



**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HYELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 20,
2013 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

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

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

 The Chair reminded everyone to please silence all cell phones. He then called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He asked everyone to stand for the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker, took a silent roll call.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA


 Chair Croley asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda.

Mr. Presnell stated that Mr. Buddy Peddie of the Sheriff's Department asked that his item (Item 12) be pulled from the agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. (ITEM 12 BEING REMOVED)


AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Presentation of Resolution 2013-016 Honoring the Life of Patricia Elaine Fletcher Vice

 Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated it was a presentation of a Resolution honoring the life and the service of Mrs. Patricia Elaine Fletcher Vice. Chair Croley asked Commissioner Morgan to present the Resolution to the Family. The Resolution was read by Marcella Blocker and Commissioner Morgan then presented it to the family.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

2. Recognition of 2012-13 High Performing School Principals

 Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated this was in recognition of the "A" and "B" schools in Gadsden County. Chair Croley called Mr. Reginald James, Superintendent of Schools, forward and congratulated him on the success of the schools in the County. Plaques were then presented to the Principals or representatives of the schools. The schools being recognized were Stewart Street Elementary, Gretna Elementary, Gadsden Elementary Magnet School, Crossroad


Academy Charter School, Chattahoochee Elementary School and Greensboro Elementary.

3. Down & Dirty Motorcycle Club 4th Annual Family & Friends Day

No-one was present regarding this item.

CLERK OF COURTS

4. County Finance and County Clerk Issues

 Clerk Thomas stated in the packet there was a cash report that showed \$14,812,198.41 in the combined account and \$6.9 Million in General Funds, of which approximately \$5 Million was the General Fund Balance. He cautioned them that while this was a very good report, he would advise them to be careful. He added in looking at the current year and the 2014 Budget, they could project themselves to the 2015 budget and could see there might be some decisions they will need to consider to balance the budget then. Clerk Thomas gave accolades to the Board and the County Administrator and added that the Board had increased the general funds over the past 5 years, keeping ad valorem taxes at the same rate or lower and had made everything more efficient. He asked them to think a year in advance to enable him and the Finance Director to get an overview of where things stood with cash and said in the coming year, things would be reduced. He said that they would need to think about increasing the millage rate to balance the operating budget or using appropriating general fund balance, which is something that could not be done continuously, or cut back a little. He added in 2015 things would change and would be a little tighter for them.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the County was at \$5.3 Million at one time and Clerk Thomas stated yes but part of that money was restricted funds, that the \$4.9 Million could be used for any purpose.


Chair Croley asked if a Memorandum could be done to break down the figures to better help them understand the figures he gave them.

Commissioner Holt stated that no matter what, they had to look at economic development.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the report and mentioned anyone could go on-line and get real-time figures. He added the economy was flat.

Chair Croley echoed his thanks for the Clerk presenting the report to the Board.

CONSENT

 Commissioner Holt asked to pull Items 7 and 9.

Commissioner Morgan asked to pull Item 11.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRINTED. (ITEMS 5-6, 8 & 10)

5. Approval of Minutes

6. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills


7. ~~Approval to Award Bid Number 13-07 to Hodges Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration to~~

~~Provide HVAC Services for the County~~ ITEM PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

8. Approval to Award Bid Number 13-12 to Rudd's Pest Control of Greensboro for Pest Control Services
9. ~~Approval to Award Bid Number 13-13 to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Company, Inc. for Asphalt Coated Culvert Pipes~~ Pulled for Discussion ITEM PULLED FOR DISCUSSION
10. Approval of the Mosquito Control Annual Certified Budget
11. ~~Approval to Accept the FY 2013 Third Quarter Budget Status Report~~ Pulled for discussion
12. ~~Approval of New Road Names (Merganser Drive and Kingfisher Court)~~ ITEM PULLED

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

7. Approval to Award Bid Number 13-07 to Hodges Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration to Provide HVAC Services for the County

 Commissioner Holt said she had discussed this item with the Manager and asked about hiring local people to help service the contracts and asked that the Board look at a point system to ensure hiring local contractors.

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

9. Approval to Award Bid Number 13-13 to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Company, Inc. for Asphalt Coated Culvert Pipes

 Commissioner Holt echoed this was the same thing in hiring local people.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Presnell if there was only one bidder for this item.

Mr. Presnell stated that historically they have two bids but only one had been received this time and he assumed the distance and hauling the pipe played a part in that.


Commissioner Taylor asked per the Board's policy, could they move forward with only one bid.

Mr. Presnell asked Mr. Lawson to come forward to answer the Commissioner's question.

Mr. Lawson appeared before the Board and stated yes.

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

11. **Approval to Accept the FY 2013 Third Quarter Budget Status Report**

 Commissioner Morgan had two comments; regarding the third quarter financials that they were looking at, there was a 316% increase in debt service and a significant increase in capital projects of 183%.

Mr. Presnell asked Jeff Price to come forward to explain this item to the Board.

Mr. Jeff Price appeared before the Board and stated when the refinancing of the hospital loan was done, finance had to do a massive journal entry that caused the numbers to be that high and with capital projects, there were still some journal entries that need to be made for grants that were put in that are just now being done.

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

Clerk Thomas stated there should be budget amendments presented on the grants.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS


Ed Allen, 268 Chinquapin Way, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board to speak on redistricting. He stated that under the Constitution of the State of Florida, Article VIII(e) stated "After each decennial census the board of county commissioners **shall** divide the County into districts of contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable". He stated on April 16th, the Board failed to do their job by not redistricting. He added that the total sum of Gadsden County was 46,389 for an average population per district of 9,278 and District 1 was 16% over the recommended population and it goes to 9% under for District 4. He said the Board voted to not redistrict and he thought they needed to take another vote and be sure to do what the Constitution said to do.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

13. **Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial) Gussie's Garden Inn Assisted Living Preliminary Site Plan (SP-2011-02) (Tax Parcel ID # 3-10-2N-4W-0000-00134-04000)**

A conceptual plan was filed in 2005 prior to the requirement of a Citizen's Bill of Rights. Therefore, the applicant's agent has asserted that a CBR meeting was not required. Bryan and Gwen Peacock-Kidd, of 18179 Blue Star Highway spoke at the Planning Commission meeting and had concerns over the addition traffic impacts and the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of US 90, W. Olean Street and Ben Bostick Road.

At the July 18th public hearing, the Planning Commission voted to approve the Gussie's Garden Inn Preliminary Site Plan with conditions based on the findings in the staff report and testimony presented at the public hearing.

 Mr. Presnell stated this was for approval of preliminary site plan to allow the conversion of the existing warehouse facility into an assisted living facility.

Chair Croley asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against the matter and there

was no-one.

Commissioner Holt said she had questions and asked that Mr. Harris and Jill Jeglie please come forward.

Jill Jeglie, Planning and Community Development Director, and Mr. Charlie Harris, Jr., 2255 Luten Road, Quincy, FL, stepped forward and were sworn in by the Deputy Clerk.

Commissioner Holt asked if he was willing to be in compliance with the required items from Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Harris stated he was.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Approval of Joint Economic Development Resolution 2013-015 with the Cities of Chattahoochee, Gretna, Midway and Quincy, the Towns of Greensboro and Havana, and Gadsden County



Mr. Presnell said this was a Joint Resolution of all the Municipalities and the County to be on board to move forward with economic development.

Chair Croley asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Taylor stated this was something that needed to have been done years ago and was a great start and asked if the other cities and towns would be adopting the same resolution.

Mr. Presnell stated yes, some already have adopted this.

Commissioner Holt stated that realtors was an intricate part of this as people would call them when they were looking to re-locate, etc. to the area and also she noticed that they met during the day and a lot of people that worked during the day may be interested in this and would not be able to attend meetings until the evening and hoped that they would consider some evening meetings to accommodate those people.

Commissioner Hinson said in looking at the community colleges, Bainbridge College offered in-state tuition to Gadsden County residents and offered more than TCC as far as truck driving courses and technical courses that TCC does not offer and asked if this was limited to one community college and he also mentioned Chipola College.

Keith Dowdell, Mayor of the City of Quincy, and said there was a meeting last Tuesday, they passed the matter until they have their budget meeting and planned to move forward with the resolution.

Commissioner Hinson stated there were hundreds of students driving to Bainbridge and to Chipola and asked to not limit this to TCC.

Commissioner Morgan said the Administrator had started this as a building block and could move forward to Bainbridge and Chipola and added that the Resolution was exactly right for the baby steps that needed to be taken.

Mr. Presnell said as things proceeded, everyone would be asked to participate in a joint meeting to move forward with this.


Chair Croley stated that was a good idea and anything that could be done to enhance would be good.

Commissioner Taylor asked that maybe this should be taken before the other boards, but to deal with what was before them at the time.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. Update on Board Requests

 Mr. Presnell said Ochlocknee River was projected to crest over Highway 12 tonight and asked that everyone to please be careful traveling home.

He reminded everyone of the budget workshop set for Thursday, August 22nd at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan stated he appreciated the efforts of the Administrator regarding the budget and he should be commended on his efforts for getting communications started on the previous item.

He stated there was one item placed on the consent agenda at the last meeting that significant changes were made to the item following the Boards' discussion of the actual item. He made a request for the Board to consider if the item is different from what they discuss, to please put it on a separate agenda item to allow it to be opened for discussion.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Update on Various Legal Issues

 Mrs. Minnis stated she had no issues.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the Solar Farm and stated she was concerned with the agreement being out there and did not know if there was a deadline on the agreement. Mrs. Minnis said they had indicated they were still looking at sites and planned on moving forward still. She added there was nothing that the Commission was doing to delay the item.

Mr. Presnell stated he, David Weiss and representatives from another solar farm had met and added that shortly after that, National Solar contacted him and they wanted to proceed.

Chair Croley asked if it was be OK with Commissioner Taylor if Mrs. Minnis brought the contract to the next meeting and gave a brief report.

Commissioner Morgan said out of respect to National Solar, if it was to be placed on the agenda, to please inform National Solar so could they have the opportunity to be present and he encouraged the Board to keep a positive tone when discussing this item as it was a huge investment for Gadsden County.

Chair Croley said he thought Commissioner Taylor was not trying to discuss the agreement or merits of the project, but to give key points that are in the document

Commissioner Morgan asked Mrs. Minnis if they were adhering to the State's Constitution concerning the redistricting and asked for clear advice from the legal team concerning the matter.

Mrs. Minnis said her recommendation remained the same as at the earlier meeting and that was to hire an expert to look at the numbers to determine whether the Board needed to make changes to the line. Mrs. Minnis said since this was not an agendaed item; she did not want to get into an in-depth discussion about the issues, but the way the constitution and statutes read collectively, the re-districting must be done in an odd-numbered year, it doesn't state a particular odd-numbered year, but it must be done in an odd-numbered year.

Commissioner Morgan asked if it had to be done every ten years.

Mrs. Minnis stated it had to be done in an odd-numbered year after the release of the information in the decennial census, the ten year census.

Commissioner Morgan asked if this was done in 2015, would they meet state statutes.

Mrs. Minnis stated that was her understanding, there was nothing stating it had to be a particular odd-numbered year and the benefit of that was elections are held in even numbered years, if the changes are done in odd-numbered years, you don't adversely affect the election and the candidate would have an opportunity to know if the lines are going to be re-drawn before they declare.

Commissioner Holt asked for a copy of her billing and Mrs. Minnis stated her bill for July just went out and she would be receiving a copy of the bill.

Commissioner Hinson said it was interesting they had discussed the Solar Farm, and said when the attorney was asked to research something, what the retainer covered.

Mrs. Minnis responded that their bills were itemized, available in the Administrator's office for the Commissioners to review at any time, the attorneys that do county work substantially discount their fees and they take the dedication to public service very seriously and try not to over-bill or bill unnecessarily.

Chair Croley reminded the commissioners that they would be looking at a new RFP as this agreement expires.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.


Commissioner Hinson said he would never try to discredit someone, but there were questions he had and wanted the information in case he was approached by the public.

Commissioner Morgan returned.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

17. Report and Discussion on Public Issues and Concerns Pertaining to Commission Districts and Gadsden County

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, District 5

 Commissioner Taylor said she was hopping on the retainer wagon also. She added that Jackson County just got a Kia plant and that businesses were flocking there and thought that one of the board members for the economic development should be from Jackson County. She added that while we might not be able to mimic, but we certainly could partner.


Mr. Presnell said they were willing to help us in any way they could.

She said the first two days of school were phenomenal, but there was always room for improvement. She asked, if she was not overstepping her boundaries, that each commissioner reach out to schools in their district and help the students with needed issues.

She brought up the retainer for the county attorney and said they were going into budget talks and this was an opportunity to address that.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE, TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR DRAFT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A LINK IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.


COMMISSIONER HOLT, District 4

 Commissioner Holt stated she attended the TDC meeting last night and said the Board was responsible for any boards that they appoint and what they spend. She said there were things added to the agenda that had not been advertised.

Chair Croley stated they could not be a part of anything that was not being properly handled and asked Mr. Presnell to research what was happening and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

She added there was one item that was over \$5,000 and per the rules of the TDC, it should have come before this Board.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN, District 3

 Commissioner Morgan said the volunteer board of the TDC has worked very hard over the years to make sure they are following state statutes as to how the dollars are invested or spent and no-one was concerned about the TDC until it was discovered there was money there.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.
Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture.*


He added the issue of over \$5,000 being spent and clarified that was for three different events that totaled just over \$6,000 and was not for one project.

He asked that they keep in mind that in a small rural county, it could be difficult in a lot of ways; there has always been an effort to be open, honest and candid about how dollars are invested for different events.

He also mentioned the costs with the attorney firm and asked them to remember there was a lot less in legal fees being spent than earlier. He asked them to be careful and positive on how they move forward in the discussions and asked them to be professional. He stated that Gadsden County had the reputation concerning how agreements were handled.

Commissioner Holt added she met Duane “Rock” Johnson Sunday morning, was able to go to Tallahassee to eat and discussed economic development in Gadsden County with him.

COMMISSIONER HINSON, Vice Chairman, District 1


 Commissioner Hinson stated he was trying to figure out how to fund the EMS issue in Midway.

He congratulated the County on hosting a Small Business Workshop and said he received a lot of information at the workshop.

He added he had heard great things regarding Public Works and asked the status of hiring of a director. Mr. Presnell said it was scheduled for the next meeting.

He said there was a ribbon cutting scheduled for Thursday in Havana for an adult day-care center at 10:00 a.m. and hoped everyone could be there to participate to help promote small business.

COMMISSIONER CROLEY, Chairman, District 1

 Chair Croley complimented Public Works on their efforts during the rainy season that we have experienced.

He mentioned the Pledge on the front of the podium and reminded everyone that Port St. Joe had passed a Pledge of Civility and stated they were all here for one purpose—to move things forward and do the right thing for the County.

He stated he wanted to be cautious on one matter and stated Mr. Ed Allen had spoken before the Board concerning the redistricting issue and he said he knew the right thing to do was to look at it in some formal way. He said his concern was and would remain that if they did not do this voluntarily, they would be mandated to do it by some form of legal action and asked that everyone think about it and think what the right thing would be to do.

RECEIPT AND FILE

18.

- a. Letter from Michael Dorian (Gadsden United, Inc.) to the Board**
- b. August 6, 2013 Letter from BOCC Chair to members of the family of Mr. Ralph Lee Perkins**
- c. July 29, 2013 Letter from Florida Department of Health (½ Cent Sales Tax Prevention & Education Program 3rd Quarter Report)**

August Meeting(s)

-August 22, 2013 Budget Workshop at 4:00 p.m.

September Meeting(s)

-September 3, 2013 (Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

-September 10, 2013 (1st Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m.)

-September 17, 2013 (Regular Public Meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

-September 23, 2013 (Final Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m.)

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR CROLEY DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**DOUGLAS M. CROLEY, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

**Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk for
NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK**