he was available as long as Mr. Dixon needed him.

Chair Holt said there would be a cost to that and asked the Commissioners if they wanted to look at two weeks or four weeks...

Commissioner Viegbesie said when a person was in the position as Chair, they become more aware of the goings-on. There were a lot of t's to cross and l's to dot. He added he did not think it was something they needed to rush into. They have in the budget money for an Assistant Administrator and if they could carry the transition for 30 days, he thought that would be a good thing.

Commissioner Hinson said he concurred with Commissioner Viegbesie and they needed to give him time. He said Dr. Grant brought a wealth of knowledge. He suggested until Mr. Dixon found an Assistant Administrator, 2-3 months (then said 3-4 months) because Mr. Dixon might need help on some items.

Commissioner Green agreed with Commissioner Viegbesie, said he knew his salary for being Interim County Administrator was more than an assistant would make and felt they needed to cap it at 30 days.

Commissioner Nesmith said he concurred with 30 days.

Commissioner Hinson said the former Assistant County Administrator was making \$96,000 and was about the same Dr. Grant was making.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Dr. Grant if he would allow the HR manager, he understood there was already applications for Assistant Manager. Dr. Grant said Mr. Dixon could look at the applications and see if they fit for him.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR 30 DAYS AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the attorney would make the contract that starts on Monday; Dr. Grant will stay in the County's employ for 30 days from Monday and Chair Holt said yes.

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

COMMISSIONER GREEN STATED HE HAD A CITIZEN THAT MADE IT TO 100 YEARS AND MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR EDNA MAE ROBINSON AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

He wanted to give his email for the public and it is rgreen@gadsdencountyfl.gov.

Commissioner Hinson said he had received phone calls about Waste Pro and there were things that needed to be addressed.

Chair Holt asked he call Dr. Grant concerning that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to add for discussion the issue with Waste Pro because he also had gotten a lot of calls and that needed to be on the agenda to come before them on the December 3rd meeting.

Chair Holt asked why the CBOR was pulled from the agenda. Dr. Grant said there was some language changes in what was being presented and it had not gone before the Planning Board before.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
November 23, 2020 – Emergency Special Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:19 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 1, 2020 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**
 Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:01 pm, asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. She then called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant commented he would like to add 9a Confirmation of Planning Commissioners for Commission District 4 and pull Item 7 – Re-location of the Social Security Office in Gadsden County and 9-Purchase of 2 Frazer Infectious Disease Ambulances and 1 Frazer UCV Command Rescue Unit.

Mr. Knowles stated he would like to add settlement to the Consent Agenda as Item 3a and there was no fiscal impact to the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked to pull the item from the Consent Agenda and add as 9b so it could be explained.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY ITEMS 7 AND 9 WERE PULLED FROM THE AGENDA.
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Dr. Grant said Item 7 was pulled for insufficient information and Item 9 was pulled at the request of the Chair. Chair Holt said she asked for Item 9 to be pulled because there was more information needed; they just bought two and they needed to look at the line item and how it would be funded.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought they were purchasing four and decided to purchase 2 then and now was purchasing two more. He asked if this was being pulled so they could go back and purchase them with CARES Act money because this was something they could have purchased with that money.

Mr. Dixon said this would not be purchased with CARES Act money the way the others were purchased. He said he was not clear in where the line item was and wanted to make sure and this could come back at the next meeting when he was clear in where this money would be coming from.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the item was being pulled for clarity since it was the Administrator's first day and he wanted an understanding of what was going on and that made more sense to him.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Former County Commissioner Gene Morgan was present and the Board presented a plaque to him for his services to the community as a County Commissioner since November 2008.

CONSENT

CHAIR HOLT ASKED FOR A MOTION FOR THE CONSENT AGENDA.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of the 2021 BOCC Meeting Calendar**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **August 17, 2020**
 - **August 20, 2020**
 - **August 28, 2020**
 - **September 4, 2020**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Chair Holt read an email aloud from First Lady Casey DeSantis thanking the Commission for their thoughtful recognition of the Veteran population in the County.

Chair Holt then read aloud an email from Shelia Shellman.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. FINAL PUBLIC HEARING-Notice of Proposed Tax Increase

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said they were holding a new Millage and Budget public hearing as required by Florida Department of Revenue Truth in Millage Section. He explained on November 18, 2020, the County received a letter stating the issue and steps to

correct the issue within 15 days. He said this was the final piece of the TRIM requirement after which all documents would be sent to DOR and Gadsden County would be in compliance. He added the calculated roll-back millage rate, the property tax rate, generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year was 8.7408 mills. The current year proposed rate is 8.9064; as a percent of change of roll-back rate was 1.89% more than the rolled-back rate. He said the fiscal year 2020/2021 tentative budget has been formulated based on maintaining the current County-wide property tax rate of 8.9064 mills. He said Staff was recommending a motion for the adoption of Resolution 2020-073 and proposed millage rate from 8.9064 mills for fiscal year 2020/2021. He said there needed to be a second motion for the adoption of Resolution 2020-074 and the adoption of the tentative budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 at \$51,5659,377.

Chair Holt clarified the motions needed.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they would be taking the Resolutions separately and she responded yes.

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

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT 2020-073 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator if he was hearing the concerns that were expressed had been taken care of and the Administrator stated yes.

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

Chair Holt then asked if there were any comments for Resolution 2020-074 and there were none.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-074 REGARDING THE FISCAL COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET OF \$51,569,377 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Appointments/Reappointments to The Small County Coalition Board of Directors

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to appoint/reappoint two representatives from the County Commission and to identify a County staff person to serve as the County Liaison. He said Staff recommendation was Option 3.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON BE RETAINED AS THE COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVE AND THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, ED DIXON, BE THE COUNTY'S LIAISON. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. Commission Appointments to The Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee Commission

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to appoint one Commissioner to serve on the Committee to oversee the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds. He stated staff recommendation was Option 1.

Commissioner Nesmith volunteered to serve.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7. Re Location of the Social Security Office in Gadsden County

Item Pulled

8. New Gadsden County Multipurpose Facility Change Order

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Change Order Two created to credit the unused funds back to the County from the general contractor's construction contract.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9. Purchase of 2 Frazer Infectious Disease Ambulances and 1 Frazer UCV Command Rescue Unit

Item Pulled

9a Confirmation of Planning Commissioners for Commission Districts Four

Dr. Grant Introduced the above item and said it was Board consideration to confirm two new Planning Commissioners for the Planning Commission, Mr. Charles Hayes and Mr. Anthony Powell, to represent District 4.

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

9b Shade Meeting

Mr. Knowles explained the above matter and there was no fiscal impact to the County.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ATTORNEY'S REQUEST AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the outside counsel and Mr. Knowles explained.

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

CLERK OF COURT

10. Updates

There was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

11. Updates

There was nothing to report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

12. Updates

There was nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had few residents that had heartburn about the closing of (the County) office during the holidays (concerning CARES and Small Business) and asked if the deadline could be extended a few more days because they were unable to procure the funding.

Dr. Grant said that was impossible because in order to secure the balance of the 55%, everything had to be uploaded and turned in to FDEM by December 3rd.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could be given a couple more days and not 3 days. Chair Holt said all the documentation had to be turned in. He said this did not relate to what Dr. Grant said; this was just the application for them to apply.

Chair Holt said because if they did the draw-down, from what she was understanding, it went into their General Fund. Once it was there, you could not apply for CARES Act money, it could not have CARES Act money on the application because the CARES Act money would have already been drawn-down. She said once there, they could make the decision, if there was any money left, to open back up.

Commissioner Hinson said this was for the deadline, it was a decision that the Board made for the deadline so it was just a deadline for applications and had nothing to do with the funding source.

Commissioner Hinson said he called Dr. Grant last night, he has a constituent in their 80's and the issue was housing. He thanked the Board for reaching out trying to find as much money as they could. He added that a few years ago, they took emergency money out and asked that be put back on the Agenda and be addressed. He asked that it be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting and was going to vote for \$25,000 per district.

Chair Holt said she did not think that would be a concern; she wanted SHIP to come do a report on what they were doing to give them a better idea of what the Commissioners needed to do.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson touched on what he was going to mention.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Interim Grant and staff; there was debris on Lincoln Drive and the debris had been removed and thanked Public Works for that.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt told Mr. Dixon she wanted to have 4:00 workshops before the regular meetings to give them opportunities to ask questions and to look at setting goals.

She asked to see goals and objectives from previous workshops that were already set.

She showed a Proclamation for Mrs. Maggie S. King for her 100th birthday.

Commissioner Viegbesie said during the retreat, Commissioners developed a Mission Statement that was on the website and he read that aloud.

Dr. Grant said in connection with the 4:00 briefing meeting, for the next two meetings there were workshops already scheduled before the meeting; one was for the Sheriff's Department Recruitment and Retention Plan and the other was for the Comprehensive Plan. Chair Holt said they could consider that, for them to have a little more discussion.

Dr. Grant said the second meeting in January was on how to fund the rural fire departments.

Chair Holt said they may have to start the pre-meetings at 3:00 p.m. then roll into the other workshops and then the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked about CBOR and Chair Holt said it needed to go back to Planning.

Mr. Knowles explained the current Land Development Code required that any change to the Citizens Bill of Rights had to go through two legislative hearings, the first had to be through the Planning Commission and that was scheduled and then could be brought back to the Board for either ratification of the decision of the Planning Commission or further action by the Board.

Commissioner NeSmith said he thought they discussed last week about developing their plan for the County Administrator and Chair Holt said that was what they were talking about and it would be brought back.

Commissioner Green said the celebration for Mother King would be December 6th at 2:00 p.m.; the line-up was at Shelfer and Elm Street, and they were encouraging all participants to stay in their cars and it would be a drive-by celebration.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked that the information be emailed to the Commissioners so everyone would have the dates on their calendars.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked the County for assisting them during his Grandmother's funeral and all the prayers.

Also, he was not present tonight because he just arrived for the FL Assn of Counties conference that was scheduled to begin in the morning.

Mr. Dixon asked that commissioners contact staff as he would like to have a standing meeting with each of the Commissioners before the Tuesday meetings.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if that meant they would have the meeting books ready a week ahead? Mr. Dixon replied yes.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie had no comments.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:50 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 4, 2020 AT 4:15 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt welcomed everyone to the emergency special meeting at 4:15 p.m., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

CONSENT

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadscounttyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Chair Holt read aloud the COVID-19 statement and there was no-one that wished to speak and no emails.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Approve a Funding Shift of Resident Assistance Program Funds to the Small Business Assistance Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to adjust the Gadsden County CARES Program Spend Plan to shift \$320,000 from the Gadsden County BOCC CARES Resident Assistance Program to the Gadsden County BOCC CARES Business Program. He stated the portal

had closed for the Resident Assistance Program and found there was a surplus of funds there and wanted to continue to utilize them and wished to move to the Small Business Program.

COMMISSIONER VIUEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Chair Holt asked for an explanation regarding this matter.

Frederica Hamilton, The Integrity Group, appeared before the Board to discuss this item. She stated the Small Business Program was allocated \$1.2 Million and currently had approximately \$180,000 remaining in that program and those funds will be exhausted based on packets that were in route and had already been sent to the Finance Department that would leave approximately \$300,000 and a need to shift funds totaling \$320,000 from the Resident Assistance Program to the Small Business Program.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many residents received less than \$4,000 from the Program and Ms. Hamilton said she would have to get that number to him later. He asked if it was possible that they increase anyone. He said if they could increase anyone that qualified up to \$4,000, how would that impact the influx of money.

Ms. Hamilton said currently the amount that has been paid was \$253,715.78; the amount sent to Finance to be paid was \$35,873.65; there were 100 applications that were in Step 1 review, Step 2 review and/or have been qualified and totaled approximately \$200,000.00 for a grand total of \$489,589.43. She said she did not know if that would be the right thing to do at this time, but how would they know that everyone would get the equal share. It would need to be workshopped to see if it were viable and cost efficient.

Commissioner Green asked the amount still available after the shift and was told \$590,410.60.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about balance, would that be a part of the drawdown if not utilized and was told yes.

Chair Holt asked that a notebook be made for the commissioners for the workshop.

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

Mr. Dixon said they will look at all options on the table before the workshop.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
December 4, 2020-Emergency Special Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:33 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 15, 2020 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**
 Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Holt asked for approval of the Agenda.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE AGENDA AND
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Mr. Dixon said there were two amendments, a Memorandum of Understanding between Gadsden County EMS and the Gadsden County Health Department for Joint Operations to administer COVID-19 vaccinations as Item 8a and Approve Funding Shifts to Amend the CARES Spending Plan as Item 8b.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN AMENDED HIS MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AMENDED HIS
SECOND TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE.**

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND
COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO
APPROVE.**

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Resolution for New Chairperson-Facsimile Stamp**
- 3. Approval of the FY 2021/22 Proposed Budget Calendar**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - July 21, 2020 Workshop**

- **July 31, 2020 Emergency Meeting**
- **August 12, 2020 Workshop**
- **September 15, 2020 Regular Meeting**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.
Chair Holt read aloud the COVID-19 statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity and Gadsden County

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated this was for Board approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Gadsden County.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AMENDED HIS SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. Quincy Senior Services Roof Replacement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented for approval of award for RFP No. 21-01 for a roof replacement of the Simon Scott Senior Services building to Southland Rowe Roofing, the lowest bidder.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7. Confirmation of new Planning Commission Members

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for confirmation of three new and three re-appointed Planning Commissioners for the Planning Commission.

District One will be re-appointing Mr. William Chukes and Mr. Jeff Diekman;
District Three will be appointing Ms. Frances Brown and Mr. Wayne Williams; and
District 5 will be re-appointing Lori Bouie and appointing Reverend Dr. Joe Parramore.

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

8. Approval of Emergency Fuel Pump Monitoring Systems Purchase with Tyson Petroleum Contractors, LLC

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the purchase for Fuel Pump Monitoring Systems.

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

8a Memorandum of Understanding between EMS and Gadsden County Health Department (NO SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was an MOU delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine. He said there were four different MOU's.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if Mr. Dixon had a chance to look over the agreement and he stated yes. He asked if the County Attorney had a chance to review and Mr. Knowles responded no, but they met with Chief Maddox at EMS and this was fairly standard agreements from the State and nothing they would need to change. He said there was a need for the standard vaccination program and there were no concerns of the County Administrator and himself.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when the vaccinations would start. Mr. Dixon said his understanding was the vaccine would not be received until January and would probably be for first responders, front-line workers and senior citizens first. Mr. Knowles explained this would deal with all vaccinations moving forward.

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

8b Approve Funding Shifts to Amend the Gadsden County CARES Spend Plan

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to amend the CARES Program spending plan. He added they were of the opinion that they would not be able to do the hospital line item and this was an attempt to move money into other programs they knew were functional.

Frederica Hamilton, Integrity Group, appeared before the Board and stated it was for Board approval to adjust the Gadsden County CARES Program Spending Plan and gave a breakdown of the amounts to be amended. Adjustments would increase the County Public Health Line item by \$379,257 from \$1,225,058.82 to \$1,604,316.00; increase the Administration and Compliance line item by \$400,000.00 from \$395,000.00 to \$795,000.00.

Mr. Dixon said they knew there was only \$1 Million in the line item for broadband and was bad business to wait for grants that may or may not come. He said there was an agreement with a vendor and in the attempt to move money to set it up whether they chose to pay or not was not the problem. The problem was to make sure it was out there for them TO be able to do that, if they chose to. He said the other money was in a grant that may or may not come and it put the Board in a precarious situation that they signed a contract for X number of dollars and they had

not figured out where the money was coming from other than the grant they may or may not get.

Commissioner Hinson said other than the broadband, he thought they should move forward with broadband, but the remainder of the funding should go towards the citizens; half toward business and the other half to citizens. Some folks were having to move from their homes; people need money now. He added they needed to figure out a way to streamline and make the process easier for people to apply.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his position with regard to the procurement process for broadband had not changed. He said he firmly believed that whatever process they used, no matter how it was cut, would be a violation of CFR 200.323 and 200.326. He clarified that since this was going to be voted all in one, he would not be voting for this because he was not in support of the procurement process, not for the broadband services, just the procurement process.

Commissioner Green asked first, how many people have applied for the broadband services and been approved. Ms. Hamilton stated she did not have that information, 2) as they were moving money down, would they be able to discuss what they would like to do with the funding and wanted to look at how they could implement churches because they have been heavily impacted by the virus and they have bills that need to be paid and people were not able to give as they have in the past.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked Ms. Hamilton if there was a provision in the CARES money to help what Commissioner Green just spoke of about funding non-profits, churches, etc.

Ms. Hamilton said that was at the discretion of the Board.

Mr. Dixon said he thought what the Commissioners were talking about, once they get past the December 30th deadline, they hoped to have a workshop and talk about the restraints that will be lifted and the new powers for the Board to decide locally where the funding would go. He thought they could do that in January once they draw money down.

Commissioner Holt said back with Hurricane Michael, they had communications down; had 17 emergencies when the internet was down and had deaths. She said they did everything from borrowing phones and Rep. Alexander got through to FAMU and the County was connected. She said broadband was needed, like it or not there will be another hurricane. She added they could not not have communication anymore. She added they had to have a situation in place. Holmes and Jackson County were running cable right now and was intending to go for G5's too. She added all they were currently talking about were hotspots. She said when everyone leaves, Integrity and everyone else, the people, including herself, would be stuck here. She asked what they were doing to help people. They were going to have to bite the bullet and get communication here. She said other money was coming, they knew it was coming from Congress. They could draw money down and get past December 30th and they could have this discussion again.

Commissioner Viegbesie said she was saying what he has been thinking. There was no-one on the commission that did not want broadband, the issue here was the procurement process. If

he understood what the Administrator said, if they were drawing down, they could now have a conversation on how the Board would spend or allocate the money, then why were they putting on paper what was being moved from where to what. Upon drawing down, what would they do, revert on what they were drawing down and what they were allocating to each of the projects and re-allocate the monies. He said upon drawing down everything, they could come back and discuss and prioritize these monies to provide the services the citizens want. He added then, they would not have hotspots sitting in a warehouse somewhere drawing dust.

Commissioner Green said he asked his question for a purpose, there seemed to be a lot of back and forth on something the Board has already approved. He added they could not be stagnated. He said the reason he asked how many people had applied, it seemed to be the dollar amount has become an issue. He added if they could find out how many people had applied; they would know what had been spent. He said it was hard to move money to the account if they did not have the number of people that had requested the devices.

Chair Holt said in order to get everything they were to get, that was what they had to do; move on it in order to get it. She said they needed to make sure they could get the people the service.

Ms. Hamilton said for them to be mindful of the December 30th deadline and the County had already signed a contract with the vendor for that dollar amount.

Mr. Thomas said in terms of the money, he wanted to make it clear in the CARES Act fund, there was about \$300,000.00 and of the \$4.3 Million that have been submitted to do drawdown, so far approximately \$495,000 of that has been approved. This week they will be cutting checks for small businesses, residents and municipalities, about \$700,000 that will cover what they currently have in the CARES Fund and then there is a cash flow issue until they approve and send the rest of the money to the County. He said they have not been sent any of the Phase 3 money.

Ms. Hamilton added from Clerk's office, an additional \$2.7 Million has been submitted in documentation because her understanding to the County based on the Florida Division of Emergency Management staff, there are counties in the State that did not partake in the program. At the right time, that pot of money will open up to other counties.

Commissioner Green asked if there was any idea as to when they would be awarded the additional funding and she stated no. She said that was a courtesy, the County took advantage of the opportunity and was like a "hurry up, wait and see" and they had to meet the threshold for the initial award; the \$7.967,316 and the County did that as far as documents that was submitted by December 3rd. Now they were waiting for the precursory review to be done by the Gadsden County liaison at FDEM. There was a step one and a step two review and was why it was taking so long.

Mr. Dixon said the point was, it was not our fault, it was the process. The County's job was to make sure the l's were dotted and t's crossed.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to make sure they followed protocol since Commissioner Hinson called the question. Chair Holt said there was no motion yet. He thanked the Administrator for

meeting with him yesterday and asked if they had submitted the paperwork for the remainder of the drawdown. Mr. Dixon responded yes; it was on review for the second step.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. MR. THOMAS HAD COMMENTS.

Mr. Thomas said he had more comments and could make them during his update.

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

CLERK OF COURT

9. Updates

Mr. Thomas started with broadband.

He said Ms. Hamilton mentioned documentation and that was so important. He said having the proper documentation in place would help, especially if there is more money to be issued out. He said he understood he had not been there and had not seen a contract, however every check cut had to be documented. The attorney talked about deliverables and they need to address that. It needed to be addressed, if they cannot deliver, pay for what is delivered. They do not cut checks in advance.

2) He said a couple of weeks ago, they readvertised the budget to take care of the Truth in Millage issue and wanted to mention, as an observation, under Miscellaneous Revenue was the figure of \$1.7 Million and to him that seemed a little high and wanted to see what made up that. He said there was a discussion during the summer of “missing revenue” and never had a clear understanding saw what they were doing. In reviewing the miscellaneous revenue was a figure of \$357,911 and when he looked at the budget document, he saw was ½ cent Indigent Care Reserves. He said the bottom line was they could not use that money to balance their budget. He stated they could not and he would not transfer Indigent Cares money into the General Fund for operating. He added when they were renegotiating their contract with CRMC, they told the County they did not need all the Indigent Care money. The County started giving them \$200,000. He told them at that time all they could use the money for was Indigent Care.

3) There was a line item for transfer from FEMA; he said they were relying on money from FEMA for some costs that had previously been denied and they now had a company to go after those funds. He informed them if they do not receive the money, it impacts the current fiscal year and they might have a fund balance of less than \$2 Million instead of around \$3.5 Million.

He added this was just observations in the budgeting process and wanted to be on record with this. He said a cynical person could say they were trying to hide something.

He said he wanted to end on something positive; they still have \$2 Million in SHIP Housing that County has.

Chair Holt said when Hurricane Michael hit, the State mentioned they needed to have 10 inspectors and the County was not doing it. She said when you get off track, it was hard to get

back to where they were. She said they did not have people in place. These were things they were learning and have to do.

She told the Administrator they needed to take care of items with the budget.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad for the reference to blue tarps still on some of the buildings; it was not only in District 3 but all over. With COVID, they were fortunate to have the Pittman Law Group and a person that has background in Probate and before COVID was working on having a seminar or workshop for the citizens to help them understand their issues. He said they needed to expedite to help educate and help people with housing issues.

Chair Holt said at the FAMU Center a few years ago, there were two judges giving a workshop on Probate. She said also they gave funding to North Florida Legal Services.

Commissioner Hinson said if not mistaken, Dr. Sandra Robinson represents rural development and she sent a letter to commissioners on how they could get with residents to help bring closure.

Mr. Dixon said this was the kind of creativity that they will need in order to accomplish some of the things they were talking about.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Updates

Mr. Dixon said there will be a Ribbon cutting at the new AG center on December 18th at 1:00 pm;

They mentioned earlier they will start the budget process earlier so they could get around the bigger issues and finish sooner;

He said Commissioner Hinson asked about Emergency Housing and they have done some research and they think they have a formula they will be sending out and if they agree on it, will be on a meeting in January;

CARES Update- received 332 Small Business grants; paid little over \$1 Million; had payment requests for 41 in, had 74 that did not qualify; expect will pay about \$1.35 Million out for small business. He added this could change as the reviews continue. With the Resident Grants they had received 647 applications and 146 have been paid, \$290,000 requested and 254 did not qualify. He said they estimate they will probably end up spending \$556,000 at the end of the program.

Had a call from Capital Health Plan and they will be sending a refund of approximately \$90,000.

Chair Holt thanked the Health Council because they went out door to door. She said this was not a separate non-profit, they worked under the Commission and was funded by the BOCC.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comment was to the County Administrator and the attorney; he recalled sometime during the onset of COVID-19; he wrote a letter to regarding the Health Council to the Governor that started the testing sites at the hospital. When he did that, he

reported later that the letter was written and was urgent and he was chastised by the Board and they said that any letter that was written and sent out by the Board, needed to have the consent of the Board and a copy go to all commissioners. He said this was not a request, but any letter that left the office from anybody, if it is sent to one Commissioner, it needed to be sent to all commissioners for transparency.

Commissioner Hinson said in all fairness, the commissioners that lambasted him were no longer here. If they could recall, he and Commissioner Holt was the one that ushered them to move forward.

Chair Holt said all commissioners need to know the same thing.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

11 Updates

Mr. Knowles asked for Board direction on the WastePro contract and the issue with Piggly Wiggly.

Chair Holt asked if Piggly Wiggly had to use that vendor. He said he did not want to speak specifically to the vendor because he had not reviewed the issue but there was a contract with WastePro that continues to renew for 5-year terms and they needed to look at those types of contracts. She asked if there was anything that forced the vendor to use WastePro. Mr. Knowles stated that Chapter 70 of the Code was what granted the Board the right to enter into a contract with explicitly and thought it dealt with all collection of refuse within the County. Chair Holt asked if every business had to use them. Mr. Knowles stated for certain types of refuse and most types of refuse, yes, that was what WastePro was saying and why he asked direction on it in case it needed to be investigated further or bring back in front of the Board. He said this was a new issue for him, but his concerns were 1) the evergreen contract, he did not like those; and 2) what to do with this particular issue because the contract they have did in fact say we would use best efforts to try and enforce the provisions of the contract.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was also an item he had taken a look at because this had been brought to his attention. Also, there were other citizens that were concerned with WastePro and their way of collecting trash; trashcans were sometimes left in the middle of the road, etc. He suggested they actually find time to workshop that contract and see how it could be revised and make it possible for those who want, to be able to use alternate trash collectors. WastePro has a monopoly.

Chair Holt asked for Board direction.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they needed to get direction from the attorney. He wanted the attorney to see if it was legal and what do they do; if it was not legal, what do they do. If Piggly Wiggly was not doing anything wrong, what was the problem.

Chair Holt asked Mr. Knowles to get that information to all the commissioners to give them an opportunity to look over it.

Commissioner Hinson said also WastePro called him several times and asked him to look into it. He added he would hate to harass a business owner if they had no grounds to do so.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

12. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said two weeks ago he brought up a suggestion that they should have a conversation with WastePro. He added that maybe they should have an emergency meeting before Christmas with them. He further stated this was the wrong time of year to have debris all over the place.

Chair Holt suggested, if possible, to have the Administrator look into that and contact WastePro and Commissioner Hinson said yes.

He also thanked the Board for being positive the last few months. There were a lot of residents hurting and COVID was rising heavily with heart attacks, etc. That was why he said, as a Board, they had to be aware of other people and they should put the emphasis on assisting residents. He thought they had a great board, needed to stay positive and agree to disagree.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said now that there was an executed contract with the County Administrator, could they put on the calendar to workshop for the goals and needs of the County.

Mr. Dixon said they had located the documents from the previous the previous Board and they will be provided to them and schedule a workshop.

Commissioner NeSmith said around 2015 or 2016 there was a strategic planning session in Gretna and he would like for them to review that document so life could be added to it. Mr. Dixon said those were the documents and they will be provided.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to the Administrator and Commissioner Nesmith that they worked on the Missions Statement and needed to work on the Strategic Plan and Succession Plan.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the Administrator for meeting with him and making himself available.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt said with tracking the devices that Commissioner Green brought up, they could have a monthly report and said to the Administrator that was something they could go ahead and do.

She said she spoke with Senator Hayes' assistant; he is the one that is over the budgetary system for the Senate. She said they invited him but he could not make it because of the virus.

She stated the 4:00 workshops should start in January before the 6:00 meeting.

She said one evening, before the hurricane, she was out enjoying herself and her phone was going dead, she received a call from a gentleman and she told him he had 6 seconds, her phone was dying. He told her it was Governor Scott, for her to call him back.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 7:24 p.m.

She said he said something very important, that the County had not signed the emergency forms for the hurricane and would not receive the FEMA money if the forms were not signed. She said she called the Administrator and they were calling trying to get the Commissioners to arrange an emergency meeting.

She stated they may need to look at an attendance policy and they were a non-chartered County so they could make one.

Large Item Pick-up- She said there was a lot of stuff sitting on US 90 West and she encouraged everyone to take their stuff to the dump.

She thanked everyone for wearing their masks.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green said he wanted to mimic what the Clerk had to say regarding delivering and wanted to make sure they did not spend what was not needed and was why he asked and was hoping Ms. Hamilton was still available. He asked how many devices had already been distributed and how they could find that information. He said he would love to find out how they were tracking the devices that were going out. He added that he understood that based on the approval, they would be refunded a certain amount of money if the devices were not used with the surety bond. He added that was why he wanted to make sure they were able to keep track on the devices and asked who was responsible for tracking. He asked if the Administrator could get them the information regarding that on who was tracking and what had been sold so they would have an idea as to where they were when it comes down to the funding in reference to that project.

He also thanked the County Administrator for making himself readily available for them and stated he had been a great help. He said he was looking forward to the future of the County.

He said he talked to a constituent who was refused CARES Act money due to the fact that she and her husband both applied but there were two different businesses that were impacted by using the same address. He asked for direction on why they were refused because they were two separate businesses using the same address.

He asked that they be mindful they were approaching the holiday season and a lot of people would be gathering and they could not let their guard down with the virus. He said as a person that has known several people that have been affected and some that have died, he asked that they practice safe patterns during the holiday season; it has already been projected that the numbers would rise. He reminded all the constituents that this was serious and they had to practice safety.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
December 15, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Viegbesie dittoed what Commissioner Green said. May the Holidays be full of love, peace and happiness.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 728 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 15, 2020 AT 4 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1- absent
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Hannah Pope, Clerk's Office

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CONSENT

Chair Holt asked for approval of the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email

CitizensToBeHeard@gadscencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Chair Holt read aloud the COVID-19 Statement and there were no citizens that wished to speak.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Welcome

2. Presentation of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Salary Study

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated Sheriff Young submitted a salary study with findings and recommendations to the Board to be considered for the next fiscal year.

Ms. Jennifer Collins, J Collins Consulting, LLC, remotely appeared before the board to share the findings from the study conducted for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Collins used data from FDLE's 2018 annual salary report data which looked at the local agencies that Gadsden County Sheriff's Officers relocated to. Ms. Collins found that the Gadsden County Sheriff's

department reported the #1 lowest entry level salary, and they also saw that the Sergeants and Lieutenants within the Sheriff's Office earned 15% less on average, and that the minimum salary of officers ranked in the bottom third. She added that when they looked at this information it impacted the ability of the Sheriff's Office to be able to recruit and retain officers within the County. They put together a recommendation which would be implementing a step program within the Gadsden County Sheriff's office. The step plan included an entry level salary based on the median salary for a lieutenant and the average salary for a deputy and sheriff. While conducting the study, she found that the State agencies used a 2.75% increase in the step plan for each position. The proposal would be for the entry level salary for a deputy would be \$37,000 and the step two for those who were currently in positions with the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Collins stopped for questions from the board.

Commissioner Green said he was concerned because of the amount of money that Gadsden County officers are being paid. He was also concerned because the list of agencies that Ms. Collins used did not take into account the size comparison to Gadsden County. He wanted to know how those agencies compared size wise to Gadsden County. Ms. Collins stated she did not prepare the information off of size/population but off of where the officers were relocating to. She stated that taking the information from the smaller counties may not be as relevant or it may not assist in the retention and recruitment because they were similar.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was a concern to him regarding retention and recruitment. He suggested to Mr. Dixon that once they began the budget workshop to consider not including the sheriff's office with the other constitutionals because the responsibilities of the sheriff's office were very different from the other Constitutionals. If Gadsden County was losing its deputies to these agencies and they were comparing their entrance salaries to these agencies and not to other sheriff's officers of equal size, budget, and population did that mean that those other counties were also losing officers to the state agencies. He said he wanted to compare apples to apple and not to those state agencies that were recruiting through those other agencies as well.

Ms. Collins said it depended on the agencies where the other sheriff's offices were located. Since we were located next to the State capitol and there were opportunities for them to work for state agencies along with state colleges and other agencies in Leon County. She said she had to take into account where the officers were going in location of the county to do the study.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked about what the current entry salary was because of the step one on the plan (please see presentation) and Ms. Collins answered that the current salary was \$31,000 for Gadsden County.

Commissioner Green commented that they realized it would be hard to compete with other agencies. Also, that it felt like Gadsden County was a starting point for other agencies.

Chair Holt noticed in a report emailed to her, it was suggested they look at getting some grant writers and/or getting a permanent grant writer, but looking at what they had now, unless they come into more money, they could not give out any more money. Chair Holt stated that she liked the report even though she wished there was more comparative data, and the only way that they could approve this plan was to raise taxes. Also, Chair Holt asked how many people were in each of the categories for the proposed plan.

Ms. Katherine Pondexter appeared remotely. Ms. Pondexter had given Mr. Price, Sr. Management Budget Analyst, the total number of employees they have. She said that those who were compared in the survey would be the 36 law enforcement officers sworn in; 10 bailiffs, and also the correctional officers. The total number of officers that were looked at was 37 law enforcement and personnel.

Chair Holt agreed with Commissioner Viegbesie, when the Sheriff turns in his request along with the other Constitutionals, they had to analyze each one separately. Chair Holt said she found that the information was very helpful.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had a shortage of deputies and Ms. Pondexter said there was one. It was difficult to recruit and retain with the salaries they had currently and was a big issue.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how revenue could be generated to allow for recruitment and to retain sheriff's officers, which Chair Holt had already alluded to.

Chair Holt felt this report was very informative and asked this report be included with other information at the start of the budget season.

Commissioner Green asked Ms. Pondexter, since they were aware of the shortage of officers, which was definitely an issue, what mechanism was the Sheriff's office doing to recruit new officers. Ms. Pondexter stated that Col. Collins probably was the one to answer. The Sheriff's Office advertises the positions yet because of the low pay they have trouble being competitive. Information was sent to the Chair and Budget Director, on a study that was conducted in 2008 to look at using the Small County tax and unrestricting that so it could be used for operational costs, and may be one way the Board could look at. Ms. Pondexter said that Col. Collins could expound on that subject.

Col. Collins appeared remotely. Col. Collins sits on the training commission for the Public Safety Institute so Gadsden County was uniquely situated because it has a law enforcement training academy in their back yard. Gadsden County lost 2 potential officers last week. Two agencies that are getting new Sheriffs' coming in are Jackson County and Liberty County. Col. Collins stated that even though they can pay more those agencies do not have an abundance of resources which has created Gadsden County a hotbed. Also, it was very expensive to put a deputy on the street because of costs that have to be paid, the background mental evaluation, uniforms, and background checks. Once an officer leaves within an 18-month period the Sheriff's Office has lost close to \$1,000 just on recruitment alone. Then reason that there is an uptake in crime is because Gadsden County Sheriff's Office does not have the man power to cover the county and retention in numbers were low because pay is not competitive. Also, Commissioner Green made a great point that locals do not know their law enforcement officers anymore.

Chair Holt said she appreciated his passion. She stated that Gadsden County will be going into the budget season soon. She also said that the housing issue was part of the county's economic development. There was not enough housing for officers. Also, she stated that the Small County tax was being used for EMS and Road and Bridge.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested as they go into budget before first workshop, that the budget director and the Sheriff's office budget analyst look into what the Sheriff's office was getting this year and what would be requested for next year in an itemized format to make justified decisions for the upcoming year.

Chair Holt reminded commissioners they needed to request any information from the County Manager and Attorney, since they are the only 2 employees they can request through and they are the ones to address their staff.

Mr. Dixon said they would start the budget process earlier so it may be more prolific in their understanding and be done sooner. He also stated there was a nationwide shortage of officers and that they were not just being taken from here but other areas as well.

Chair Holt said sometimes if you could not do the salary at the level they want, sometimes they might could do signing bonuses or housing for them that was cheaper.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the Administrator about the \$1 million currently they have requested. Mr. Dixon said this was a new request just for personnel and salary.

Ms. Pondexter said she was confused on \$1 Million that was mentioned because it included other costs other than the salary study. The salary study came up to \$585,000 that was for law enforcement and correctional officers.

Chair Holt asked what was the budget for the Sheriff's office for last year and Mr. Dixon said according to their documents, it was \$7.7 Million was the approved budget for 2019 and the new request would be approximately \$8.3 Million if they were able to get the requested money. Chair Holt reminded that they have added new commissioners that needed to hear this type of information.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BERFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 4:46 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, Florida

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk