

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 17, 2011 AT 9:00 A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WAS HAD, VIZ.

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chairperson, District 5  
Gene Morgan, Vice-Chair, District 3  
Eugene Lamb, District 1  
Doug Croley, District 2  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk  
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney  
Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. then led in an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag.

The deputy clerk called the roll and documented the attendance as listed above.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Add to Awards, Presentation and Appearances:** Recognition of Superintendent of Schools Reginald James and the Fourth Grade FCAT Scores in Gretna Elementary Public Schools in Gadsden County

**Add: General Business as 16A:** Budget Workshop Calenda

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO ADD THE BUDGET WORKSHOP CALENDAR TO THE AGENDA AS ITEM 16A.

**Move: Growth Management and Planning Citizen Bill of Rights to 16B:**

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO MOVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING BILL OF RIGHTS DISCUSSION AS ITEM 16B.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED ABOVE.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**A1. Recognition of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Gretna Elementary School -**

Chair Taylor announced that 100% of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade of Gretna Elementary School passed the writing assessment FCAT test recently. Ten of the students were present at the meeting and they came forward and were given a standing ovation and were presented a plaque which was read into the record by Chair Taylor. FCAT scores range from 0-6. Of the ten students present, five of them received a score of 5. The other five students received a score of 6, which was the highest score possible.

**Recognition of Administration of School Board – Teachers, Principals and Staff**

Superintendent of Schools Reginald James addressed the board and thanked them for honoring the students. He announced that Gretna Elementary is now “A” Status school. He recognized Principal Sonya Jackson for that accomplishment.

Tomeka (last name unknown) addressed the board to thank them for honoring her school.

Principal Jackson then made a few remarks on behalf of the faculty and staff.

Chair Taylor challenged the students by saying, “Make us do this every year from now on.”

**1. Overview of Gadsden Art’s Recent Growth and Major Project for the Coming Year**

Grace Malloy, Director of the Gadsden Art Center, stated that that in recent years, the County Commission has provided funding to the Art Center on the basis of the economic development that the Art Center brings to the county as well the community programs that it provides. She then gave them an update on how the Center has grown through the recession while actually cutting fixed cost by 15%. The mission of the Center is to improve the quality of life in the community while focusing on educational and cultural opportunities as well as stimulating the local economy. She reported that annual visits to the Center had increased 70% between 2008 and 2011. The art collection holdings have grown 400%. The school and family programs have grown 300%. They have established a reputation of being a leading cultural organization in the broad region of the Big Bend Area.

She then gave an overview of the accomplishments of the last fiscal year, which was due in part to the funding received from the county. For further details of the report, see the attached document or visit the clerk’s website at [www.gadsdenclerk.com](http://www.gadsdenclerk.com) under “Meetings” for a visual and audio copy of the report.

**2. Gadsden Express Update**

Anthony Matheny made a PowerPoint presentation of the success of the Gadsden Express over the last year. He highlighted the following:

- Participants include Star Metro, Gadsden County, District 3 DOT, Big Bend Transit, Commuter Service North Florida and CRTPA.
- The commuter service was launched in April of 2010 as express service between Quincy

and Tallahassee.

- It is funded by federal job access reverse commute funds and matched with service development grant from DOT District 3 Mobile Development office.
- Ridership began with 500 riders and steadily increased to 2,000 currently. (A four-fold increase.) Projected to increase
- Monthly operational cost \$7740 resulting in \$93,000 per year.
- Current grant funding will insure existing service until April of 2012. If the service continues after that, the board must find the funding if they desire to continue it.
- Surveys have been conducted which demonstrates that 55% of the riders are female; 89% are African American; average age – 38 years; 61% earn less than \$30,000 a year; 79% of the trips were round trips – characteristic of employment and life sustaining types of trips; 42% were work trips; 21% of the trips were for education - 19% of those went to TCC; 68% of the riders use the service at least 3 days a week; 60% of the riders do not own a vehicle; 43% felt the service was cheaper to use ; 33.3% are dropped off by family member or friend who have access to the Gadsden Express; 9.1% use park and ride lots; 32% walk to the pickup point.
- 10,000 brochures were printed and distributed to introduce the service in addition to newspaper ads, press releases, direct mails, T-Shirts, church fans and websites.

After speaking to many of the riders, it was proposed to have an additional stop at the Gadsden Hospital Campus of CRMC. Such a move would require BOCC approval.

**Future Funding Source** – After the first of 2012, the board will need to find additional funding (\$100,000) in order to continue the service.

**Colleen Roland**, Senior Transportation Planner with Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) addressed the board. She told of the success of the program and encouraged them to continue the service because it was so important to many who take advantage of it.

She also stated that CRTPA is beginning a regional transit study and they will be looking to Gadsden County to have someone sit on the board to help them guide transit into the future.

Commissioner Holt asked what the board could do right now to start applying for funds.

Ms. Roland answered, “We have applied for everything that we can apply. What we need generally are matching funds. I am not even sure that we can get more federal funds to match with the existing service. If service is expanded, then we stand a shot of getting support for new service. So, I think that Gadsden needs to establish some more partnerships and look to add a line item to the budget that is considered more transportation and public works than social grants so that it continues to be served. As you saw on the chart, we are growing every month (in ridership.) When your budget time comes and I believe that it is already here, if there is any way that we can help you establish a line item in your budget for it, please let us know if there is more information that we can bring.”

Commissioner Holt stated that the county has not applied for grants recently because there is no one on staff to write the grants and apply for other nongovernmental funds. She reinforced the need to have a staff person or engage someone to write grants.

Commissioner Morgan referenced the statistical information provided. He asked for the total ridership for the entire year that the service has been available. He stated that he would like to see stops added for Chattahoochee and Greensboro.

**Jim Jordon**, Project Manager from Big Bend Transit was unable to give a total number of riders for the entire year. He explained that he gives the BCC a weekly total and a monthly total. He went on to say that each rider pays \$1.00 each way and it is the staff's belief that the market will not sustain an increase in that fee. He stated that he feared people will stop riding if the fee goes up based on the survey results.

Commissioner Lamb stated that this project is needed more than many of the nonprofit programs that come to the board seeking funds each year. He said, "I am willing to go to bat for this program because we want to extend it, not only to where you have it now, but to Havana as well as Chattahoochee and other municipalities. We definitely will be looking at a line item budget when we get ready to go through our budget."

Croley:

As your representative on the CRTPA, I am advocating this program constantly. We had several resolutions of support to get the funding. There is a limited amount of funding as Colleen has said and it is going down, particularly at the federal level. I think that one question needs to be asked. What percentage of the available seats is occupied? So, when you say 2,000 people are using it, what is your seating capacity or the number of routes?

Roland:

If I were to take an average of the 30 available seats on the bus, there are usually 25 or more for the morning and evening route and more than half for the midday route. That is my best observation.

Croley:

Vacant or occupied?

Roland:

Occupied.

Croley:

So, you are running about 1/3 to 25% vacancy right now?

Roland:

At different times, but I have also been on the bus when every seat was filled.

Croley:

I do think that the commission is going to have to, as Commissioner Morgan said, look at the cost, based upon the need for revenue. Perhaps the fees are a little low. That is something that we are going to have to lay out with the seat vacancy. It does need to be expanded. We need it countywide. I think it is a good program, obviously. We have advocated for it very strongly. We will continue to do so. But, nobody knows how the money is going to work out. I want to say

again, that anything that can be done to continue it and expand it, we are trying to do.

Taylor:

Let me also say that when it started, it had sat for a while. Then the commissioners got behind it and got it going. We understood that identifying stops and getting liability and everything else was time consuming. It eventually worked itself out. I think the hospital stop is a good one. I think adding Chattahoochee and Havana are certainly some opportunities. So, two things need to be done.

I am directing this to Mr. Lawson, we need to talk with the city managers in both those municipalities and see if they are willing to help support this since it will obviously help generate revenue to the individual municipalities with regard to these people going to work and bringing revenues back into their township.

I am part of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and I was given a different figure that we need to go back and look at. I was given around \$36,000 to \$40,000 to help continue it.

Roland:

That was the total amount of matching funds needed when we first did the estimate, but now with rising costs, we think the total cost is closer to \$90,000 for a year. That would be what is granted and like any matching funds.

Taylor:

I would be interested in knowing, and your timing is perfect because we are getting ready to go to our budget workshops, but we will be doing this over the next two or three months, but I would be interested in knowing through a survey what the ridership's attitude would be for going to \$2.00 and staying at that particular amount and give some incentives for it with regards to the additional stops.

Obviously, those who are riding would like to continue the dollar, but would they appreciate it being discontinued altogether. There are some things that we need to think about going forward, but I would be interested in knowing what would be the census. If you even reach out a little further and talk to potential riders from Chattahoochee and Havana to see if they would be interested in having a stop there and would be willing to pay two dollars.

Roland:

One of the things we did on our

Taylor:

One final question. What is the cost for ridership over in Tallahassee?

Roland:

\$1.25 within the city.

Taylor:

They don't go into any of the surrounding counties.

Roland:  
No.

Taylor:  
I think we are going to have to look at that avenue seriously. A survey or something along that line so that we don't create a downturn in ridership, but that we do maintain it. As my colleagues have said, it has an impact and we certainly want to continue it, but it has to have some sort of attribute as well.

Holt:  
May I say something right quick about during the day? I know that on Channel 26 and 27, they have a community update and it is free. So, if we could get the word out there that we want ridership to increase. The first thing they are going to say when we say \$2.00 to ride from here to Tallahassee, people are going to become excited. I know some now try to car pool because of the cost of gas. Now that gas prices are going up, we are looking at opportunity; I know that Chanel 96.1 and 102.3 also take theirs two weeks in advance. We can advertise out there. Among those medias, I think we could pick up a lot of ridership at \$2.00.

Taylor:  
I don't think that is going to be a problem. Again, we need to move forward with this concept.

Yes, ma'am.

Roland:  
We gathered information last summer concerning what a person would pay. We have that data. I will send it to you all.

Taylor:  
That is good, but you might want to do an update.

Roland:  
I think that is a good idea, too.

Taylor:  
Since we have already put it out there for \$1.00, now we are going to a different swing to those who are riding and are comfortable with amount. Those are the ones that we need to talk to. Not the ones that you talked to a year ago.

Thank you very much. We look forward to some good survey information.

Croley:  
A follow up on what you just said earlier about the municipalities. I think that is an excellent approach. If it is possible, when Mr. Lawson communicates with those respective municipalities, could we ask for resolutions of support from them as well. It would help at the CRTPA meetings to have that support and be able to demonstrate to the Florida DOT officials that the countywide interest is there.

Taylor:

I don't see any problems with asking the respective commissioners of those municipalities to be the driving force on that. In other words, Commissioner Morgan, if you don't mind, would you speak with the manager over in Chattahoochee and give him an update on what we are trying to do and the reason for the resolution. Commissioner Lamb, if you can do the same thing in Havana and Midway.

Holt:

I guess I need to do Gretna because they are on the route.

Taylor:

Get into Gretna and you do your best in Quincy. (To Commissioner Croley.)

Morgan:

Madam Chair, if we are going to be asking for support, financial support, I think it would be wise to have an educated guess on the dollar amount we are asking for. When they go into their budget workshops, they need to have numbers rather than for us to say, "We don't know what we are looking at here."

Taylor:

I agree with you. I agree.

Croley:

Ask them for \$10,000 each.

(laughter)

Taylor:

Oh, no. We won't throw a number at them. What we will do, Mr. Lawson, you along with Mr. Matheny can perhaps come up with a number that is comfortable to the municipalities that is fundable. We will use that route. That is a good point, Commissioner Morgan. Let's go with something a little more concrete with some rationale behind the amount that we are asking for. I know that the city managers are going to want to know every detail – the reason why and how it is going to impact them and their cities.

Matheny:

I have one question. Did ya'll want to discuss or vote on adding the hospital stop today?

Taylor:

Is it an agendaed item?

Matheny:

It is part of the –agenda presentation.

Taylor:

Well, that was just a presentation. I think you will have to bring it back as General Business because it will have a cost impact on us. We need to be able to determine that as best as

possible. But, I think it is a great idea.

Lamb:

When do we want to start that stop?

Matheny:

Immediately.

Holt:

I want to see what the cost impact is.

Taylor:

Well, there is an extra expense to stop it there. Hold on, this is a democracy. I am wrong. I will digress. I told you before; I am not a stick in the mud. I will follow your lead. Now, if you all want to go ahead and do a vote. I will lend to our parliamentarian. Is this an agendaed item so that we vote on it? Do you see it as a fiscal impact?

Attorney Minnis:

My concern is that it since it was a presentation and there is no indication that there was going to be a vote on any particular item within the presentation. There could be some concern. There may be some citizens who want to speak on this issue, one way or the other. If you vote is to explore the cost and starting that stop, that is different than voting to actually do it.

Holt:

I really don't see where you need a vote to start it. If there is no cost, you are going to stop and pick up folks. You may even increase the number of riders. You are going by there anyway, so it is not like it is a different route.

Taylor:

The problem with it, Commissioner, and I can understand it and appreciate it, but there are other stops that some see as important as another. We don't want to open up a bag. What we want to do is to do it by protocol. If we can get them back in front of us at our meeting in July, we can vote on this and move it forward.

Morgan:

Chair?

Taylor:

Hold on. Hold on. Hold on.

Actually, there is a meeting in June and just one budget workshop between now and then. We will have other budget workshops I think. If we need to add this in we can. But, we don't need to start something that will create our having to entertain putting in different stops without our going through the proper process. That is just an opinion.

Commissioner Morgan.



Morgan:

I agree. I think we need to leave the stops to Gadsden Express. When you start getting us involved in that, I think you are going to get into things that you don't want to get into. I think they should decide on where that is. If it needs to be changed due to ridership, let them do that. Let them look at that.

Additionally, two other comments. I think Commissioner Croley or somebody commented about a survey of the riders regarding the potential increase in fees. I would recommend wording that in such a fashion as to let them understand that if it did increase, would it be important to them to consider or would you rather do without the service – not, "Do you want the increase or not?" Nobody wants an increase. I would word that in a way that you will get effective information there. You could say, "Would you like us to go down to \$.50?" They will say, "Yeah." Other than that, I would say that the stop at Gadsden Memorial Campus there for Capital Regional, I would, out of respect, contact those folks to make sure it is not going to interfere their daily operations as far as where they have it. That is what I would suggest.

Taylor:

There are just a couple of questions that need to be answered with regard to where the stops are made. I think you are going to get a 5 – 0 vote to do it. But, I don't want to do it after listening to the parliamentarian say that we may need to agenda it so that it can be done formally and correctly. I don't think you are going to get any backlash.

Minnis:

I just want to clarify my position. I am not saying that legally you can't vote on it. I am saying that there are circumstances where if the citizens want to have input on a particular issue that it is sometimes wise to agenda it specifically. Legally, there is nothing that would prohibit you from amending your agenda to consider the item. My position is coming from the spirit of allowing public participation. My understanding with what the board's part in the stop is that - what we have done in the past, if we were going to put a stop on someone's property, we made sure that we had their consent and signed an agreement with regard to liability. Since the county owns the property, then the board would have to decide if it wanted to agree to allow the stop there. So, that is what he was referring to, not necessarily that the board would decide the stops for Gadsden Express, but because it is the board's property. That is how we have treated it in the past.

Taylor:

We are going to bring this back. Mr. Lawson, please make it for June. It is going to be difficult. I know you have been working hard and been doing a yeoman's job at trying to make things happen on a moment's notice. Certainly, we need to talk to Capital Regional about this potential stop so that everybody can be on board.

Croley:

Since, by statute, the county administrator or whoever is in that interim role, is responsible for the county properties, isn't this something that Mr. Lawson, after he makes contact with Capital Regional as the tenant, and isn't it that is within the scope of his authority? Couldn't he just go ahead and approve it and work with Big Bend Transit and the other parties involved without it having to be delayed by coming back to the agenda? Ms. Minnis, is that not a legal course?

Minnis:  
Yes.

Croley:  
That would make it a lot easier and a lot more flexible and not any time wasted.

Taylor:  
I certainly don't have any problem with that, but we have to keep in mind that we do have a partnership at the hospital and that partnership is with this board and not the interim. We need to be mindful. I will say this, Mr. Lawson; if it is o.k. with the board, after you have had dialogue with Capital Regional and they don't see any problem with progressing forward, then I certainly don't have any problem with you giving our position.

Holt:  
Commissioner, I will agree with you on that except for one thing. Capital Region doesn't operate the whole grounds out there; they are only using part of it. I am saying that it doesn't have to be on the end where they are.

Taylor:  
But, that is where the patients are coming to.

Holt:  
No, you don't need to do a pick up down there where they are.

Taylor:  
Let's just work out all the details, we don't need to bog down on this particular issue. We still have an agenda to go through. We have already lasted more than an hour and five minutes.

Mr. Lawson, I think you can handle the issue with the ridership and the hospital. Then talk to the municipalities about a resolution as well as possible funding.

Next item.

**3. Update on Tourism Marketing Activities and New Tourism Website by Ron Sachs Communications, Inc.**

Mr. Ron Sachs addressed the board. Lisa Garcia, Vice President made PowerPoint presentation.

Sachs:  
I would say that sitting through the meeting so far, it is quite impressive how your community is anything but complacent about what you do and how you do it. From the great news about Gretna Elementary to the great news about your art center to this exciting Gadsden Express, this is a community moving forward. Our job has been to help you unit your citizenry and public officials here and the business community in a vision of how you want to be defined to the rest of the world. For too long, this community, like any other, has been defined on the terms and turf

of other people who may not have an agenda that is as friendly to you as the folks who live here and work here and want to promote this community have. So, it has been our privilege and our job to help you find that vision, that shared vision, for this community and help you strongly and actively promote that vision. A lot of that is embodied in the website.

I am here today with two of my key colleagues. Our Vice-President Lisa Garcia is going to walk you through a lot of this presentation and Erica Nuevo. These are two award winning professional communicators and we have tried to deliver our best and brightest on your behalf working in collaboration with your governments and your business community and your citizens at large and the chief stake holders. I can tell you that in the 16 year history of our company, I see this as the most important piece of work that we have undertaken because it is so important to promote this community to the rest of the world.

Gadsden is basically a great undiscovered treasure for many people in this state and for many people in the region of this country. It is going to be our job and our challenge to help to continue to challenge you to share that vision about this community, not just on the website, but in how you promote this community within. I think it is a very key way as you have envisioned by undertaking this process to help build greater pride within the community among the people who live here and in the business community, particularly to boost your economic development efforts through tourism promotion.

I had the great privilege in my career working for the late Governor Lawton Chiles who used to say, "It's a sorry frog that won't holler in his own pond." Well, you have lots to be proud about as I have already seen in the agenda items covered today. It has been our privilege and pleasure to work with you to get to this point of building a platform to actively promote Gadsden County's great resources and treasures, not only for the people who live here or nearby, but for people who should come here to discover one of the great adventures in Florida.

As a native Floridian, I will tell you most of the vacations I have taken in my life are in Florida, so we think we have a great opportunity to bring a parade of folks here, not just for family reunions, but for family weekends, for conferences and conventions to help discover in Gadsden what you know to be true and what we have learned in order to help you promote it.

I would like to bring my colleague, Lisa Garcia, to walk you through this presentation. Obviously, we are here to take your questions as well.

Ms. Garcia addressed the board and made the PowerPoint presentation that is also attached to this set of minutes. She first told them how they arrived at the logo, the slogan and the tag line for the community. See the attachment for more details of the presentation.

She continued:

Some of the next steps for Gadsden County include creating and distributing a resource guide map, which we are working with a local vendor to get a quote. I made a recommendation yesterday to the TDC about moving forward. We have a great opportunity through Visit Florida to display a theme park type map for Gadsden County where you would have numbered assets and you would follow that map to visit those numbered assets. It will be branded for Gadsden County and it will be available to visitors in all visitor centers throughout the state. That is free as

a member of Visit Florida.

We would like to execute a billboard campaign. The billboards that I displayed earlier. We would like to continue promoting Gadsden's event and a signature event. In fact, we believe that will lead to more earned media efforts and to continue to monitor and update the website, social media platform. We would like to train TDC or someone from Gadsden to maintain the website so they can also help inform and know what is going on. And of course, our on-going strategic council.

I know that was long, so if you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Taylor:

Thank you. Commissioners, any comments? We will start with Commissioner Croley and then go around this way.

Croley:

My comments or an observation is that this is probably one of the best positive ad campaigns that I have seen on Gadsden County. I think that a lot of hard work that has gone into it. A lot of positive results coming out of it. I agree that such observations as having two key events in the county on the same day were rather confusing to a lot of people. I think that it probably hurt both events, so better coordination would be helpful in the future. And, I like your logo – "Unspoiled. Unexpected." All of that is positive.

I draw your attention to a group on Facebook called Quincy Reunited, which is bringing forth a lot of photos and information on Gadsden County that is going back. You might find them as a resource if you are not familiar with it. It is Quincy Reunited on Facebook. I look forward to seeing a measured report of your success as we move forward, as the TDC moves forward.

Morgan:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Lisa, we appreciate you guys and Mr. Sachs, thank you all for coming over here. For those in the community who are not aware, this firm has received recognition throughout the State of Florida and a national level as well. I can tell you that they have just done a terrific job in my opinion of what we have asked them to do. If you have not had an opportunity to go to the website, I encourage you to do that. I have done it and I have been on there and I can tell you that it is amazing at how it is to maneuver through there and the amount of information that is routinely updated and what you can see. It really is an effective communication tool.

What we are talking about here is not so much a specific event, in my opinion, or a specific asset to the county or a billboard or even a logo individually, but all those collectively. I think what Ron Sachs is doing and we are beginning to see the benefit of it is truly branding our community. It is just like any product that we go and purchase on a regular basis. It is like going to McDonald's. You know how to spot it because they all look alike, they have the same food, and we know in our minds that we branded that particular restaurant in this case. I think over time, it is going to be every effective.

Just a couple of other things, Madam Chair, if I can. I know our TDC Chairperson is here. Jeff

Dupree, who is a business owner here in the county and I can tell you from serving on that board and representing you all, he has just worked tirelessly in the effort of promoting this and doing it in a proper manner. I just really, Jeff, I just appreciate everything that you have done. I know it has taken a lot of work. If somebody would have suggested to you that it would take that much effort, you probably would not have agreed to do it. He missed a meeting, I think, and we voted him in as chairperson. No, I am kidding. He has done a great job.

Lastly, as a suggestion, I don't know how to go about getting it done, but I have always thought that a kiosk located in the center of each of municipalities would be very effective. They all look alike and contain the same amount of information that would have our logo on it so that the people who live in Gadsden County would be aware of what is going on in other areas of the county. That way, when they spot that in the center of town, they can go to it and get current information, whether it is a touch screen or whatever. I don't know how to do it, but I really think that would be something that would be helpful and you would get buy-in from people that live here and from travelers, particularly those that come through to the camp grounds and those areas.

I just want to tell you that for the last 10 months that I know the work that you've done and we are going to benefit from this in the near future. I thank ya'll for coming to talk with us.

Taylor:  
Commissioner Lamb?

Lamb:  
No questions.

Taylor:  
Commissioner Holt?

Holt:  
Thank you.

Thank you, Ron. It is good to have you back in Gadsden County. You did a good job on the previous work on the half cent.

On this item, I want to know difficult it is to change or to add onto the website? Is it fairly easy?

Garcia:  
It is not difficult at all. It was built with a really excellent content management from the back end and anyone can be trained. That is what I hope to do – train somebody to be able to do it. It is very user friendly.

Holt:  
Some of the events are seasonal. Once they are gone, we can add on something else or we may have something coming up that we'd like to add on.

The other is, and I really do appreciate what you are doing and I appreciate what Mr. Dupree is

doing. I just wanted to make sure that we could add on other events, especially I see Lake Talquin as an asset. It really is and that is basically what I wanted to say. The other is that I am glad that you are adding a lot of photos in because that is something that the activities over in Tallahassee – they say, “What is going on in Gadsden County?” And we have nothing to show.

As far as a kiosk goes, tourism stations are something that you find in other parts of Florida. They also use a kiosk, but they do have a board of banner or something so that when you are in a community, they will know where to go for these events, even if it just has an address. I notice that people always stop at a service station and they want to know how to find something or give them an address and they can find it now on their computer. But, thank you.

Garcia:

We are hoping that the resource guide map is that collateral piece that people will be able to pick up at service stations, hotels, visitor centers, and we are working with Gay Steffan at ProForma to do the design and print those resource guides.

Holt:

Thank you.

Taylor:

Lastly, I want to make a couple of comments and then we will move on very quickly. There was an issue that I had personally. I saw an invoice and no services. I saw an invoice for \$15,000 and back up supporting it. I do want to say that someone did come over with some information, but in the very near future after that, we got this. So, I am appreciative to see a product that we can look at perhaps as some of my colleagues have aforementioned, a great resource, and a valuable resource for everyone in this county. So, I am appreciative to have this particular item under way.

Now, what we need to do and this is probably a charge, Commissioner Morgan, for TDC and the manager. How can we be sure that this avenue is working for us? We need to be able to make sure that not only the hits that we are getting, but hopefully viewing the website and well as how many are actually coming in because of it? We need to be able to measure that. As you all well know, dollars are precious and to make sure that we are spending our dollars, not on a “feely” thing, but something that will actually work. That is where I am going to ride heard on to make sure that the dollars coming into these coffers and that this county is able to move forward in a progressive way. This is just one of the many avenues. I want to make sure it works. I want to make sure that we get the feedback on how it is progressing. I assume, Commissioner Morgan that this is something that can be done quarterly or however often.

Morgan:

Certainly. I think it would be helpful if Jeff wanted to talk about the funding source through the dollars that have been generated through the bed tax. It is TDC money, not general fund county tax dollars. He can discuss that. I agree with you. I think because we have made this investment, we should let Ron Sachs guide us on what to expect and timelines and things of that nature.

Taylor:

Before you come, hold on just a second, before he comes, let me say that I can appreciate the

funding source – where these dollars are coming from, but we are responsible ultimately for how they are being spent. We need to be mindful that they are being spent effectively. That is my only reason for the question today.

So, you are going to comment and I think this will do it.

Garcia:

Yes, I just wanted to let you know that we have been live for three weeks. We will give you analytic measurements to the website, which is the tool that we have right now. I will need to work with Jeff on getting you bed tax increases or how much increase in the bed tax is. We can also talk about or discuss surveying some of the events. To actively go to the events and survey who is participating. How far are they coming? From what areas, are they staying the night, and that sort of thing? But, again, that is cost. You are talking about weekends and evenings and surveys, which is not something that we are funded to do at the very moment. But, it is something that we will very actively discuss with the TDC and with you all to move forward.

Taylor:

Let me comment on that really quick. I heard you very clearly. You are saying that it will probably be an additional cost for your services to give us this data, but you know, I have done this in various hotels that I have stayed in. There were surveys there on the little thing next to the bed. You don't have to be physically there. Just some kind survey in the various hotels because that is how the funds are generated. Something that is just stationary there. Not a physical person. Certainly, we want to keep cost down. We don't want you running from event to event. That is not what we are asking for here.

Jeff is there something that you wanted to add?

Dupree:

Well, Commissioner Morgan asked me to explain where our funding comes from. The TDC is funded entirely from the 2% bed tax. Anyone who stays in our community, whether it be a campground, hotel room, a cabin down at the lake, anything that is considered a transit rental, they pay the standard 7.5% sales tax that we pay on any other product in the county, but they also charge 2% bed tax or tourism tax. That is where our funding comes from.

With regard to tracking it, I think that is the easiest way to tell whether this plan that we are now on is working. When we first started the TDC, we were generating about 30,000 worth of revenue over the course of a year. For the last two or three years, we have been kind of stagnant at around \$75,000 to \$80,000. I think with this plan, you are going to see over the course of the next couple of years, we will really start to move up. That is where we will tell whether this plan is really working or not. In order to get \$80,000 worth of bed tax, that is \$4 million worth of hotel rooms that are rented in this county. So, anybody that doesn't think that we are a destination right now, \$4 million is a pretty significant amount of money spent. People that stay in hotels and campgrounds, they will spend about three times as much money in other businesses. That number is much larger than just the \$4 million that you see. That is our real base, I think, on whether what we are doing is working. I think that is a number that is available to us at any time to look at based on the number we get back from the Department of Revenue.

Sachs:

If I may, Madam Chair. Just one brief comment to wrap up. First of all, I hear you loud and clear. I like your point of view on this. Wherever the funds are raised and whoever has the authority to spend them, we are very sensitive as you are to every one of these dollars you are apportioning for this purpose in Gadsden County. It is a taxpayer dollar as far as we are concerned. We bend over backwards to make sure that we are leveraging every single bit of impact as possible for every dollar you are spending in Gadsden County. We are competing with a lot of communities with bigger budgets. That is not your problem. That is our challenge. We are very mindful that every one of these dollars being apportioned to leverage the maximum impact. I hear you loud and clear. It is our job to deliver back value to you.

One last thing that I will say. This is a process that has gotten us to this launch point three weeks ago of the website. It is the center piece for starting to actively promote this community. We need everybody here and everybody behind me and everybody you know. If you are not on Facebook, get on Facebook. Like the Gadsden Website. Tell everybody you know. That is going to be the leading edge of how we promote you. This is a discipline. If you stick with it, it will lead to big results and significant progress along the way.

I want to say to you again, it is a great privilege for our firm to be representing you. We are very mindful of never being complacent about it.

Taylor:

I want to say this to you also. Thank you all so much for coming. I certainly appreciate what you have done thus far.

That being said, we will move on with the agenda.

#### **CLERK'S AGENDA**

#### **4. Presentation of County Finance and County Clerk Issues**

Clerk Thomas:

Madam Chair, Commissioners, I am sure that all of you are still digesting the Session and awaiting Governor Scott's actions. I just want to mention one thing from the session and that is the pension reform bill. One aspect of that is that 3% contribution that employees will be required to make. That is for everybody that is a member of the Florida Retirement System, which includes counties. It goes into effect July 1. So, we are in the process of updating our payroll system to make sure that we can handle that. Essentially what it means is that every employee and every official across all classes will have to contribute 3% of their pay, pretax, right off the top, to the State Retirement System. It is coming right out of people's pay. Right off the top.

What it does for you as the county is actually a savings. You probably can save about \$41,000 in this last quarter of the fiscal year and maybe about \$165,000 a year. Don't start thinking you can spend that because you need to get into the budget process and see what your next year's budget looks like in terms of your revenue sources and see if you have any actual savings. Of course, there are some communities out there that are considering coming back and try to make



their employees whole by giving them a 3% raise. That is what is being said. I am sure you have read those articles. A lot of people are not doing that. The State saw this as a \$615 million savings to the counties. So, that is how J.D. Alexander, the Senate Budget Chair, looks at it. The State of Florida is basically giving you boards of county commissioners, through the state, \$615,000 million worth of savings coming off the backs of your employees, but, still that is how they are looking at it. That is just something that I want to mention. I am sure you are aware of it, but we don't want the employees to get their paychecks and not know what is going on. Just putting it out there.

Croley:

Mr. Clerk, thanks for the update. I don't know how you will coordinate this, but will your office notify all the constitutional officers just as you did this board and put an insert or something out to the employees so that they will have a full heads up that in July that is going to happen. I am not talking about only the board of county commission employees, but the other constitutional officers as well. Will this be brought to their attention for them to do the same thing?

Thomas:

We will coordinate with Mr. Lawson.

Taylor:

Is that it for you?

Croley:

That is it.

Taylor:

Commissioner Holt?

Holt:

No, that was it.

Taylor:

Alright. Let's move.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLD AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS 5 – 10) TO WIT:**

### **5. Approval of Minutes**

March 15, 2011

April 5, 2011

February 1, 2011 Correction

### **6. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**

Accounts Payables Dated: May 6, 2011  
May 13, 2011  
Payroll Dated: May 5, 2011

**7. Approval of All Commissioners’ Travel to Florida Association of Counties Summer Conference in Orange County on June 21 – 24, 2011**

**8. Approval to Vacate and Easement Located on the Monte Bradwell Property, 18360 Blue Star Highway (TAX PARCEL No. 3-10-2N-4W-0000-00134-0100)**

In 2009, Monty Bradwell proposed to build Bradwell Huddle House, a restaurant just east of his other business on U.S. 90 west of Quincy. He approached the County to apply for CDBG grant to build the roadway and water and sewer lines to the site of the restaurant. The county did apply for the grant and it was awarded. As part of the grant process, the county used some of the grant proceeds to purchase an easement from Mr. Bradwell in order to maintain the infrastructure. Due to the nationwide economic crisis during that time, Mr. Bradwell was unable to timely secure the financing he needed to complete the project within the timeframe set forth in the grant. Therefore, the funds were returned to the state and the grant was closed out. Mr. Bradwell repaid the county \$21,000 for the payment of the easement right-of-way. He has recently petitioned the county to return the easement to him since the project did not move forward.

**9. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Lien for Ebony McKinney**

**10. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts for Roosevelt Harvin and Ruthie Smith**

**CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

No consent items were pulled for discussion.

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

There were no requests to speak at this juncture.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**11. Selection of Candidate Projects for the County Incentive Grand Program (CIGP)**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) currently has funding available under the County Incentive Grant Program (CIGP). The County Commission must approve the project selected to include in the application.

FDOT requested that each county submit only one project which must connect to a State

Highway System and relieve traffic from the State Highway System Road.

Preble Rish and the Public Works Staff submitted a list of the roadways which fits the criteria.

- Commerce Lane – District 1
- Scotland Road – District 1
- Dogtown Road – District 2
- Salter Road – District 2
- Telogia Creek Road – District 3
- CR269/Bonnie Hill (From US 90 to the Railroad switch yard overpass) District 3
- Ben Bostick Road (From US 90 to Interstate 10 Overpass) – District 4
- Atlanta Street – District 4
- Strong Road – District 5
- McCall Bridge Road (From Pat Thomas Parkway to Bear Creek Road) District 5

There will be no fiscal impact and Public Works will administer the project through a Joint Participation Agreement with the FDOT.

Public Works Director Charles Chapman addressed the board explaining, “This is a competitive Grant Program that we engage in annually. The Florida DOT has asked for Gadsden County to select one project for the County Incentive Grant Program.

In brief, the major criterion for the selection of this project is that it must connect to the State Highway System. So, that would be U.S. 27, Highway 90, SR 268 (Bainbridge Highway) for example. We have provided you a short list of 10 roads within the agenda item. The additional information provided you shows you the location on a map of those 10 roads and within which district that they are located. There are two roads from each district for your consideration. There is also a cost estimate provided as well for each one of the projects. It is preferable that the project stay under \$1 million for this program because this pot of money is just so large. We want DOT to have a very easy decision in giving us money. We don’t want to get into a situation where we are asking for too much or too little. With that I will yield the floor to Mr. Justin Ford of Preble Rish to fill in any of the gaps that I may have missed.

Ford:

Good Morning. I think Mr. Chapman did a pretty good job of explaining what we have going on again. We have provided you a map that basically shows you where the State Highway System is within the county. Those roads that we have looked at with the county. We feel like they are strong candidate projects. At this time I will yield to you and let you give us direction on what road we need to prepare this application for.

Taylor:

Alright. Commissioners there are 10 roads listed. I did a little research on my own. Commerce Lane has done – how far back?

Chapman:

I believe it was done 10 years ago. All of these projects are within the 12 – 15 life cycle. That is where it begins to wear down and it needs to be resurfaced.

Taylor:

But, you have some that have been done as recently as two years ago and then some about four years ago. We want to be careful not to give them a road that they have done as recent. That is what I am getting at.

Chapman:

Yes, Ma'am. This funding cycle will not be engaged until 2014/2015. So, whether we are within the 12-15 currently is not a major factor in granting the award. It is within the funding cycle of the program year.

Ford:

Most of the roads on this list, if not all, fall within that 8 – 11 year range of when they were resurfaced. When we were preparing this list, we went back and looked at a master list. I think I provided it to some of you, if not to all of you, previously of when those roads were done by district. I could be wrong, there may be one that I have overlooked, but the majority, if not all, would fall into that range – the 10 year mark. With the exception of Ben Bostick. I want to say that portion of Ben Bostick – I couldn't find a record of when that had been done.

Taylor:

That is the one that was highlighted to me as being the one that would be the most likely to be funded because of the fact that it has not been done any time soon. Then some of the others that you listed will not qualify because they are not contiguous to an interstate highway according to the map. For example, Scotland Road. There are a couple of them that we may not get funding for because of its location. So, I guess what I am asking for is what is the best possible road here?

Ford:

Based on previous work, again, I completely yield the decision to you, obviously, but think that Ben Bostick would be a strong candidate because we could not find any record of where that had been done previously.

Taylor:

Let's move this item. I concur.

Is there a motion?

Lamb:

I don't have a problem with it. I just wanted to ask a question. There is a lot of economic development coming out of Commerce Lane. I want to make sure that we keep that coming out. I don't want complaints to start coming out of that area. What condition is that road?

Ford:

A portion of Commerce Lane is in fairly good condition. Now, there are portions of it that are in not so good conditions. We are doing the work, as you are aware, the work on Fortune Blvd is moving forward. So, that will alleviate some of the problem out there. But, there are portions of Commerce Lane that aren't in as good a condition as we would like to see them.

Holt:  
But, we can come back and apply every year?

Taylor:  
It is like I said; we are within (inaudible) entrance. Fortune Blvd. has been taken care off. It makes it not as qualified as some of the others. We want to try to pick a road that is most likely to get funded.

Let's move it.

Lamb:  
I don't have a problem with it.

**Holt:**  
**I move approval of Bostick.**

Croley:  
I have a question.

Holt:  
I am sorry.

Croley:  
Explain this to me. These funds, do they come through the MPO in any way?

Ford:  
We will apply directly to FDOT. FDOT will, in turn, will enter into a JPA Joint Participation Agreement with the County, so the CRTPA, as I understand, won't have any involvement with this moving forward.

Croley:  
O.K. I don't have a problem with that; I was just trying to understand whether it did or not because I have never seen this before.

I will say this, in support of Commissioner Lamb's point, that Commerce Blvd. is a critical road and if you've got another one fine, but I would say that one has greater financial impact on the county than Ben Bostick Road at this time. But, that is just my observation.

**Taylor:**  
**There is a motion on the floor for Ben Bostick. There are some opportunities, maybe,**

**Lamb:**  
**No, she stopped. She needs to get a motion.**

**Holt:**  
**I move approval of Ben Bostick Road.**

**Lamb:**  
**Second.**

**Taylor:**  
**There is a motion and second. Are there any other questions?**

**There being no questions, all in favor of selecting Ben Bostick as our project for the said grant, please let it be known by saying, "Aye."**

**All:**  
**Aye.**

**Taylor:**  
**Opposed, same sign.**

**No response.**

**Move forward with Ben Bostick Road.**

Lamb:  
I just want to follow up with a question on that, Madam Chairman, that we definitely want to keep an eye on Commerce Lane. We've got to do that because that is where a lot of our economic development is coming out of that area. We need to look at that before next year.

Ford:  
So noted.

Taylor:  
Mr. Chapman, you may want to earmark that particular item as requested by one of the commissioners.

**12. Approval to Award the Paving of the Cairo Concord Road Resurfacing to Peavey and Son Construction Company, Inc.**

At the February 2, 2010, the board approved a Joint Participation Agreement with FDOT for the resurfacing of the Cairo Concord Road with funding from the County Incentive Grant Program. Staff had the project designed and solicited bids. Four bids were received for the project. The low bidder was Peavey and Son Construction for \$419,114.51. Since the Grant for this road was funded at \$363,636.36, therefore the quantities of the initial bid needed to be reduced. At that time Peavey agreed to resurface the road to \$363,636.36.

Staff recommended awarding the project to Peavey and Son Construction Company, Inc.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO AWARD THE BID FOR PAVING THE CAIRO CONCORD ROAD TO**

**PEAVEY AND SONS CONSTRUCTION.**

**13. Approval of CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Application for the Rosedale Community Water (RWA) System Improvements**

In 2009, Rosedale Water System received 11 deficiencies from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). To date, they have satisfied 8 of the deficiencies and worked to improve the water system. Since the water system serves many low-income and elderly families, it is essential to minimize the amount on the loan associated with the water system improvements and upgrades. The intention of obtaining CDBG funding is to assist the RWA in keeping their water charges at a minimum. They cannot apply for the grant themselves because they are not incorporated. The County will act as a pass through entity in order to get the water system improved.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION DESCRIBED ABOVE.**

**14. Approval to Negotiate the Renewal of the Engineering Services Contract with Preble-Rish, Inc.**

This agenda item seeks board approval to negotiate the renewal of the engineering services contract with Preble-Rish, Inc. The current contract expired in February of 2011.

Mr. Lawson asked the board to determine the length of the contract and also authorize the chair to execute the contract if negotiations are successful.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 1 TO APPROVE STAFF NEGOTIATIONS FOR A THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH PREBLE RISH FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

**15. Approval to Negotiate the Renewal of the Legal Services Agreement with the Law Firm of Ausley and McMullen as the County Attorney**

The current contract with Ausley and McMullen will expire on May 30, 2011. Based on the terms of the contract, the contract may be renewed, extended or modified only by written agreement executed by both parties. This contract is at the will of the board and may be terminated by either party.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A NEW CONTRACT WITH AUSLEY MCMULLEN AS THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

Commissioner Morgan questioned why they would not consider a multi-year contract for them like they did for the engineers.

Commissioner Lamb amended his motion to include a three year contract. Commissioner Croley amended his second.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO AUTHORIZE THE STAFF TO NEGOTIATE A THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH AUSLEY AND MCMULLEN AS THE COUNTY ATTORNEY AND THAT IT SHOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR FORMAL APPROVAL.**

Commissioner Holt was opposed to a three-year contract.

Staff was instructed to bring back comparative figures when the proposed contract comes back for formal approval.

**16. Approval of Salary for Interim County Administrator**

On April 5, 2011, the board terminated the services of the previous county administrator and appointed Arthur Lawson, Sr. to be the interim administrator.

Currently, Mr. Lawson is serving in several capacities. He serves as the assistant county administrator as well as supervising the Human Resources functions, management services and procurement services.

Mr. Lawson's current biweekly salary is \$3,638.46 with the added benefits of monthly health insurance of \$392.45 and life insurance of \$2.85.

It was requested that Mr. Lawson's salary be increased to \$3846.16 biweekly while is serving as the interim administrator. The increase should be made retroactive to April 6, 2011. Benefits would remain the same.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAMB AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE UP TO \$6,000 PER YEAR, THEN THE SALARY WILL REVERT BACK TO THE CURRENT AMOUNT WHEN THE PERMANENT ADMINISTRATOR IS HIRED.**

Croley:

If I read this item correctly, this increase is only for the time period until a permanent administrator is selected. Is that your proposal?

Lawson:

That is correct.

Croley:

I just wanted to make sure for the public record that it was clarified and then it would revert back to your regular salary. On that basis, I would so move that this be done.

Taylor:

We already have a motion and a second. Are there any other questions?



Croley:

I have been dealing with this bunch a long time. If you are not careful with this group, you will get burned.

Taylor:

We won't do that. I think that integrity and honor is still around us. There is a motion and a second to approve increasing the manager's salary up to \$6,000, but not to exceed, and then it will revert back once a permanent administrator is hired. Let's make that a part of the motion. All in favor of this motion let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Taylor:

Opposed by the same sign. (No response.) Motion carried.

**Vote 5 - 0**

**16A. Budget Calendar Discussion**

Lawson:

Madam Chairman, the next item is an item that we have added which is a discussion of the budget calendar. Commissioner Croley.

Croley:

I want to thank the commission for agendaing this item. My primary reason for doing so was that as it stands right now, I may not be here for your first budget workshop on May 26<sup>th</sup> when this item of the calendar was agendaed. I want to be able to see it have any input in the calendar. I appreciate being given that opportunity to do so. I don't have any problems necessarily with any of the dates right now to my knowledge, but it did help me immensely to have them well in advance so that I could coordinate my own personal schedule around these dates. So, on that basis, Commissioners, I don't necessarily see any problems, but I do want I understood that I may find it necessary to be out of town on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.

Taylor:

Is that your reason?

Croley:

I wanted to be able to see it. I wasn't going to be able to be here to review it on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Taylor:

The actual budget?

Croley:

No, I wanted to be able to see the dates of the budget workshops for the commission in order to

be able to schedule my calendar. I do have other responsibilities.

Taylor:

We can appreciate your position, Commissioner. I just thought there was a concern with some of the dates. But, now that you have it well in advance, then all is well. Thank you.

**16B. Citizens Growth Management Bill of Rights**

Lawson:

The next item is also that was amended to the agenda as 16B at the request of Commissioner Holt.

Taylor:

O.K. I am going to lead out with Commissioner Holt and once you are done, we will hear from Mr. Sam Palmer and Pastor John Battles, and then we will wrap it up.

Holt:

This item was under my name for discussion for District 4, but it is really for the county. I brought this up at the last meeting, I think this commission, whether we had plans in it or not, in the comprehensive plan, we may not have had our fingers in it, but we are responsible for it once we are elected. That is the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Development Code. Now, under the (Growth Management) Citizens Bill of Rights, we are saying that it will take a supermajority vote of the commission to change it yet we have not sat down to look at the Comprehensive Plan. We must do that in order to be able to explain why land is zoned a certain way. In order to be able to explain it to the citizens, we have to have knowledge of why these areas were zoned that way in the first place. The citizens do not know. The commissioners that were here in 1992 are not available to tell us why they were zoned that way in the first place. Certain properties are not grandfathered in saying that they were on that property that did not fit a certain zone before the Comprehensive Plan came into being. So, we need to have an opportunity for the citizens to have that input as well as us. As I have said before, until we sit down and look at this map and the Comprehensive Plan to see how the land development code is used, then we are not allowing the citizens an opportunity to develop their property. We are not allowing them and we have no knowledge. I have been here since 2002 and we have looked at that Comprehensive Plan twice.

It is not justice to them to say that you need a super-majority vote to change it. They are asking, "Why?" I don't blame them. I would say, "Why?" too. If I had never been up here, I would never have gone and sat down with that big book. No one else would have either. I think that it is upon us, the commissioners, first of all to allow them the opportunity to vote on it. 2012 is coming up. There is no reason why they can't vote on whether they want a super-majority vote. What is the difference is what we are doing now under the citizen's bill of rights and what we were doing before? You had notification before. The only difference that I can see is the super-majority which makes it more difficult for the citizens to look at the development of their property. Some of these families have been here since the conception of this county. So, when you are looking at that and since they have been here, then we came in here with a comprehensive Plan in 1992 and it was not advertised properly. I am going to be honest with you. I mentioned that before. If you look at advertisement, you advertise to you clientele. You still have the State Statute in there, but you steer your advertisement to the people you are

advertising to. If they don't understand it, you have advertised it for nothing.

It is the same thing that happened with Ron Sach's company. If he advertises out there to a clientele that doesn't know anything about what he is saying. What I am saying is this. First of all, we need to put it (Citizens' Growth Management Bill of Rights) on the ballot. Let the citizens get the chance to say whether they want the Citizens Bill of Rights or not. This commission needs to do that. They shouldn't have to come and petition us to do something like that. We should do it. Then if they decide that they want it, they want it. But, it still does not alleviate us from coming together and sitting down as a body and looking at this Comprehensive Plan. There is some stuff in there that we don't even need. It is old. It is outdated. It doesn't fit what you are trying to do. So, that is what I am trying to get to. Two things. One, I am asking this board to look at putting this on the agenda for a vote. I am going to put in for a motion for it – to put it on the agenda at the soonest meeting that we can get it in. Allow us to come in, allow the citizens to come in and tell us whether they want to put it on the ballot or not. Then we vote and we decide. If that doesn't work, then they can still go through the petition process.

I don't think that they are paying us to sit here and say that it is o.k. that you did not have the opportunity, because some people didn't even though we advertised, some people didn't because they still don't know what we were advertising for. They don't know what Planning and Zoning is advertising for. They say, "Ms. Holt, who can understand that? One man, I looked at and I took the article around and let them look at it. I would ask them, "Tell me what does this mean? What are you supposed to do?" They didn't know. It is not the Planning and Zoning's fault. It is our fault because we can go back and say that we want a standard language put in our advertisement. You can still put the law there, but you could still put in that title a few sentences that would let the citizens know what you are talking about. That is why I am telling you that I am asking you to look at putting it on the agenda for the next meeting or as soon as possible so that we will have the opportunity to either vote it up or down to put it on the ballot so that the citizens can have an opportunity to vote and see whether they want a super-majority vote or not.

Taylor:

What we will do is that we will listen to each of those who have asked to speak. I see that Mr. Ed Allen has added his request to speak. There are three now who will come before us. Then we will hear from each of the commissioners then we will move forward per the majority on which way we want to go with this particular item. We will start out with Mr. Sam Palmer.

Palmer:

Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy.

Madam Chair, the Citizens Bill of Rights has been a continuous issue. The citizens have elected the commissioners to act on their behalf. I think that the commissioners should listen to the citizens. We want the Citizens Bill of Rights to be repealed. If you can't repeal it, put it on the ballot. If we have commissioners that feel that this is a good issue, then it should be no problems letting the citizens determine whether or not they want it. It should not be coming back again and again when we are saying over and over. We want to address this and get it behind us. So, Madam Chair, we ask also that this be put on the ballot. If you can't repeal it, put it on the ballot and let the citizens decide whether they want it or not.

Thank you.

Taylor:  
Pastor Battles?

Battles:  
Pastor John Battles, 43 Lucille Berry Lane.

Commissioners, once again I would like to ask, repeat what I said in the last meeting. You could have gotten everything in the Citizens Bill of Rights that is there now without having to require a super majority vote. Is that correct? That is the part that shows us that there is malice intent in it. If it went with just a three vote, maybe more people would understand, but when you locked it up like that, there is something here that is not right. I concur with Commissioner Holt. This should be placed on the ballot. Something of this nature and of this magnitude that affects us – houses, lands, jobs – the citizens should do that, not this board. This is wrong. This is wrong. I think this board knows that it is wrong.

We are not going to stop fighting. I am sure you all know that by now. We are going to fight and we are going to win. It may take a little longer, but we are going to win it. There is no doubt about it. This is not right. Once we get out there and begin to educate the public about this Citizens Bill of Rights, we are going to win. I am not even worried about it; we are absolutely going to win.

Taylor:  
Mr. Allen.

Allen:  
Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Ed Allen. I live at Lake Talquin. I also sit on the P & Z Board.

Ms. Holt keeps referring to this map up here. This map has absolutely nothing, zero to do with the Citizens Bill of Rights. The Citizens Bill of Rights has to do with notification. We've already got it. It is already in the Comprehensive Plan under Chapter 7, Section 7500 Subsection 7501. It says, "At a minimum requirement shall be set forth in Florida Statutes Land Use Amendments, the applicant shall be responsible for the placement of advertisement." It goes on to say, "A public notice shall be published in all newspapers of general circulation in Gadsden County. In addition, the County shall notify by mail all property owners within 1,000 feet. "The only thing that Planning and Zoning did was change that to ½ mile so that the people in that particular area will be notified. It also goes on to say the procedures with mailing notices. So why is there a big thing to do about it? Ms. Holt, it absolutely has nothing to do with that map that you keep referring to.

Taylor:  
Mr. Allen, keep your comments directed up here.

Allen:

O.K. I am sorry. That is all I have to say.

Taylor:

Thank you, sir. Thank you.

We are going to go around the board one more time. I will do it this way. Commissioners, who would wish to speak on this item? Right quick, let me know.

Lamb:

Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Now, the Planning and Zoning Board did pass this. They had some good ideas and there are some good things in the Bill of Rights. But, a lot of people don't understand it. Not every citizen understands it. I think the problem here is that it takes four of the commissioners to change something or waive something that we feel like is only right. Now, you know that it is going to cost money to put this on the ballot. But, what we could do is open it up, go back and take the supermajority out and I think that a lot of citizens would be pleased with that. Not require a supermajority to do this. If we don't do that, we are probably going to go back and put it on the ballot and it is going to cost a lot of money. Then, it might not pass or it might pass. I don't know, but we need to look at this and take that supermajority out. This thing was rushed by us when we took care of this. You all know that. We didn't waste any time doing it. Although, Planning and Zoning did a good job by going through it and analyzing everything and they recommended it to us. But, we really didn't give the citizens an opportunity really to have any input into this. That is what we need to do. We really need to do that. If you don't, if we don't go back and open it up and take that supermajority vote out, we are going to have to put it on the ballot and that is going to cost this county.

Taylor:

Are there any other comments?

Croley:

I have a question for Ms. Minnis.

Taylor:

Yes.

Croley:

Ms. Minnis, at the last meeting, you explained, I thought, pretty clearly, that an ordinance that has passed is not something that you can go back and put on a ballot. At least, that is what I understood when it is already in effect.

Minnis:

I don't believe that question was asked of me last time. The question that was asked of me was about superseding a prior ordinance.

Croley:

Well, explain, if you would, have you got an explanation ready?

Minnis:

I have not looked into that area because I was not tasked for doing that.

Croley:

Alright. Well, I don't know that this is going to be something that can be handled by simply putting it on the ballot.

Commissioners, when you look at this ordinance, there are obviously folks going around who are misrepresenting it and creating confusion. Now, I suggested at the last meeting, and you, Madam Chair, rejected that idea, was to allow the Planning and Zoning Commission to get together with the county staff and county attorney's office and look at the ordinance and develop an administrative guide as to how it should be implemented and to give them a chance to take input from the citizens so that you could understand how it will be handled. If there needed to be any adjustments, let the Planning and Zoning and the process bring those recommendations back. You rejected that and said that you, personally, would not consider it. I think that was – no offense to you on a personal basis, but a rather short sighted position to take. If there are problems, allow the process to work and we can entertain that more formally.

Now, as far as the representations about the map that the Commissioner Holt has raised and one reason I seconded her request to put this on the agenda was in the attempt to say if you subdivided your land under the immediate family subdivision that was a legal subdivision at the time. That right carries forward. I see no conflict with anything about the Citizens Growth Management Bill of Rights in that process. If you have subdivided and deeded the property accordingly, there should be no problem in this ordinance even impacting you. If your land is zoned whatever it is and that is the way that it was originally done and you have been buying and selling or bought your property under that and you want to change it, it doesn't stop you from applying for a change, but it does require you to notify your neighbors.

As far as sensible economic development, I can't imagine any request coming before this commission for sensible economic development creating jobs and practical that this commission is going to give any problems to anybody about a super majority vote. I think that is a misrepresentation of what the facts will be.

Here are some other things that you might not have thought about. It takes a supermajority right now in the ordinances if you do something with the half cent tax. Do you remember that? That was put in by this same commission. Not this commission, but commissions before us. You also have to have a supermajority vote to raise the property taxes above a certain level. So, supermajority votes are not unusual. They are not out of the ordinary. I remind you that when Commissioner Lamb now says that supermajority votes aren't good, I remind him that he didn't feel that way when we were going to move the railroad crossing. He didn't feel that way whenever we saw a 3 – 2 vote to rezone the Ochlockonee River area. The list goes on examples of over there on Iron Bridge Road in there where that boat ramp was. The company came in and got 3 – 2 because there was a vote against that.

Now, with the fact that we are all elected by districts, these citizens only get to vote on one of us, yet we all get to vote on them. They should have a right to expect a majority of us

commissioners, and by that I mean a majority of the population that we represent, should be voting on their property. That is what this boils down to. This is a property rights issue. It is just as important to Pastor Battles back there on his homestead if somebody was going to put a slaughter house next to his house, he would want to know something about that. He has a right to know it.

Mr. Palmer, he's got a right to know if somebody is going to put a cell tower that might fall down on his house. He should have a right to know that. And, he shouldn't be held hostage to the fact that three of us all get together and vote on the side and vote that project in and put it next to him without him knowing it.

Now, that is why I am not going to entertain, myself, changing until either we go through a process to allow the Planning and Zoning to work with the staff. If there are some changes that need to be made, I certainly will listen to what those are. But to just jump up here and say we are going to open up this ordinance, I, personally, am not going to do that.

Thank you.

Taylor:  
Commissioner Morgan.

Morgan:  
Thank you, Madam Chair; I will say real quickly what I emphasized at the last meeting. I am just not aware of any problems that have ever stemmed from effective, accurate communication. I think that all this is about is notification as Mr. Allen mentioned. I think that everyone in the county is deserved of that.

Secondly, I have talked with several members of the P & Z board. I can't speak for every one of them, but I am not aware of any of the members of P & Z who discussed this thoroughly, which they did, who are not in agreement with the concept of the Citizens Bill of Rights. So, again, I think it is important for us to understand that position.

Finally, I did want to reemphasize that we did have two public hearings for the citizens to come before us and discuss that. That is not what we were required to do.

That is all that I had to say. Thank you.

Taylor:  
O.K.

Holt:  
Are you ready to wrap up? I have another comment.

Taylor:  
Yeah, I am getting ready to wrap up, but you may make your comment. You started out the conversation, but make your comments remembering that we need to move this on.

Holt:

No problem. The reason that I wanted this on the agenda is because of the fact that you mentioned, Commissioner Croley, that we want the citizens to decide. The citizens didn't get an opportunity to decide. Planning and Zoning and the four commissioners up here decided. O.K. That is where the conflict is.

Before, it was always 3 – 2, 3 -2, 3 – 2, I thought that this commission didn't know any other proportion than 3 – 2. Now, it doesn't matter how this commission votes or what numbers are on one side or the other. It matters whether it is doing the right thing. The citizen's referendum, if they do a referendum, will supersede anything we do. It will. If not, a good attorney will. But, what I am saying is this. When people on this commission were meeting and meeting before, and I can name some locations, it wasn't a problem. But, it is a problem now, because it is the citizens. O.K.? Now, I am telling you just what I said before. You can put this one down for me from now until the day I get off this board. I want to have this same discussion until we really look at this. Now, as I said before, when developers came down to Lake Talquin and they developed down there so that homeowners down there can have rural residential, it wasn't a problem. They have rural residential down there.

So, what made them more important than those people that were here for 200-300 years? Nothing. Nothing makes them more important. The Land Development Code is used to implement the Comprehensive Plan. It is not any different. I don't care what citizen comes up there and says that it is different. The Land Development Code is used to implement the Comprehensive Plan. All we have to do is say, "You want to notify one mile," you have to go to one mile. It doesn't have to be ½ mile. No one cares about the notification. We want them to be notified. They were being notified before. Staff was notifying them for the man – what was required already.

So, don't sit here and say that the citizens need to be notified. They were being notified already. It is who was doing the notification. Staff was doing it. I don't care how many folks talk about here, it was staff that was doing it. I know they were doing it because I came to the podium when I was a citizen out there and I asked them to put up a red sign on the property site if it was commercial or industrial. I said, "The citizens need to know." The lady over in Planning and Zoning said, "What color do you want the sign to be?" I said, "Red." That was back in 2000.

O.K. What I am saying now is that we need some help in as far as what we need to know. If your Land Development Code says that Commissioner Taylor has to do something, it is coming from the Comprehensive Plan.

Why are there those circles up there? There is no one's land in the county in a circle. A perfect circle. But you look at it. Over there especially in the western part of the county. Look at those circles up there. Why are they there? No one knows. People are being zoned in a certain way and you've got to get four votes. You are not going to get rezones with four people up here that don't want you to get rezoned. If they want to reduce the amount of residential, and there are some people here that want to do that. They want to reduce the amount of residential, but they have residential. So, all I am asking you to do is to consider to allow the citizens at least the opportunity to look at this and put it on the agenda for a vote. Let them come up here and argue their point.



That is all. I am going to put that in a motion and you can vote it down if you want.

Taylor:

I have not had a chance to speak and you have made that very clear. If you want to offer a motion after everybody has had an opportunity to speak. I want to have that opportunity.

At our previous meeting we spent an hour and a half on this particular item. The goal was to first have input from Planning and Zoning. Planning and Zoning came before us, went through this particular Bill of Rights. It was also advertised so that citizens could come in and voice their opinion and there were some. Planning and Zoning also, Commissioner Croley, gave us recommendations for changes they thought might help this particular bill. Now, you indicated a moment ago, because of short sightedness on my behalf for not wanting to entertain an advisory committee that an advisory committee could have gotten with Planning and Zoning and then Planning and Zoning could come before this board and give some recommendations.

It would have been easy to have done that at the very last meeting. They even stood and said that there are some issues and that there could be some changes to this particular amendment. After all that was said at that meeting, you all still held steady. You, being Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Croley, held steadfast on the fact that you did not want to change anything. So, that particular avenue has been exhausted. They did come before us. They did share some ideas and concepts that could help to continue economic growth and development here in this county and you still rejected it. I don't know until this attorney researches determines whether putting this on a ballot would allow us to come back and make some changes to this. It is very clear in the ordinance, as it is written, that an amendment or repeal needs a super majority vote. That is very clear. We spent an hour and a half trying to get around that particular item, but could not do so.

I will not support, until I hear from this attorney whether or not a ballot will supersede, I will not support going forward with having it voted on by the citizens. I will, however, support having another meeting if that will help just to get citizens a clear understanding as to what this bill of rights is about. I still hear misinterpretations of it. I still hear that. I still will support a super majority. That is not going to change with me. The reason being is because of what I have seen up here for the last 10 years. It goes beyond the board before me and beyond that board. There were always three that ran and operated this county. I cannot see that going forward. I would like for our voices to be heard and represented.

I am going to support that. I am not going to support and will not support having this thing where we can't amend it. Now, that part, I want changed. But I could not get the support from them. Again, the advisory committee was not short cited. It was just an avenue to get done what we need to get done and that is change certain components, which was recommended by Planning and Zoning, of this Bill of Rights. That was recommended. That was on the screen, but we snubbed it. And you want to look at another avenue. No, I cannot concur because it is wasted time. I have seen this before.

I have to say this, too. This is off the grid for me a little bit. But, threats don't move me. Never has, never will. Particularly continually beating this particular drum beat. When she comes back

and she tells us whether or not a referendum can do this or can't do it. If it cannot do it, then I am done with it. You can get out there and sing to the highest hill, but I have faith in what I do. It is the law. We have adopted it. If we cannot move it, we cannot move it until there is a change in this body. That is the only time it can be changed. Other than that, we are moving forward. Luckily, luckily, this economy is not thriving and there are not people knocking on our doors anyway. But I think it is going to happen within the next year and a half because of that governor and his goal. That is to bring businesses here. That is his only goal. So, within a year and a half, which is time for election, maybe then we can get the vote to change this. Maybe we can. Until then, we are o.k. We can hold our reign. We don't hold still. We don't have any of the harshest news that we are mean or too short of revenues. That is not coming out of elections. So, I am o.k. I am not going to give out committees. That is not me. That is not necessary. You want to do something, change the amendment or repeal part. Let's take the super majority out of amending it. I am through with this one. I am through with this one.

Lamb:

Madam Chairman. I wanted to ask the attorney while she is looking to look up one thing for me. If you were in the affirmative, I want to know if one of the affirmative votes can offer a motion to come back and rescind it. I am almost sure I am right. But, you need to look that up. You can rescind.

Taylor:

You can, you certainly can.

Commissioners, we need to move on. We have exhausted all leads. We are going to move on. You may go ahead and put your motion out.

**Holt:**

**I move that we agenda the Citizens Bill of Rights for the next meeting or as soon as possible.**

**Lamb:**

**Second.**

**Taylor:**

**There is a motion and a second to agenda the Bill of Rights for the next meeting or as soon as possible.**

Now, let me ask you this question. You are amending this Bill of Rights for what purpose?

Holt:

To see if we can place it on the ballot. That way, she, the attorney, can bring her information then. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work.

Taylor:

I am not going to – **there is a motion and a second. I am not going to support it.**

**There is a motion and a second. All in favor of this motion please let it be known by saying, "Aye."**

**Lamb: Aye.**

**Holt: Aye.**

**Taylor:**

**Opposed?**

**Croley: No.**

**Morgan: No.**

**Taylor: No. The reason being that I rather have her give her opinion at the very next meeting. Your opinion at the very next meeting and then we will entertain it then. Let's do it that way so that we aren't just wiggling in the wind and we will have some concrete information with which to move forward. We need to be more steadfast in what we are trying to get done.**

**Minnis:**

Just to be clear, you want information on both items. The referendum and the confirmation of whether someone in the affirmative vote can rescind.

**Taylor:**

That is correct. Whether or not a referendum can overpower what the ordinance statute states as of today – as far as the supermajority content in the Bill of Rights. Then the commissioner wanted to know about the rescinding. That is all clear?

**Straughn:**

**Was that vote 4 – 1?**

**Taylor:**

**No, it was 2 – 3. The motion failed. It was 2 – 3 to deny.**

#### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA

#### 17. Update on Board Requests

##### Mounting of T.V. Monitors in the Chambers -

Mr. Lawson reported that he looked into the possibility of mounting T.V. Monitors in the chambers so that citizens could see presentations better. He determined that the cost would be approximately **\$1700.00**, but he felt it would be money well spent. The monitors would not have to be purchased as there were two extra ones in inventory and not being used. He said that staff is looking to find the money in the current budget to accomplish the installation costs.

##### Summer Youth Program

**Lawson:**

Just a point of clarification on the summer youth program. We have initially set criteria and sent it out to youth that go to school in Gadsden County. There has been some concern about people who live in the county, but the children go to school outside of the county. At this point in time, we have done the advertisement and we have accepted the applications. It would cause quite a

bit of chaos to go back out and accept applications for those kids that go to school outside of the county. However, if they initially submitted an application, we will consider those along with the others.

That is all I have.

Holt:

Madam Chairman, on that item, we never decided that they had to be in school.

Lawson:

It was left up to the staff to set the criteria and those are the criteria that we set. You all voted on the money and said that you would leave it to the staff to administer the program.

Holt:

I understand that. I understand what you are talking about. I was talking to the commission.

I understand what you are saying. But, we never voted on that they had to be in school because we do have some that are not in school that are youth, that finished early – they are not in high school because they have already graduated. We never looked at that and I am just saying that we never made that point that they had to go to school. That is all I am saying. Just clarification.

Croley:

And, we did not – I mean, we requested that we receive some sort of information about where these students are geographically located around in the county. In the past, it was always one part of the area and it didn't apply to everybody else.

Holt:

Don't say negative stuff.

Lamb:

I think that we took care of that.

Taylor:

Yeah,

Croley:

Well, I would like to get a report on it.

Taylor:

I think that is fair. Mr. Lawson had indicated that he would go and look at it by street. We have certainly gotten support. As a matter of fact, we got a letter from the school district who wanted the students placed in various schools throughout the county. So, a follow up report would be good.

Holt:

Also, for the county itself. There are jobs here that they can do. Not just the school.

Lamb:

Anywhere in the county.

Taylor:

I am sorry, let me correct my statement. The School Board being one, municipalities, I think, being second and as you said, the county as a whole. I apologize for not completing my statement.

O.K.

Thank you, Mr. Lawson. Will that be it for you?

Lawson:

Yes, Ma'am.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA**

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

##### **Public Safety Council -**

Minnis:

Just a brief update to the board. I will be emailing all of you bullet points on the public safety coordinating council information. I have been asked to give you some information on that particular item. It is a statutory requirement about creating that particular council. I am sending it out to you.

##### **Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Management**

I have also touched base with the other folks involved in getting the Emergency Management Interlocal Agreement done and hope to bring that back to you for your consideration at the next commission meeting.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

#### **19a. Commissioner Lamb, District 1**

Commissioner Lamb had no report and asked to be excused due to an emergency. He left the meeting at this juncture.

#### **19b. Commissioner Croley, District 2**

Croley:

Madam Chair, just real briefly for the board and the public's update. The CRTPA met on Monday at Tallahassee City Hall and I want to report that, and this is of interest to Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Holt – that the lighting for I-10 interchanges a resolution was formally

adopted. I signed it for it to go to the State and Federal officials to try to get the funding necessary to light those interchanges as you have requested. So, that has formally been done. It passed unanimously with all interest present.

For the record, I want to thank Commissioner Madison of Midway for her assistance in that effort.

I also want to remind you that in the work plans for long term that there is (assuming that the federal funding holds out and the State transportation funds remain intact) there is a great deal of financial benefit flowing toward Gadsden County. Commissioner Taylor, the truck by-pass continues to be the number one priority to help the City of Quincy, here, so it is just a matter of how the revenues flow. But, every goal and priority that this commission has identified has been given full support by all the surrounding counties and the municipalities that are represented there. So, you should be pleased.

Taylor:  
Commissioner Morgan?

**19c. Commissioner Morgan, District 3**

Morgan:  
Commissioner Croley, I did see that information about the interstate lighting and I appreciate you pushing that through CRTPA, specifically for Chattahoochee exit and the Greensboro and Gretna Exit. I think that will be very helpful to us over there.

Secondly, I do want to congratulate the students and teachers at Gretna Elementary. That is quite an accomplishment. I am glad that they were able to come before us today and receive some recognition. I think it is always good when we can positively reinforce that.

**Budget Calendar**

The budget calendar that we saw earlier – I think it is very well laid out and I am wondering if that can be put on the county's website so the public can be informed of when we will be meeting. That will be an easy way to keep up with that on their calendar.

Is it on there?

Lawson:  
We will put it there.

Morgan:  
O.K. Thank you. I think that will be great.

I also want to thank Mr. Lawson for seeing me last week regarding the large screens that we have put up for the public. I know that we saw three presentations today and it would have been very

helpful for us to have been able to see that a little better. So, thank you for seeing that through, Mr. Lawson. I think that is something that will be very helpful.

That is all I have, Madam Commissioner.

Taylor:  
We have had time well spent.

Croley:  
We haven't heard from Commissioner Holt.

Holt:  
You kind of skipped me. I know we

Croley:  
I think she was doing it deliberately.

Holt:  
I think she was.

Taylor:  
I was hoping that you just kind of went to sleep on that one.

(laughter)

**19d. Commissioner Holt, District 4**

Holt:  
**Need a grant coordinator or grant writer -**

Right quick. Grant Writer or a grant coordinator. We need to look at it. We need it quickly. We can do it and advertise out there for someone who, if they are going to write, they can write their salary in. I would rather have 50% of something than all of nothing. If we can get someone – I just looked at when Preble Rish was talking about the CDBG and you mentioned Mr. Harris's project. Well, if they do anything with their organization that writes grants and some of our other contractors may do that also, but we need to try to utilize that. Also, let's look at getting someone. If not a grant writer, a grant coordinator. They can look at putting some of this stuff together. That is something that we definitely need to look at.

When you said something about Gretna Elementary and them coming – that is an economic boost because prospective developers look at your school system. They definitely look at what your school system is doing. So, if you keep putting it out there, it makes it more positive. That can also go along with the TDC. But, we need a grant writer in here as quickly as possible. So, that way we can look at coordinating where you want the economic development at along with the Chamber.

I know Commissioner Morgan keeps saying "At the Chamber." I visited the Chamber and I know

the Chamber, but that is not what I am saying. What I am saying is this board has to sit down and look at it. Whatever they are doing in Chattahoochee, we may need to see if we could leverage some funds or matching whatever materials or items that would help the City of Chattahoochee. The same thing may help in Havana. I was over there the other day. Beautiful shops, beautiful everything. But if there is something that we can do and we have the access to do it – it may not be money, but there may be other things that we can do. So, that is why I am saying that it is very important to have that key person, that position in here.

One I am looking at is with Gretna. They are still working to get everything straightened out with the horse track and everything done and hopefully get that in place. I was talking to Mr. Jefferson and a couple of the commissioners out there. There may be something that we may be able to help them with. Every time they spend that \$7.5 cent, we are going to get a portion. So, if we can help them with anything, we should. It is very important that we do that.

Also, we were looking at economic development. I just wish, wish, wish, wish that some of us to get the President's ear. CEDO used to work where they put people to work and you got a check, but you had to go to work. That is what they did and that is what they did during the last recession and depression. They built Hoover Dam and they did a lot of work. That is the kind of stuff that we need to pull people in to do.

There are government jobs; this youth work program should be pulled up to the highest to let people know we are encouraging people to come here to work. That is what we need.

But, that grant writer, I am hoping that it is possible to put it on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion. Is it possible?

Taylor:

That is going to be a budget item. I think it is something that needs discussing at that time during our budget workshops. We will have to find the funding.

Holt:

O.K. As soon as we can come out of this, I would like to go to an economic development workshop later on to see if we sit down and look at some of these items.

Thank you.

Taylor:

Is that it?

Holt:

That's it.

**19e. Commissioner Taylor, Chair, District 5**

Taylor:



EMS is having a celebration week and I am sure you all have a copy of this and are trying to attend. I know that I am. They said that they are having steak and potatoes. That is on the 20<sup>th</sup>. They are celebrating EMS Week. I was teasing about the steak and potatoes, but -

Croley:

I have already notified them that I had already made a prior commitment to that, but I certainly send my support.

### **Capital Mobility Summit**

Taylor:

Mr. Lawson, we do want to get someone to this Capital Mobility Summit. I talks about the Big Bend Area Planning for transportation. I think there are some dollars there and I want to make sure that you get a representative there. Then there is a little application that needs to be filled out once I filter through all this on my desk, I will give it to you.

Lawson:

Alright.

Taylor:

### **Airport Authority**

I do have two requests for reappointment at the Airport Authority. It is my understanding that one of the gentlemen's term is up and he is looking to be reappointed. Another is looking to be appointed. So, as soon as you can get this on our agenda to look at. I know that we have been asking for all interests to submit some kind of resumes and some kind of background history so that we can make decisions intelligently.

### **Budget Workshops**

I did have on here budget workshops, but since we have our agenda and our calendar, I am still going to ask that Ms. Betty send us reminders as these dates come closer. We obviously can't walk around with this calendar in front of us, but we certainly do need to be here and be in attendance. Whatever way you can work it out so that Commissioner Croley can be abreast of as much or either have his input or whatever we can work out so that on the 26<sup>th</sup> he will be represented as best as he possibly can.

### **Memorial Day**

The Superintendent of Schools, the Sheriff, and I are putting together a Memorial Day celebration. We have talked. Some community citizens have asked that we step forward and do some things with regards to Memorial Day and our veterans. We plan to meet sometime and get a little more information. This is a last moment's notice kind of thing, but we do plan to use the Courthouse Square to have this event. We hope that you all can come out and help to celebrate Memorial Day.

We very rarely do anything with regard to Memorial Day, but I have been approached and I want to try and do something with regard to Memorial Day.

**Housing Funding Availability**

I do continue to see that we are still lending money, which is great, and rehabbing houses, which is awesome. I want to get an idea of what kind of funding is still left in that particular pot because at one point, I was thinking that we had exhausted those funds. But, periodically, these liens come up before us and we are entertaining a rehab or assisting with a purchase of new homes. So, this is just me, personally, requesting to know what revenues are still there and what measures are we using to help these people.

**River Chase Nursing Home**

One of our local facilities here, one of our local retirement centers have been acknowledged and recognized last year as having won the five star facilities and this year a bronze. We wanted to bring down here at one of our night meetings and give them a formal recognition with regard to some kind of certificate. I was asked to ask the board to give me a vote of approval that each of you will sign off on this. You will be given a bio – this is Riverchase – You will be given a bio about their history and how well it has done and how it was ranked and received these awards. I wanted to make sure that this is O.K. with the body and that each of you sign off on this because I think that we need to highlight the positive that goes on in our county. So, I am going to ask, if you all don't mind, I will put it out for a motion. Once you get the bio and get information about the facility and it arrived at its award and its standards, that you will consider giving them an award of appreciation with regard to our retired citizens.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO RECOGNIZE RIVERCHASE LIVING FACILITY FOR THEIR AWARDS. COMMISSIONER LAMB WAS NOT PRESENT FOR THIS VOTE.**

**Church of God In Christ**

Holt:

I can remember the exact name of the church, but they asked me for a proclamation. Do we need to bring that before the board?

Taylor:

No. We will let Ms. Betty put that together for us.

**Adjournment**

**RECEIPT AND FILE AGENDA**

20a. Letter from Mike McDaniel, Chief Of Comprehensive Planning, at the DCA accepting the reasons as sufficient cause and granted Gadsden County the six month extension as requested to adopt the EAR

20b. Letter from CRTPA informing Gadsden County that Governor Scott approved the expansion of the

planning boundaries and the membership of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency to include all of Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla counties.

- 20c. Lease agreement between Gadsden Hospital, Inc. and Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Inc. for Anesthesia Machine, Model Ohmeda Excel 210SE Serial Number AMAZ 00686 (extension until February 2012)
  
- 20d. Letter from Town of Havana in response to federal regulations for them to communicate periodically regarding their systems' purpose, reliability, associated hazards, and damage prevention, as well as emergency preparedness measures.
  
- 20e. Grant Number 2009-JAGC-GADS-1-T7-104 Agreement 4 – Sheriff's Office Area Drug Task Force 09 the budget was approved subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in the agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD, UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT,  
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:50 A.M.**

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**Sherrie Taylor, Chairperson**

**ATTEST:**

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**Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk**