

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN, COUNTY
FLORIDA, ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1010, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE
HAD, VIZ**

PRESENT:

Commissioner Eugene Lamb, Chair Dist. 1
Commissioner Doug Croley, Vice-Chair Dist. 2
Commissioner Gene Morgan, Dist. 3
District 4 - Vacant
Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, Dist. 5
Johnny Williams, Co. Administrator
Jeff Price, OMB
Jean Chesser, Deputy Clerk

Call To Order:

Chairman Lamb called the Budget Workshop Meeting to order at 4:00 PM, with a quorum present and he then turned the meeting over to the County Administrator.

Mr. Williams called the Board's attention to a memo dated August 30, 2010, that he and Mr. Price had put together on some of the remaining items that need to be addressed. He explained the first two items -

1. Additional Health Insurance Cost - Approximate cost for FY 10/11 - \$33,400 is already included in the budget -- put in the budget from General Fund Reserves.

2. Two Additional Public Works Staff - (sign tech and fleet tech) approximate cost for FY 10/11 - \$73,400 is included in the budget and funded by General Fund Reserves.

Mr. Williams said the Board is aware of the County's General Fund Reserves and that Clerk Thomas had requested last year that the Board not use any of those reserves because they were so low. Mr. Williams said the County is in a little better situation now, and expects to end this year with at least \$4 million in reserves - said he isn't quite as nervous about it as

he was this time last year but cautioned the Board they still need to be judicious with it.

Chairman Lamb called for questions/discussion on Items 1 & 2 and none were stated.

Item 3. Prison Work Crew - FY 10/11 cost approximately \$58,000 per crew. The BOCC discussed having two crews for a total cost of approximately \$116,000. Staff recommends that this item be funded by the termination of 3 to 5 Public Works employees; thereby having no additional cost added to the budget.

Mr. Williams said at the last budget meeting the Board had talked about hiring two crews at \$116,000 and there was some discussion on off-setting it by the lay-off of 3-5 public works employees. He said it was kind of left at that; lay-offs are usually a sort of last resort, but if that's the way the Board wants to handle it, then it can be done and would be done on a seniority basis - from the bottom up, last hired, first fired.

Commissioner Morgan said they had discussed several different scenarios in trying to justify which made more sense from a business standpoint regarding spending the public's money. He said they had come up with the two crews which would give 20 workers, a supervisor for each crew and transportation would be provided; all of which seemed to make sense as opposed to how it's being done now where the County is providing the transportation with as little as four to five in the crews.

Mr. Williams explained the County has several crews - a couple of them they provide and some of them the County provides -

Commissioner Morgan "My question is -- OK, I think and I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I believe there was a -- I know we talked about potentially looking at it as a business case 'saying OK, here's what we're doing now and here's what we're talking about doing' and then be able to make a decision there."

Mr. Williams 'Yeah"

Commissioner Morgan "So, I haven't seen that. I don't - am I hearing that you're saying that we're going to have to lay off five people in order to justify this?"

Mr. Williams "No I'm saying that that's what - you asked for our recommendation and that's our recommendation, but - You could do

that with a public works reserve fund or general fund reserves as well. It would actually be public works reserve funds, there."

Commissioner Morgan "And, those reserves are pretty thin right now, aren't they?"

Mr. Williams "About \$400,000.00, I think - last I looked at it"

Commissioner Morgan "Ok, that's all I have. Thank you."

Commissioner Taylor "Obviously I'm not in support of anyone having to lose their job to fund this. If you all will recall this past year we entered into something very similar. We hired fifteen guys with weed eaters to go and do right-of-ways and obviously that was a trial and error because it hasn't panned out. I think we only received about four months of services because of the amount of money that was funded. When we look at the number of days the inmates can work; keeping in mind we are in Florida so two-thirds of the time we are looking at some kind of in-climate weather and we've been told that they cannot do anything in the event of in-climate weather. We've been told they cannot operate any kind of equipment other than a weed eater. We've been told, again, that there are going to be limited things that they can do. Some of our arguments have been the culverts not having been cleaned out and I don't think they can be responsible for that. Obviously when it rains you have severe road damages that crews have to go out and use machinery to repair - they can't do that. We put in tons and tons of money, Mr. Chairman, training these people that we're getting ready to lay off for people who are going to be able to provide limited services. I had hoped the Clerk would be here this afternoon because I did speak with him about this issue. He did indicate that there were funds available for it, other than laying people off. He also indicated that the \$2 million that we're thinking is going to go into a reserve is not a real number so I'm hoping at some point in time he does come over so that he can clarify this. The idea of buying two crews is a new program -it's a new concept. We don't want to terminate anybody, Mr. Chairman, all for doing something new. We can fund this, if this is what you all want to do. I prefer just really doing one crew with ten (10) members. I don't see where two (2) is necessary, but keep in mind this government is run off taxes and when you lay people off you are cutting into our revenue and into people's livelihood, so the \$400,000 is there -- \$116,000 off of it - I know we don't want to bother with reserves but we're doing well and we certainly don't want to lay off anybody.

If you want to do two I wouldn't vote for it. If you want to do one, I would. I would vote for one but please commissioners, let's don't go after people's jobs when we've got other alternatives that can fund this and the Clerk is in total support of other opportunities that we can look at and he promised he would be here today. So, that's my only stance on that one. I'm willing to work with you, but not at the risk of putting people in the unemployment line where that's going to have an effect on us as well as for different homes. Thank you."

Commissioner Croley "Item 3 is not written up correctly. I don't believe there was just discussion about laying people off. What was said based upon the information that was provided that there were four inmate supervisors and that the State of Florida had made a decision based upon the decision to open and to privatize the prison (inaudible) that we couldn't get inmates as had been obtained in the past. Therefore, you have inmate supervisors with a county van and the port-a-let trailer hooked to it supervising three inmates. Now, on Monday I personally passed a county van with three inmates picking up trash and that happens regularly. Now, if you can find other positions for inmate supervisors, fine; but it does not take a rocket scientist to - as we said before, to figure out that if I can get 20 men, two State supervisors and two State vehicles for \$116,000.00 that that is a good business move on the part of Gadsden County and for the citizens and the tax payers. Now, that doesn't mean that you've got to eliminate those employees. There may be some that's near retirement. I don't know. I don't know anything about the details; I just know that-- Mr. Administrator you should - and I agree on this basis. I don't want anybody out here to be losing their jobs but I think you can go in and look closely at this and I agree with Mr. Morgan. I think this would have been better presented if you had done a cost benefit analysis on it and looked at who and how you would have made this work. Just going out there and saying we're starting at the very bottom with a maintenance person and eliminate them; that's not right. I think, how much did it cost for the weed eating crews this year"?

Mr. Williams "About \$120,000.00"

Commissioner Croley "Well that takes care of your weed eating crews right there. It covers the whole thing and you don't have to spend \$120,000 next year - you're going to do it for less and that gives you a resource. That's why I'm trying to encourage people to think how you do this. You don't have to go fire

people. You should be able to make this work out, so the way it is written up; and Jeff I don't know if you did this or not from the budget, but please, it would be most helpful to us if it wasn't stated in this manner because that wasn't what we said."

Chairman Lamb "Let me make my comment here. This \$116,000.00 I have no problem with the two crews if we can get two crews, but let's do everything we can to keep those employees. We don't need to lay off these employees - we don't need to do that. There's money in other places that you can get that \$116,000 from - the weed eating crew or wherever you get it from, but we need to keep the employees working. We don't need them out there drawing unemployment - that would be three or five more employees that we would have in this County unemployed and we just don't need that. I'm sure you can go back and find that \$116,000 where ever."

Mr. Williams "Sure, we can take it out of reserves - that's always one possibility."

Chairman Lamb "Well, that would be up to you all where you want to get it from, but we need to keep those employees working. Let's keep these employees working."

Commissioner Morgan "That's what I was talking about before; take a look at here's what we have presently and here's what is proposed. I hear the concerns Commissioner Taylor is saying and I have to agree again with what Mr. Croley said. We want to see an analysis because that money may already be being spent and I am not for taking money out of our reserve fund if we don't have to, and I want to state that right now. But, I think our Public Works Director even commented that this is a heck of a deal."

Mr. Williams "Oh, it is a deal, there's no doubt about that."

Commissioner Morgan" We would have 15 to 20 individuals out there and two supervisors - you can't beat that deal; it's almost a no brainer and we just need to know where or how we can be most effective with those existing three to five employees in Public Works, putting them to doing something else. Now, just one more thing I want to mention and then I will be done. We talked about last time the concern for abandoned and neglected cemeteries throughout the County and this is where -- and Mr. Fletcher mentioned this at our last meeting, how they are doing it in Liberty County. In the winter months we can use these crews for these types of County concerns, and if we do this, I want to be sure that these are the types of things we are

looking at doing and thinking about doing in taking advantage of this."

Sheriff Young addressed the Board - "I can offer you, give you a better business deal on this. Commissioners you own the jail and if you want to look at inmate crews, we sentence folks to that jail and we are looking for work. We are looking at putting these folks to work so you can save that \$116,000 and get your own inmates to get out there. Now, I'm not for laying folk off to do this but at the same time I've got the inmates that you can utilize to get out there on these inmate crews. We've got a van, we have a trailer - I mean if you want to purchase another van - I can get you the inmates---"

Chairman Lamb "I didn't know they were allowed to come from the jail."

Sheriff Young "Yes, Sir. As a matter of fact our judges are looking to sentence folk - just to keep down jail population -to sentence to just an inmate work crew so you may want to look at this."

Commissioner Taylor "If the Chair can offset this cost and stop anybody from being laid off - and I want us to say this here and let it happen and we relax here and not something else happen tomorrow, so I'm hoping we can kind of put this to bed. We're all in unison that no one loses their job."

Chairman Lamb "OK so you and the budget director and the Sheriff can all get together and see if we can work this all out for us, and it would be great.-"

Commissioner Taylor"Did you hear my question Mr. Chair, are we all in unison here that no one loses their job?"

Chairman Lamb "Yeah, yes, yes, yeah."

Commissioner Croley "No, I'm not in unison, I'm on the basis of looking at it from a business standpoint with the offer that Sheriff Young has brought to your attention, then do a proper analysis and then we will make that decision."

Chairman Lamb" Yeah, and then we will make that decision. We have to wait until we get their analysis."

Commissioner Taylor "I understand, but if he is telling us free labor then all we have to do is make sure we have someone that is trained to oversee them, and he already has that, so -"

Chairman Lamb "I'm in favor definitely of trying to keep the people working, but we will wait till we get there -"

After additional discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Item # 3 (\$116,000.00) remain in the budget at this time, and have the County Administrator and the budget staff get with Sheriff Young and let Sheriff Young and the Administrator look at the inmate crews and then come back to the Board with the best business arrangement.

Chairman Lamb called for the next item on the agenda.

Ms. Brenda Holt briefly addressed the Board about a letter she has been working on and the possibility of sending it to the paper. She said she is very concerned about people being laid off and the fact that it decreases the County's tax base. She said she is just trying to look at saving jobs but if the Board can try to work this out, then she will hold the letter and see what happens - how it comes out the next time.

Chairman Lamb responded that is what the Board is trying to do - save these peoples jobs if they can.

Item 4. Road in Midway - cost approximately \$100,000. This item is currently budgeted in Public Works Capital Project Reserve Fund, along with a backhoe, flatbed truck and three to four pickup trucks that have been approved. Staff recommends funds be transferred from Discretionary Sales Surtax Fund to cover all the approved costs (approximately \$350,000.)

Mr. Williams said Item 4 has already been taken care of and has been put in the budget out of Public Work's capital reserves.

Commissioner Morgan inquired as to the pickup trucks in Item 4 and Mr. Williams said that was part of the Public Works request under the capital outlay, and it was all lumped together in there.

Commissioner Morgan brought up the buy-back program on large equipment that the County previously participated in and as discussed by the Public Works Director at the last meeting. He asked the County Administrator if staff is all back on the same page so the county can take advantage of the program. He said

they 'missed the boat' the last time and the Board was not aware of it. Mr. Williams responded he was not made aware of missing it either, but explained staff is on top of it and the County will be able to take advantage of that type of program in the future.

There was no further discussion or questions from the Commission on Item 4.

Item 5. Senior Planner - approximate cost for FY 10/11 - \$68,000 (salary and benefits) - No fiscal action needed. Deferred at last budget workshop.

Mr. Williams said Item 5 for a Senior Planner was deferred to some later date by the Board at their last meeting and staff has decided there is currently no need for the position due to the state of economy and the fact that no one is building houses, or subdivisions. He did state that if the economy ever busts loose they may have to look at that position again.

There were no questions and no discussion on Item 5 by the Board.

Item 6. Emergency Housing Repair - requested amount of \$40,000. Staff recommends this item not be budgeted in this year's (FY 10/11) budget. Should an emergency occur, then the Commission can fund this project from General Fund Reserve.

Mr. Williams said last year there was \$40,000. For Emergency Housing Repair and at the last meeting the Board had wanted to keep the \$40,000 this year. He said, here again that would be from general fund reserve if the Board decides to keep the \$40,000 in this year. He said he and Commissioner Morgan had discussed this and their belief was that maybe they should not budget it until they have an emergency. Have it as a line item but not funded until and unless they do have an emergency.

Chairman Lamb "And then you would use general funds?"

Chairman Lamb "And would that depend on what type of emergency you've got and would it be coming under the program (SHIP) the County currently has?"

Mr. Williams "Yes, and see how much would be needed and then drop it into that line item. It's just something we discussed." He said it meets the requirements of the SHIP Program - income limits and elderly and handicapped, first and so forth."

Commissioner Taylor "Mr. Chair, This is one that I kind of pushed because we run across this often with folks with limited income who have an emergency because of the type of in climate weather we often get in the State of Florida that we could help, and that's why we're here; to provide services to the best of our ability and these are dollars that were budgeted last year. Now we have not increased anywhere so why are these dollars not there and available this year? They've already been in there and we discussed this at our last work shop and with the exception of Commissioner Morgan, it seemed like everyone else was in favor of making these services available in the event of an emergency. Obviously no one wants to g into reserves, but we still have to take care of and be responsible for our citizens. Now, at the last meeting -- this question is for Mr. Williams - at the last meeting we were all under the impression that you all were to go back and take a look at some cuts that we had made that would have brought the revenue up and made it available to offset some of these items the Board had looked at. For example, \$34,000 we had taken out of the attorney's budget; I'm trying to figure out what happened to those dollars. There was \$60,000 that we had cut from the \$120,000.00 from the Urgent Care, so that should have brought us to \$94,000 and then there was the additional dollars that we also cut with the hospital so those should have brought you some extra dollars that would have offset some of these costs because I know trying to get some of the commissioners around here to go into reserves would have been just about impossible. But, then looking at the fact that these dollars we did cut could very well fund this and no one going into reserves and then we would have a line item that could be available for citizens. Now, those funds were spent this year. Why? Because there was a need. Each one of those citizens who used this service did go through the proper format, did make the criteria list and receive services. The people that are getting these services are from all over the County and we have the cuts where we can fund this so I am hoping we can go ahead and move on this particular item."

Mr. Williams "You are absolutely right and with the Board's permission we will go ahead and look at those before we look at reserves. We will just do that automatically, if it's OK with you."

Commissioner Morgan "My objection for having a specific budgeted item here is not that if there is a need or an emergency where we need to respond. It is the fact that we are in an environment where our revenues are going down, our expenses are going up. We don't know what the State Legislature is going to

propose as far as any funding for us and we need to be very careful in how we budget funds. You know, we need to put every possible penny we can into fund balance and that is why we have been so successful in the last twelve to fifteen months in building up these fund reserves and they will continue to build up and we will be in a position so that if we have an event such as we had this past year and there are some needs out there then hopefully we will have those dollars available and we can make that decision at that time. It doesn't mean that I don't feel there is a need if something occurs. But, just because we are Cutting dollars from other areas to put back into fund balance doesn't mean that we need to automatically go and look for places to budget different items. It's just not - we are not in the right type of climate right now, economically, to do these things. That's just my personal opinion on that."

Chairman Lamb "I did speak to the Administrator concerning that certain item. Now the question here is do you want to make that a line item for \$40,000, or when something happens, the administration can give the SHIP Program the opportunity to look into this to make certain the person is qualified - to go out and fix their roof or whatever needs to be done. That's what we're talking about here. I don't see where we have to put the \$40,000 in a line item as long as they can get it from the general fund if it's an emergency and has to be used, if the money is still there."

Commissioner Taylor "Mr. Chair, just one comment to what you just said. The only problem is that if it's an emergency then the money needs to be accessible in an expeditious way or expeditious manner if it's an emergency. Now, we saved money last year. We saved money with this item in the budget. We were very fiscally conservative last year, with this item in the budget. This isn't an add-to. Now, I can appreciate you saying as we go forward let's cut, and when we cut let's keep them cut and hold it right there, but this was a funded item, and that's all that I am saying. We have to be able to provide service. I hear what you're saying - let it be a line item but don't put money, but I'm just afraid of the times. You can't just let a person sit out there two or three weeks while we go through our bureaucracy trying to get the money moved to the right place while these people are living in a poor condition and obviously will get worse if it is not taken care of immediately in an emergency situation. So, what you're saying is its doable, but the only thing that I could see that would hurt us is that they won't be accessible to the money as quickly if we don't budget something in this line item. That's all that I'm saying and I'm

hoping that you all will consider this. It's just \$40,000 and if you want to cut it by \$30,000 - whatever, I just don't want to see us lose the whole gamut."

Commissioner Croley "Well, I really don't see the need to set a line item now that I've reflected on it, and the simple reason is cash - there is no such thing as a reserve fund. There's not anything in the budget - it's the cash balance - cash balance is what is for your emergencies. That's the cash you have on hand to tide you over and if - quote an emergency, if whatever a lawful defined emergency does occur, it could be in law enforcement, it could be in public works, it could be in housing or whatever due to a natural or man-made disaster, we can go to cash balances but without a public policy on that, I think it's better that you leave it in cash balance so we can deal with it as we go along, so I'm going to agree with you on this one Mr. Chair and say I would rather not see a line item."

Chairman Lamb "OK, we need to go ahead and let management know exactly what we're going to do on this one."

Commissioner Taylor, "OK is it see a line item or not see a line item funded? Which one are you saying?"

Commissioner Croley "I'll see a line item on it because if it's in cash reserves it's the same thing."

Commissioner Taylor "If you do this then you are going to make it difficult to be accessible; that's the word. If you don't have a line item what will someone do who needs an emergency roof and they come in here, wait for a public hearing is that what happens? Tell me what, how these people would get the services."

Commissioner Croley "The event has to be determined to be the emergency, not the individual need. It's the event that has to be determined as an emergency."

"Commissioner Taylor "OK, then once the event is determined to be an emergency, then what do they do?"

Commissioner Croley "Then we'll deal with the appropriate money for the emergency."

Chairman Lamb "The administrator can, it can be done administratively."

Commissioner Taylor "Gentlemen, just let me say this. Anything that is spent over his limit has to come before us and especially any time you are spending an item that is not a budgeted item, it has to come before us. Listen, you don't want to not continue to provide services. If you don't want to put any money in it, fine. Let's at least leave the line item in there. Let's at least compromise on this somewhere."

Chairman Lamb "And to comment on what she's saying. I don't think it would be feasible for us to have a commission meeting to act on that item under an emergency situation."

Commissioner Croley "I appreciate that point, and actually Commissioner Taylor you make a good argument and I am going to come back to you and say that as far as having a line item for bonafide, declared natural or man-made emergencies -"

Commissioner Taylor "Not man-made, you don't want man-made"

Commissioner Croley "Well if a train jumps the track, that's man-made. What I'm trying to say is if you have a gas release or a fire or something, I mean that's man-made as opposed to a hurricane or a storm and that's what I'm talking about. What I'm getting at is we need a policy on that but I would compromise and say we could put some amount of money in an emergency fund like that, but then we need to have the attorney draw up the proper, legal provisions for it."

Commissioner Taylor "Ok, that's fine, that's fair."

Commissioner Morgan "Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm still a little confused. I don't know if you're saying have a line item in there with no funds. I don't know what you're suggesting - but even if there's a line item with no dollars allotted to it, it still has to come back before this Board for us to amend the budget to put money in, so what I'm saying is you are limiting how you're able if you have line items with money in it, you are limiting the ability to use that fund balance in other ways, if there becomes a need to do so. If we have an emergency we can still go to fund balance and address that just like we would anything else. You know, what you're doing is tying your hands by doing that."

Chairman Lamb "If there's money in that line item, then we don't have to come back to it."

Commissioner Morgan "Yeah, but you can't use those dollars somewhere else if there is something that comes up."

Commissioner Taylor "It's called a budget amendment. Yes you can."

Commissioner Morgan "I know, but you're not accomplishing anything is what I'm trying to say. Fund it or don't fund it, but what I am saying is there is nothing positive that comes out of there other than you are limiting - you are putting a limit on your fund balance, you are restricting your fund balance."

Commissioner Croley "Commissioner Morgan what this boils down to is that it's not the fact that we might not fund an emergency, it's what is defined as an emergency and what we really don't have is any rules in place about when and where these emergencies are declared, except through Emergency Management and there may be situations that could be a micro-sheer off a thunderstorm like we were talking about that put a tree limb through an elderly person's house that has no insurance and --"

Commissioner Morgan "Write a check out of fund balance."

Commissioner Croley "Well, we could but by law we still have to have a budget for that and I think if we had an amount of money in there, as Commissioner Taylor is suggesting, that that would probably work. Now I agree with you on a bigger item. If you don't have it in cash reserve it doesn't make any sense, but having some money so that he could act --"

Commissioner Morgan "If you fund that with \$40,000, at the end of next year \$40,000 will be gone. You fund it at \$400,000 and at the end of next year; \$400,000 is going to be gone. That's just what I'm trying to tell you."

Commissioner Taylor "What he (referring to Commissioner Croley) is saying now is that it has got to be a little bit more defined as to who may get that money; that the attorney needs to come up with a more defined policy. I just want to make sure we get something in there; if it's no more than \$5,000 in this line item, just so we can move it off the table."

Commissioner Croley "Commissioner Taylor if we put \$10,000 in line item for emergency and ask the attorney to draft up an emergency program and get with Emergency Management for a lawful disaster so the administrator can act in conjunction with

Emergency Management - that ought to accomplish what needs to be done, and Commissioner Morgan if we don't have events that meet that, we should be able to move that money back into cash fund balance."

Chairman Lamb "We will be looking very closely at those emergencies, too - exactly what the emergency is."

Commissioner Croley asked if a motion was needed and Chairman Lamb said yes, for the administrator to bring it back to the Board for public hearing.

UPON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO PLACE \$10,000.00 IN A LINE ITEM FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING REPAIR AND THAT DISBURSEMENTS BE BY SOME TYPE OF GUIDELINES AS DRAFTED UP BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND THAT THE BOARD APPROVE OR CONSIDER THOSE GUIDELINES AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE ATTORNEY GET WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR WHATEVER THE STATE REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE, AND UPON A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1, BY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

Vote Recorded As:

In Favor of: Commissioners Taylor, Croley and Lamb.

Against: Commissioner Morgan

Item 7. Jail Locks - Cost approximately \$175,000 and Jail renovation (female unit) cost approximately \$30,000. Staff recommends these items continue to be budgeted in General Capital Project Reserve Fund. These items were budgeted in FY 09/10 but were not started. The budgeted money will roll over to the FY 10/11 fund balance.

Mr. Williams said the Board has already agreed to roll it over and re-fund it in the next year.

Commissioner Croley "Since our Sheriff is sitting here, Sheriff, the money to fix the jail is committed for and it's just a matter of Clyde Collins and Facilities Management doing the work."

Sheriff Young asked to address Item 7 - "You know, about two years ago I stood before the Board and we had about \$800,000 allotted to the jail to do some repairs. Now that's kind of dwindled down a little bit and I've never got the clear understanding of what - I know we got cameras, and thank you. They're really working. I'll give you an example. When we have

any kind of incident in the jail we can go back and record what happened and we address that by arresting the inmate or whatever we need to do and it's really helping us there. Now you're saying the jail locks are only \$75,000 and I think the cameras come out to be \$82,000, I believe \$175,000 for the locks and another \$30,000 that we discussed the other day for a male pod. But, what happened to the rest; the other \$500,000? I've never got a clear understanding of that, but we did have \$800,000 allotted for it."

Commissioner Croley "You know what Sheriff, I don't know and I've asked the same question - what happened to the \$800,000. that was committed to those jail improvements because I supported that when I first got up here."

Chairman Lamb "What we need to do on that and I think we can find out exactly what happened. I don't know either Morris, but the Clerk ought to know."

Sheriff "Do I need to get with the Clerk?"

Chairman Lamb "No, we'll get with him - the administrator will. The budget director and administrator needs to get with the Clerk and get an answer for you."

Commissioner Croley "But in response, what happened though as the Clerk has pointed out was in the past if the money was not utilized in the year then it goes right back into the cash balance, and what's happened here is the money wasn't used in this current budget because Mr. Collins couldn't get the work done - the hospital and the jail all at the same time, so the money that is in the jail facilities fund for Clyde Collins is going to be carried over for work to be done after October 1st. Now basically, that was apparently never done with the \$800,000 and it went back into the reserves of the County. If we had a better jail maintenance plan of exactly what you recommended and what Mr. Collins recommended, I think everybody would be on the same page about long-term funding. It would certainly make it easy on everybody to know what needs to be done and we do it out over a period of time as the cash flow allows."

Commissioner Morgan "Sheriff, what you're coming up with here is about \$480,000 or so of the \$800,000 that hasn't been used yet, and if you remember last year we funded your law enforcement budget with an additional \$200,000. I agreed to support that because you and I talked about that in your office one day because you explained to me that you were using law enforcement

dollars to maintain that jail because it hadn't been properly done. So, I think in effect of that \$800,000, you're down to \$490,000 - you take another \$200 off, so we're really talking about just less than \$300,000 that we're looking for, if ya'll can follow my math there. But, there's still \$300,000 and we need to find out where that money is."

Chairman Lamb "Well, we'll get with the Clerk and the budget director as well as Mr. Williams and see can we get the Clerk to trace where that money is and how it went back into cash flow or whatever and we'll need to consider putting that money back to the Sheriff's Department."

Commissioner Croley "It doesn't go to the Sheriff. It goes to jail facilities."

There was no further discussion on Item 7.

Item 8. CRTPA (Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency) \$5,000.00 requested and staff recommends this item be budgeted in County Commissioners Dues account for \$5,000.

Mr. Williams explained Item 8 - CRTPA - was inadvertently left out of the budget and needs to be in there. He explained the Board had discussed it at their last meeting and had agreed that it is something they just have to do because they won't have access to transportation funds without it. He said staff recommends putting it back in.

Chairman Lamb said everyone on the Board is in agreement with putting Item 8 back in the budget.

Item 9. Opportunity FL - \$4,000 requested - staff recommends this item be budgeted in County Commissioners Dues account for \$4,000.

Mr. Williams said Opportunity Florida is responsible for the broadband \$23 million project that was awarded this year for all of the counties combined and Gadsden County will get their share of the \$23 million. He also said this will be a real money-maker for the County in years (probably three to four) to come.

Mr. Williams explained the correct proposed budget amount is \$4,500.00 - Not \$4,000.00 - typo error.

Chairman Lamb called for questions on Item 9 and there was none.

Item 10. \$25,000 requested to be budgeted for lobbying services - staff recommends this item be budgeted in County Commissioners Professional Services account for \$25,000. (Small County Coalition is currently budgeted in County Commissioners Dues account for \$5,000.

Mr. Williams explained Item 10 as lobbying services for the County and said the name of the Lobbyist was left out of this request because this item will probably go out for RFP - said that was the discussion at the last meeting.

Commissioner Taylor "I have been to several meetings with the Florida Association of Counties and have talked to numerous other commissioners and we are about the only one paying this kind of money for lobbying services. The fee that we pay to be part of that coalition (Small County Coalition) buys lobbying services for us; that is \$5,000.00. That is all the other counties pay, the \$5,000.00 and gets the same level of services for their counties that we are paying an additional \$25,000.00 for and I thought about this. I know the sensitivities and the need for having a lobbyist. We have already paid them once. This was a deal that was done before us. We don't know why or where it was struck up; the reasons for it and I'm understanding the two commissioners that were seated at that time didn't have any buy-in or rationale for it, but if we pay the same as all of the other counties the \$5,000.00, then why are we having to pay another \$25,000.00 and they are not, but they are getting the same services for \$5,000.00 that we are getting but we. We are paying a total of \$30,000.00 but there are not very many other counties doing the same. We are the only one doing this. It was a \$50,000.00 deal - Why? What were the reasons for this? We don't know, and the only thing is we continue to pony up and I've got a problem with that. If everybody else is getting the same service for \$5,000.00 then we should ask and get the same services. It shouldn't (inaudible) because we don't want to continue to foot this bill. If everyone else is getting it then why are we paying this additional money? Maybe the veterans - maybe ya'll can explain it to me - are we getting more, or what is it that we're getting for the extra \$25,000.00 that the other counties are not getting for just their \$5,000.00. That's just my question."

Chairman Lamb "Commissioner Taylor what you have asked has been asked around this table before, and by me time and time again and it was stated before around this table that we belong to the

Small Counties Coalition, and why is it that we have a lobbyist on the side, and then that's when the feeling came into it like you were saying it's a sensitive thing cause when the friendship and all of that stuff come in and people said we're showing more of a friendship thing than really something -- facts 'what are you getting for that extra money that you are paying the tax payer's \$25,000.00 for. I don't know; I really can't tell you Commissioner Taylor."

Commissioner Morgan "Let me clarify that Mr. Chair and I appreciate you bringing this up. First of all, when I got on Board here, we were paying \$150,000.00 in lobbying fees; \$100,000.00 to a federal lobbyist and \$50,000.00 to - actually the particular lobbyist that we have now, that's how much was funded but we have trimmed that down to \$25,000.00. There are also other small rural counties that are represented by a private lobbying firm. Lobbying is not a dirty word. If it is a good investment, it is something that we want to consider. It has been a great investment for Gadsden County last year. I know, I can tell you. There are other small counties that contract with the very lobbyist that we have here. We do very well over at the capitol and the reason that we do is because we have very good representation over there. I understand needs vs. wants - this is a need on some level when you're talking about defending your largest employer in this County. We are getting services that we would not get simply by being a member of the Small County Coalition or the Florida Association of Counties. We are paying for additional services and I have seen those, myself, on more than one occasion. Would I approve spending \$50,000.00? No, but \$25,000.00, absolutely; Every time."

Chairman Lamb "And, Commissioner Taylor to follow up on what he is saying, I did go over to the capitol and talked with the delegation because it came around this table saying that the delegation is responsible for us there at the capitol which is true, but the delegation a lot of times be too busy. They just can't be on top of things like we want them to, but if you've got a person looking out for you - like a lobbyist looking out for you - that person will communicate with the delegation for you as well as communicate with us. I think that's where - I think that's how this came about. I think that's how all of this came about, and there was time, and I have to say it just like here, there was times when I got phone calls from our lobbyist who really brought me up to date on some things that I really needed to be brought up on and you could find that person when you walk into that State Capitol - you can always find that

person. I went a little bit further than there, though. I went to my delegation and I asked them 'what is your feeling on a lobbyist - I asked each one, and they said you should consider having one because we cannot be on top of things for you all like we want to. If your lobbyist would give it to us, information to us - he would pinpoint information to us so we could really get on it. He'll come to our office, he'll call us, but he said you are spending your money pretty wisely when you get someone'; and when we cut this thing down to \$25,000.00, we really spending it wisely, I feel. I feel."

Commissioner Taylor "Let me make this one comment. The last time we spoke about this you gave me some advice and I took it. You said 'I'll tell you what Commissioner Taylor, call and talk to some of the other representatives over at the Legislature and get an understanding of these people and how valuable a lobbyist is'. I did exactly that and what I found out is exactly what you said in these meetings. The person we hired last year; excellent. He comes highly qualified and he does his job extremely well. I followed up on what you told me to do, but what I'm saying to you is this. Of the \$5,000.00, he is supposed to be doing that for us. He is supposed to be contacting you and letting you know what is going on. He is supposed to keep us abreast; we're supposed to continue getting the little e-mails, updated news for the \$5, 000, and 00. That is what he is supposed to be doing. He is supposed to be doing these very same services and we are supposed to call on him and ask him things that we need to ask for this \$5,000.00. That is what he is supposed to be doing for those dollars, and you didn't lead me wrong and you didn't tell me anything wrong the last time we talked, and I followed up on it because I'm still learning. But, what I found out is we are already paying for what he is supposed to be doing, and again, Commissioner Morgan, I've got just as many constituents working at that hospital, that's Florida State, but when they get ready to prioritize it, I don't think a lobbyist is going to be able to stop it. He can give us some sounding bells and we can go over there with our signs and with our crowd warriors, but I don't think a lobbyist can stop it when they get ready to do it. I don't think they're going to be able to do it anyway because it's too big to prioritize, and the prioritizing is bound to be a bitter taste in their mouth now because the Governor who liked prioritizing is no longer there. But, the only thing I am saying is the \$5,000.00 that we are paying is what he is supposed to be doing, making phone calls, giving us alerts, seeing us when we walk through that door, and putting us in the right direction."

Commissioner Croley "Let's go back to the last time we had this conversation. You're doing the budget workshop for \$25,000.00. It doesn't mean that you're spending the \$25,000.00. It doesn't mean that we've made any decision about whether we're going to have the lobbyist continue or not, you're just holding \$25,000.00. out of the pot. Now at the appropriate time Commissioner Morgan could make his case as to why we need to continue with the present lobbyist or go out with an RFP, or like Commissioner Taylor is suggesting and not have one at all beyond the basic \$5,000.00. So, to save a lot of time I think the decision should be are we going to set \$25,000.00 in the budget right now and if we don't use it, then it will go back into cash balance."

Chairman Lamb "I don't think there is a problem setting \$25,000.00 aside right now. Not that we're going to use it Commissioner Taylor, but we'll make that decision when the time comes."

Commissioner Taylor "Yes, sir."

Chairman Lamb "Anybody have a problem with that?"

Board responded unanimously "No, sir."

Chairman Lamb called for the next item on the agenda.

Item 11. Governance -- \$-0- No action because there are currently no stimulus funds available.

Mr. Williams explained Item # 11 is simply a footnote and he said staff has not heard from Governance.

Commissioner Croley "I don't think we should do Governance right now because the regional effort, we took our (inaudible) and we got our money back and then some out of that, but then there is again nothing; it doesn't look like anything coming on a regional basis that is not covered elsewhere. So, I don't think we need to fund Governance at this time."

Commissioner Morgan "Mr. Chair I have one other item that we are forced to consider as well. Putting in a line item for the CRA dollars for Havana and Quincy so the CRA funds can be distributed directly from the County as opposed to how it is

being done now through the Tax Collector; come through the County and the Clerk to be disbursed."

Chairman Lamb "Johnny, you need to put that in there."

Mr. Williams "Ok, I will make a note of that."

Commissioner Taylor "Is that a cost item?"

Commissioner Croley "It's a pass-through but isn't in the budget."

Commissioner Taylor "Why would we want to handle the transition rather than it going from -"

Commissioner Morgan "Because we're putting in significant county dollars there and we have better control on how those - on that program if those dollars are being spent in the proper manner and the disbursement of it coming through the County."

Commissioner Croley "Control or accountability?"

Commissioner Morgan "Accountability."

Chairman Lamb called for the next item and Mr. Williams said he had nothing further.

Commissioner Croley "I have two items I want to get cleared up on. First of all I raised the issue about Emergency Management and the 911 addressing. I had sent an email confirming a conversation the Sheriff and I had about these items and I would like to see these researched along the lines of what the email said, Mr. Administrator, but I want to let's hold until we get back the additional information and I'm assuming you're sharing it with all the other Commissioners. I think there is more research being done and we'll find out and then before any decision is made about those functions and how they are done that we hear direct from the Sheriff's Office and have their input. The second thing is that while it would be a discussion about it, I believe even a public hearing about up-dating the Ordinance on the Drug Gang and Prostitution Abatement Board. I think we need to be prepared to fund that Board. I think it's a law enforcement tool. I think that we're going to have to look at adding -- calling on the Sheriff's Office to be the - to provide administrative support for that if they should be willing to do so from a law enforcement standpoint. There's going to have to be some investment on the part of this Board to

help Sheriff Young with his drug enforcement efforts. There's going to have to be some legal support because when you get into that Ordinance it can be a revenue source for law enforcement and that's what this is about; not to compete with the Sheriff's Office, but to give additional tools for their drug strike force and other things. I think we need to be prepared to put some money up for that and - hopefully Sheriff Young you will be present next week so that when the attorney goes over that portion so that - whatever action the Board decides Mr. Chair that we can amend the financial aspects of it."

Chairman Lamb "OK, if that's ok with the Board I will support placing that on there, bringing that before us then."

Commissioner Taylor "You've talked about a couple of things. Are you talking specifically about the 911 and Emergency Management?"

Commissioner Croley "That is one of the four sections of the Sheriff's budget. They are separate and we see in the background information how this came about - this happened before Sheriff Young. It has nothing to do with him, but how the Sheriff's Department got that - it was a budgetary action. There is no agreement in place as to how that is to be handled and if we are going to go that way with what the research shows and get feedback that there can be a contract set up and everything be done in proper order form, but I'm saying to you right now that we don't have enough information to make that decision. I think we need to hold on that. Sheriff Young maybe you would like to come up and make a comment about let's doing the research."

Sheriff Young "Yeah, it's like I spoke to you about. I think we need to research it and get with some other counties on what they're doing; how the E-911 and Emergency Management is working under the Sheriff Office. We can go back and do a study and show you the number of counties that have this up under the Sheriff Office and then you can make your judgment from that."

Commissioner Croley "And, I think that's what we need to do."

Chairman Lamb "I ain't got a problem with that."

Commissioner Taylor "I don't either, but here again; I think someone used a cliché 'if the wheel is broken, why are we trying to amend it?"

Sheriff Young "Well it's not broken."

Commissioner Taylor "I'm just trying to - I know you brought it up in our last work shop and I'm just a little confused that we aren't going to save any, but we are going to make sure that the quality of services is continued. Obviously, I don't think we have the expertise under these rules to operate or oversee E-911 or the Emergency Management and I don't even know why we are entertaining it, but I guess we will go through the motion."

Commissioner Lamb "Yeah, because you have a commissioner, or some commissioners who want to see it done. I'm willing to show that respect by at least letting them research it and bring it back to us."

Sheriff Young "This idea is tossed up, you know, throughout the State of Florida; I mean some counties want it, some don't, some have tried it. Just like our jail, you know, some counties try to run them and they find out that the Sheriff actually do a better job."

Commissioner Croley "And that's what we're talking about and we're trying to say leave the budget alone until we -- and if we find we need to do something different, we'll discuss that further. That's what I'm saying - Leave it right where it is. We need to leave everything right where it is with the Sheriff's Office now, and then on the functionality and other things we can deal with that. If this thing, according to the County Attorney with this little memo here is not adequate and we can make a contract or something and have some standards; I'm sure the Sheriff will consider that and we will have plenty of time to come to what's in the best interest of the citizens of Gadsden County and that's the number one thing. But, I also don't want ya'll to not - fail to appreciate if we're going to have a drug gang and abatement board implemented, it's going to have to be administered by somebody and his office is the best one to do that. It's going to have to have some legal support and it will be a possible new source of revenue for the drug law enforcement because if you don't do something, one day this place is going to be like Mexico with all these gangs and drugs and this is a chance for us to do something."

Sheriff Young "It is an opportunity. Like I say I don't know the advantages and the disadvantages; I don't know how many counties actually have a drug abatement board, but I can tell you this. When we do go out there, there are some properties that are pretty much paid for that the drug dealers have and it is an

opportunity for us to move forward with it and maybe get some funding, but we just need to research this also.

Commissioner Taylor "Mr. Croley you are asking to put a line item in the budget for the drug abatement board?"

Commissioner Croley "No, Mama. I said let's -that would be the only area here that I am saying, just like he had mentioned about the CRA money. I'm saying that we just need to make staff aware that it may be necessary if the Commission, after hearing the Ordinance, decides to go forward with the drug abatement board that we be willing to put some money in there. We can't ask Sheriff Young's Office to take on a responsibility without putting some money on it because they did that with him over here with the courtroom, and if we're going to involve - if this is a law enforcement function or a tool for law enforcement we need to be willing to put some money to help you with it. Not dump it in there and add an un-funded mandate on you."

Commissioner Taylor "So, you're just talking about arrangements at this point. You aren't talking about dollars."

Commissioner Croley "No, I'm just giving them heads up. I don't really need to do anything right now tonight. We just need to give them heads up that this may be something they have to deal with, if it's passed by this Board next week."

Commissioner Taylor "Be careful what you say yes to, Sheriff. Ask questions, ask questions."

Sheriff Young "I'm not saying yes. What I want to do is the research so ya'll understand what you're getting yourselves into."

Commissioner Taylor "You better understand"

Chairman Lamb called for any other action and none was stated.

Sheriff Young briefly addressed the Board saying he had discussed his budget with the County Administrator several days earlier and he would just like to get some clarification from him.

Chairman Lamb said there were no changes to his budget and Commissioner Taylor explained the Sheriff's budget request was not put in the proposed budget. What was put in was what the Sheriff got last year and his request was not moved forward in

the document the Board has before them. The amount the Sheriff requested is not in the budget document before the Board tonight.

After a brief discussion Mr. Williams asked if the Sheriff was referring to the money that had been identified in the audit.

Commissioner Morgan "How much is budgeted for the Sheriff right now?"

Mr. Williams "Well, let's see - four and two, about four for your operation and two for the jail - about six point something?"

Sheriff Young "You should have it there. I think I gave you a copy the other day."

Mr. Williams "Yeah, Sheriff you talking about that money we discussed that they identified in the audit, is that the money you're talking about? It comes from the jail? How much was it? I forgot."

Sheriff "I just sent you all a check, maybe it went to the Clerk, around \$69,000.00." We off-set the food costs and extra fees for food/inmates."

Chairman Lamb "If it went to the Clerk we need to direct the Clerk to direct it back to your budget."

Mr. Williams "The question is do you want to budget that back to the Sheriff's Department?"

Chairman Lamb "I ain't got a problem with that. I think we should."

Commissioner Morgan "Did I add incorrectly here? I'm looking at the total requested amount here from the Sheriff for law enforcement, corrections, Emergency Management, E-911 of \$7,922,900"

Mr. Williams "That's requested, not budgeted."

Commissioner Morgan "My question was how much was budgeted?"

Mr. Williams "It's more like a little over six"

Commissioner Morgan "Over a \$2 million difference?"

Mr. Williams "Oh, yeah, but they often request much more than we have money for."

Commissioner Morgan "Maybe I heard incorrectly, but I thought we heard that he was getting the amount that he requested."

Mr. Williams "Oh No."

Commissioner Taylor "What you are looking at is really what they moved over from last year; that is not his requested amount." She said what Mr. Williams said at the last meeting was that the Sheriff was funded the same as he was last year.

Chairman Lamb reminded the Board that the Sheriff is also requesting back the monies that he is sending the Clerk and Commissioner Taylor agreed with the Chairman that she had no problem with that.

Sheriff Young explained a few years ago they tried to find ways to off-set their budget because every year they were going over budget at the jail. He said he was taking law enforcement - didn't want it to look like he couldn't manage money - and he wanted to try to off set the budget so they did it by raising the food fees. He said this year they have gone \$30,000.00 over in food fees but he has sent the money back to the County and that he can't off set it if the County just kind of takes it and redirects it back in his budget and there's not an increase. He said he hopes the Board can reach a decision - that he can send the money to the County monthly with no problem, but at the same time he doesn't want the County to take it and just say "Well, we're not going to off set the cost. What we're going to do is just kind of say this is extra money and we're just going to send it to the Sheriff and money that you promised me or that I budgeted for, you subtracting that amount; I don't need that. I'm about the only Constitutional that don't bring in a whole lot of revenue. I use up revenue, but at the same time I try to find ways to cut costs and we did this in charging inmates extra. Last year I think I was cut \$60,000.00 from my jail budget because we didn't send the money back to you; we used that. We off set our costs and we came within budget. In fact I think we sent you \$17,000.00 back but at the same time we need this money. We did this and we had an agreement with the last Budget Manager Davin because we took on the Dr's contract and that's an expense to us. At one time the County was paying the Dr's contract."

Chairman Lamb "And, I think if you justify to us and the Clerk how he is going to use those funds that he sends to us, or to the Clerk then we ought to, in return send those funds back to him."

Commissioner Croley addressed Mr. Williams "Two things. You met, or at least when I talked with you, that you and Sheriff Young met so the basic budget, whether it's all that he asked for or not, whatever is there that we're not taking any difference there? So, that's what you agreed to between the two of you, so we're OK on that. The next thing is the separate money that is being taken from the inmates, that you, by law give to the Clerk, but it all comes into the general fund and now you're asking for that back to help you with the jail costs, and I don't have any problems with that either. We just need to get with the Clerk and get the system worked out procedurally and I'm sure that can be done quickly. So, I'm in the consensus and 100% behind you."

Sheriff Young "Thank you and I appreciate that. Also, the catastrophic insurance - whenever we have an inmate and we have bills that pile up and we end up paying the costs, but if we send an inmate to the hospital, and I think the catastrophic insurance is \$20,000.00, but anything over that, you know when the bill is paid; we send that back to the Board. We're getting short-changed there also so I think the Board needs to look at that. We can have you some language by the next meeting so ya'll can sort of vote on whether we could either keep this money, send it to you or ya'll pay the insurance. I think it's about \$50,000.00 a year. We're losing on that, too."

Chairman Lamb "I think Mr. Lawson needs to be in on that also to make sure that whatever the recommendation is after you communicate with him, and then he will see what he should recommend to us to do. That's a point well taken on that. "

Sheriff Young made a brief presentation of a proposed program by Ms. Annie Berry of Redeemed, Inc. - Second Change - Portal of Entry for the Post Incarcerated. He explained Ms. Berry has been working on this 'unique' program for about a year. He said it will take some funding, but the Board should look at the savings that can be brought about through this diversionary program. The County must do something to address the recidivism rate at the jail. He said the budget for this Pilot program is \$63,000 and asked that the Board review this, study it, and that he will come back at next week's meeting and make a presentation so that the Board will hopefully buy into it. He also said even

though it will cost a little money, possibly if the Sheriff's Office is able to assist with the work crews in saving the County money, then that money could possible be used to help fund this program.

Chairman Lamb said the program seems to be a good one and the Board will consider this, the Sheriff will make his presentation next week and the Board will then make a decision.

Commissioner Morgan said he has known Ms. Berry for several years, is aware of her program in Chattahoochee and that it works. He asked Sheriff Young if he had given any thought to request funding for this in his budget and Sheriff Young said No, and then explained Ms. Berry had just gotten it "hot off the press" and that is why he is bringing it to the Board at this time.

Ms. Holt again addressed the Board and her concerns for District 4 not currently being represented on the dieses and citizens of District 4 are concerned about their position within the budget to be certain they are represented. She said she has explained to those citizens that this is a bare budget year and that there may not be any funding. She said they are concerned with roads, employment, special caveats, which directly affects District 4.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS TIME, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:20 PM.

Eugene Lamb

CHAIRMAN EUGENE LAMB

Jean Chesser

Jean Chesser, Deputy Clerk

