

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 2, 2013, AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Chair Doug Croley-District 2, Chairman
Eric Hinson-District 1, Vice-Chairman
Gene Morgan-District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

***** NOTE: THERE WERE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH PORTIONS OF THE RECORDING OF THE
AUDIO/VIDEO OF THIS MEETING*****

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair Croley called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. He asked everyone to stand for prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. ~~Know No Pain Presentation~~

This item was removed from the agenda.

CLERK OF COURTS

2. County Finance and County Clerk Issues

Commissioner Taylor asked Clerk Thomas questions regarding the audit draft the Board had received and asked when the final audit could be expected.

Clerk Thomas informed the Board that the draft was due to them by March 31, 2013 and was sent to them for informational purposes. He further explained the final report should be received by them within the next two meetings.

Commissioner Morgan stated he had not had a chance to review the draft at length and asked if

there were any outstanding issues the Board should be concerned with.

Clerk Thomas explained to the Board that the fund balance was up, the Board was in a good position and that it should enable them to manage some of the long term issues without imposing any new taxes.

CONSENT

THERE WAS A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED TO PULL ITEMS 5 AND 9. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ITEMS 3, 4, 6-8 AND 10.

- 3. Approval of Minutes-**
-March 5, 2013-Regular Meeting
- 4. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**
- 5. ~~Approval of Commissioner Croley and Commissioner Hinson's Travel to the National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference~~**
Pulled for discussion
- 6. Approval of Performance Agreement with Life as Art Productions**
- 7. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts-State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP) and BOCC Emergency Repair Program**
- 8. Request Approval of a Membership Agreement with National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)**
- 9. ~~Clarification of Previously Approved Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Technical Assistance Grant Award Amount and Funding of Kimley Horn and Associates Individual Project Order (IPO) Number 2012-1~~**
Pulled for discussion
- 10. Approval to Execute Updated Application with the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT)**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

- 5. Approval of Commissioner Croley and Commissioner Hinson's Travel to the National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference**

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was adequate funding in the budget for both Chair Croley and Commissioner Hinson's travel to Fort Worth, Texas to attend the annual conference.

Mr. Presnell explained there was \$2100 budgeted for the travel and added they could do a budget amendment to insure there were sufficient funds.

Commissioner Taylor stated that she had no problem with them attending the meeting but thought this item should have been in a different place on the agenda.

Chair Croley pointed out this was simply approving Commissioner Hinson's request to attend the meeting and before the actual travel occurred, it would be brought back before the Commission for approval of the funds.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE TRAVEL FOR THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

9. Clarification of Previously Approved Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Technical Assistance Grant Award Amount and Funding of Kimley-Horn and Associates Individual Project Order (IPO) Number 2012-1

Commissioner Taylor asked for an explanation for the difference from \$35,000 initially granted and why the grant was now \$30,000.

Mr. Presnell explained the Board had approved the grant from DEO to work on mapping changes, but before the funds had been received, the amount of the grant had been cut because of a funding shortage and the extra needed money would come from planning services to make up the difference. He explained this was simply to approve the corrected amount.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CORRECTED AMOUNT OF THE GRANT.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens requesting to speak.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. Approval of Services Contract for Special Magistrate

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and explained it was for approval of the contract for services of a special magistrate that would deal with problems with on-going code enforcement issues. He explained the contract had been negotiated with the former County Judge Stewart Parsons for an hourly rate.

Commissioner Holt asked who would be responsible in setting the schedule for the hearings and Mr. Presnell informed them the Board would be responsible for that task.

Commissioner Taylor mentioned that they needed to ensure that their policy and procedures were in place to enable the Magistrate in properly doing his job.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH THE SPECIAL MAGISTRATE.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

12. Update on Board Requests

Code Enforcement Issues

Mr. Presnell informed the Board there was now a database available to track code enforcement problems and the program was up and running as of this week.

Commissioner Holt asked how often reports would be received and added that she did not want individuals to feel as if they were being singled out with problematic issues, but this was a matter that needed to be dealt with.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a line item in the budget to help fund the issues that would come before the Board as a result of the magistrate and for example, he added, if there was a case that came before the magistrate and the landowner was either not capable of or refused to comply with the Magistrate and the County were forced to put a lien on the property, it could put the County in a bind of having the issue resolved and the next step would be for the County to send Public Works crew to the property to address the issue and that costs would be incurred and he was of the opinion that a line item needed to be in the budget to have funds available when that matter came up. He added it would then become the issue of collecting the funds from the owner.

Commissioner Holt stated it would be beneficial to workshop this matter to help educate people on the process, what this would entail and what it would mean down the road to have liens placed on the property.

Commissioner Taylor said the Board needed to do more than putting liens on the property and added it was her opinion the Board needed to have language in place that if the liens were not paid, the County could become the owner of the property and then would be able to sell it to recoup their money.

Commissioner Hinson asked that the Board keep in mind that there were a lot of folks who had lost their jobs and might not be able to afford to clean up their property and the Board might need to be sympathetic.

Commissioner Taylor added she wasn't being insensitive to those who had lost their jobs, the property she was referring to was property that had not been in compliance for 3-5 years and had been abandoned.

Broadband Internet Program

Chair Croley asked for an update on the broadband internet resource.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell explained there had been problems in the past but things were back on track and were scheduled to be completed by early summer.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture.

Charles Chapman spoke to the Board regarding the broadband internet issue and explained the County had been awarded \$24 Million from the federal government and since that time a study had been performed in trying to secure the best prices for the infrastructure. He explained the build-out was anticipated to be finished June 15th and was being built from west side to east side in our region within the next few weeks and a terminal should be located in Gadsden County very shortly.

Chair Croley asked how this would help the citizens reduce the cost of internet service.

Mr. Chapman expanded that the best illustration he could give was “imagine if Progress Energy was able to drop their wholesale rates for utilities and the end-buyers such as the City of Quincy was able to afford their wholesale purchase at a lower rate, then they would in turn be able to sell back to the public the utility rate at a lower rate.”

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Croley said it sounded like a great thing and there had not had an update for some time.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the summer employment item would be on the next agenda and if the contract was ready on the Quincy Shuttle.

Mr. Presnell answered that the summer employment item was on the next agenda and the contract was not ready at this time on the Quincy Shuttle.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

13. Update on Various Legal Issues

Ms. Minnis stated the emergency management agreement would be on the next agenda for their consideration.

Chair Croley asked for an update from Mr. Presnell on the jail locks.

Mr. Presnell said they were on hold pending a meeting scheduled within the next couple of days to discuss issues with the facility next to the jail. He stated there would be more to report after the meeting and he would keep the Board informed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

14.

Commissioner Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan had nothing to report.

Commissioner Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt suggested they look for grant money for emergency management in retrofitting the hospital.

Ingress/Egress Issues

She also stated there had been several communities built recently with “one way in, one way out” and she was aware it was more of comprehensive plan issue and land development issue, but it needed to be looked into so there would not be new communities built that way and in case of an emergency, it would avoid people being stranded.

Mapping Workshop

She stated there was a need for another mapping workshop.

Mr. Presnell said the next workshop was scheduled for next Thursday night with the Planning and Zoning Commission and those issues were on the agenda.

Florida Association of Counties

She asked for letter of support from the Board and informed them of her intent to run for Executive Vice President of the Florida Association of Counties.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT.

She commented it was a good idea to know where the hazardous areas were located in the neighborhoods in case of emergencies.

Commissioner Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said the emergency management meeting had a lot of great information and asked that when the second part of the workshop was scheduled to maybe do so in the morning or midday.

RFP FOR ATTORNEY SERVICES

She asked that they send out an RFP for attorney services.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, BEFORE THE VOTE THERE WAS DISCUSSION.

Chair Croley stated he understood that RFPs for any of the services would go out in a timely enough manner for the Board to have a chance to review and make decisions before the contract expired.

Commissioner Hinson stated he did not have time to review the matter and do research and would like to have time to do so before voting on this.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the same motion could be brought up at every meeting or if there was a time limit to the number of times a motion could be made regarding an issue.

Ms. Minnis replied she was not aware of a time limit in either the County Ordinances or in Robert's Rules of Procedure.

Commissioner Taylor stated for clarification, the previous motion had been for all three services and this motion was strictly for an RFP for attorney services.

Commissioner Holt said she seconded the motion from an economic standpoint.

Chair Croley said he agreed with Commissioner Hinson for the reason that they had voted already to issue an RFP on all three contracts, heard staff explain the need to stagger them and to be business consistent in the way that the RFPs would be handled and it seemed to him to be the best course. He told Commissioner Taylor he agreed with her on the rebidding, but he did not agree with it being done mid-term.

Chair Croley stated that procedurally there was a motion on the floor seconded by Commissioner Holt and called for the vote.

THE BOARD VOTED 2-3. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND CHAIR CROLEY OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.

Private Roads

Commissioner Taylor asked that the Board look at the language and relieving costs to constituents in the costs of scraping and upkeep on dirt roads. She asked that the Board direct staff to look at the language and how to proceed in a private road adoption program to give taxpayers relief.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO INSTRUCT THE ADMINISTRATOR TO DO RESEARCH ON ADOPTION OF PRIVATE ROADS IN OTHER COUNTIES. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

Commissioner Hinson, Vice-Chairman, District 1

Commissioner Hinson stated today was a great historical moment-there had been great dialogue with the Board today. He stated he had learned to agree to disagree.

He stated he wanted to look into Board protocol with the rules of procedure.

He thanked staff for doing a great job with responding to the communities in regard to mosquito control after the recent heavy rains.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

He stated for the record he loved everybody and was glad to see the camaraderie around the board.

Commissioner Croley, Chairman, District 2

CRTPA Update

Chair Croley stated there had been a meeting last Monday and Highbridge Road had been discussed concerning the widening and improving the safety of the road. He stated there had been a decrease in asphalt millings because of abuse with the DOT program in other counties and added he would be having a meeting with “higher ups” to attempt to get a policy in place regarding the allowance of rural counties to be able to have access to asphalt millings.

By-Pass

He added they were able to advance to the second phase of the by-pass, but there had been a little delay because of the widening of Highway 319 from Highway 98 in Wakulla County.

Economic Development

Chair Croley informed the Board of a presentation from a Department of Transportation administrator, Ron Flores, and he shared that a good bit of the money would be going to seaports in Florida and it was discovered in listening to his presentation, that the Big Bend area was basically in a “fly-over” zone. He informed the Board that the closest port was in Port St. Joe. He also reminded the commissioners they were hurting because of lack of railroad capacity.

RECEIPT AND FILE

April Meeting(s)

-April 16, 2013, Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
April 2, 2013 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR CROLEY DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:28 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**DOUGLAS M. CROLEY, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

ATTEST:

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK OF COURT
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**