

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 18, 2014 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
Dr. Anthony O."Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Robert Presnell, County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He said a prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Hinson reminded everyone in the audience to turn off their cell phones and asked if there was anyone who wished to speak to fill out a Speaker Request form and give it to the Deputy Clerk or raise their hand to be recognized.

He then asked if there were any amendments.

Mr. Presnell said he would like to pull Item 16 from the General Business Agenda, add Item 26A- Discussion of Board's Policy for Press Releases and Press Conferences and move Item 25 to the Consent Agenda as Item 10A.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Item 21 "Approval to Renew the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement with Waste Pro of Florida, Inc." needed to be pulled because of the 120 day provision if not going to renew or automatically renews for 5 years.

Mr. Presnell said he had met with Ralph Mills of Waste Pro and it was missed last month, but he was still in agreement with the contract.

Mr. Weiss said, technically, the contractual matter, if no notice was provided, it would automatically renew without action.

Mr. Arthur Lawson stepped forward and explained the terms of the contract and the meeting with Waste Pro.

Commissioner Morgan said it could stay in and be approved.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Chair Hinson said they now had the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Mr. Presnell said historically they make nominations for Chair first.

Commissioner Viegbesie nominated Commissioner Holt; Commissioner Morgan nominated Commissioner Taylor and she declined.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO ELECT COMMISSIONER HOLT AS CHAIR.

Chair Holt nominated Eric Hinson and Commissioner Morgan nominated Commissioner Taylor. Commissioner Viegbesie seconded both nominations. Chair Holt called for the vote on the nomination for Commissioner Hinson and the Board voted 3-0 by voice vote to elect Commissioner Hinson as Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

2. Proclamation Honoring National Home Care Month

Vice Chair Hinson presented the Proclamation to Shannon Griffin on behalf of home health care.

CLERK OF COURTS

CONSENT

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. September 2, 2014 Regular Meeting
- b. September 11, 2014 Budget Hearing
- c. October 28, 2014 Joint Workshop and Information Fair (GBOCC & GCDC)

4. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-State Housing Initiative Partnership "SHIP" Program

5. Approval of Physio Control Technical Support Agreement for Cardiac Monitoring Equipment

6. Approval of Library Annual Plan of Service 2014-2015

7. Approval and Execution of 2014 E911 State Grant Application

8. Approval of 2015 Holiday Schedule

9. Approval of the 2015 County Commission Meeting Calendar

10. Approval to Accept the FY 2015-2016 Proposed Budget Calendar

10A Approval of Commissioner Hinson’s Travel to the 2014 Sayfie Review Florida Leaders Summit

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3 Minute Limit)

Robert Copeland, 802 2nd Street, Quincy, FL 32351 possible program replacement for Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Copeland agreed to wait until this item appeared on the agenda.

Minister Alphonso Figgers, 215 N. Chalk Street, Quincy, FL Shaw’s Addition on Crime Watch and Community Action Committee, Donation for Christmas Baskets for Senior Citizens and Handicapped, asked for donations for baskets for senior citizens.

Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL Citizen Bill of Rights, saw where BOCC allocated money for economic development and added if the Citizens Bill of Rights was not disposed of, it would just be money donated. They needed to make sure nothing negative was standing in the way to bring jobs into the County. He asked that they look into the Bill of Rights and consider repealing it with their super majority vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

11. PUBLIC HEARING-Adoption of Ordinance 2014-007 Amending the Gadsden County BOCC Procurement Policy to provide for a local preference in bid awards, to permit the utilization of contracts of other public entities on the same terms and conditions if the contract was competitively bid, and to permit bid awards to the next lowest bidder after rescission of the low bid without a new solicitation; providing for repealer, severability, and modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and providing for an effective date.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for the Procurement Policy.

Mr. Weiss explained the Ordinance.

Chair Holt asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

Dr. Viegbesie said he understood the intent of the amendment, but looking at it from an economist point of view, it insulated to the local businesses not exposing them to competition, competition breeds quality and insulation breeds mediocrity in product provision and he didn’t understand if this was insulation of local businesses from outside local area or competitive with local businesses being allowed to match the outside competitive bid. He added if the latter was the case, it was a good idea, if not; the industry or local business was being insulated from outside competition.

Mr. Weiss said his provision would be for the latter and would allow for competition and the normal bidding procedure would be followed.

Commissioner Hinson said when he had the opportunity to talk with different business owners and citizens, he was in favor of it. But now, he thought there were some things that needed to be work on before they voted.

Commissioner Morgan said it was wise for the Board to consider any type of policy or ordinance that would enhance local businesses, but he was concerned it was not a clear enough of its intent and was afraid it would open up to legal issues for the County. He asked the Administrator and County Attorney their “take” on the ordinance and asked for feedback.

Mr. Weiss said as long as it was followed the way it was presented, it would not open up legal issues. He further explained there were multiple counties that do something similar to provide various local business preferences.

Commissioner Morgan said in speaking with Mr. Lawson concerning previous bids and there was limited responses from area folks and did not understand why and wondered if this might accentuate the issue.

Mr. Presnell said the concern they had was it may start off well, but it may limit competition. He said people may bid for a few times, but after a few times of bidding, if they were not awarded the bid, they may tire of placing bids.

Chair Holt said she had seen it both ways and added there was not that much activity and not much to bid on currently and was why they were trying to stimulate growth by putting money into economic development. She further added that at any time they saw the ordinance was not doing what it was intended to do, it could be amended.

CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt there was not enough information to change the policy around at this time.

Chair Holt said in order for them to continue discussing this item, there had to be a second.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

12. PUBLIC HEARING-Approval of Close-Out Budget Amendments for FY 2014

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was to seek approval of Resolution 2014-020 and authorization for the budget amendments to be completed and executed to close out the Fiscal Year 2014 BOCC budget.

Chair Holt asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Chair Holt then asked that next year for close-out amendments, they have a quick workshop before the regular meeting to review the transfers and address any issues.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.

13. PUBLIC HEARING-Approval of Budget Amendments for FY 2015

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said the item was seeking approval of Resolution 2014-021 to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to adjust the Fiscal Year 2015

BOCC budget. He added there was a request from the Property Appraiser to add a position for field Appraiser and because the item was tabled, whatever decision made needed to be contingent on approval of Item 14.

Mr. Weiss said motion needed to be for approval, but contingent on approval of Item 14.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM CONTINGENT ON APPROVAL OF ITEM 14, BEFORE VOTE WAS TAKEN, CHAIR HOLT ASKED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND ASKED THAT THE MOTION AND SECOND BE RESCINDED.

James Anderson asked what the position was to be filled.

Clay Vanlandingham, Property Appraiser, appeared before the Board and explained the Department of Revenue recommended they fill a position dedicated to an agricultural appraiser.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF ITEM 14.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Reinstatement of Field Appraiser Position

Mr. Presnell stated this item was for the reinstatement of field appraiser position with the Property Appraiser's Office.

UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

15. Write-Off of EMS Accounts

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said this was for the annual write-off of the EMS bad debt accounts. He further stated the write-off amount was \$681,221.59. He said the accounts would still go to the collection agency in an attempt to recover some of the money in the future.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE.

16. ~~Final Approval for Financing and Constructing the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Administration Building~~ Removed

17. Approval and Execution of Every Toddler Has a Story: Supporting Emergent Literacy Through a Family Writing Initiative Grants Agreements

Mr. Presnell said this item was for approval and execution of a grant for the Library in the amount of \$65,262 awarded by the Library Services and Technology Act. He added there was a \$3,000 match and that amount was included in the budget.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE ITEM.

18. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Big Bend, Inc. for FY 2014/2015

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Big Bend, Inc. for FY 2014/2015.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Robert Copeland, 802 2nd Street, Quincy, appeared before the Board and said in the last seven years, the Board has paid the Boys and Girls Club to run the locations in Chattahoochee and Havana. He felt the community should feel more of an impact with that. He said he runs a company named Music Heads and has partnered with 21st Century and TCC and goes to some of the area schools and teach the kids how “to make beats”, how to record and do graphics. He added that music and art have been cut from the schools and he gives them an opportunity to believe in something. He further said that he liked the Boys and Girls Club, they give the kids a safe place, but they do not give the kids a skill to apply in the future.

Commissioner Morgan asked for clarification regarding Section 15 under Additional Provisions as to why in that section, it reads “Nothing herein will prevent the County from entering into the Agreement prior to the adoption of a budget for any fiscal year or for a term exceeding one year, the Agreement prior to the adoption of a budget for any fiscal year or for a term exceeding one year, but the Agreement shall be executory only for any amounts which are not available for lawful expenditure” and asked the county attorney the reason that was in.

Mr. Weiss stated it was a protection for the County, the agreement was good for one year and after that year, the County could extend the same contract. He said without the funds being budgeted, there were no funds available. He added that any time there was a contract for more than one year, he likes that language because it protects the County in the event the money was not budgeted to support the contract, the county would not be liable for the money.

THERE WAS A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Taylor said she looked at this item when they were going through the budgeting process and was not in agreement with moving forward with the funding because the participation was not there. She said she supported after school programs, especially with regards to State-wide testing, but if what they were investing in was not functioning at the level needed, they needed to look at it more closely.

Commissioner Morgan said the program was very successful in Chattahoochee and he had seen the benefits of that club. He added that he liked the 1 year agreement with a two year option.

Commissioner Hinson stated there were plenty of students at the Havana club and he fully supported it and was ready to move forward.

Chair Holt said she was interested in all students, she was a teacher, but there was no program for the students in the county.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

19. Approval of Resolution 2014-022 to Support the Continuation of the Rural Areas of Opportunity and the Enterprise Zones Program, Specifically for the Region Served by Opportunity Florida

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2014-022 to support the continuation of the Rural Areas of Opportunity, formerly known as the Rural Areas of Economic Concern and support of the Enterprise Zone program.

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

Chair Holt explained this item was coming before the Legislature and needed to be supported heavily and if the item sunset, it was dead.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what efforts were made in the past to inform citizens of the advantages of the program to increase the use of it, because there were a lot of advantages to it.

Chair Holt said he was totally correct and now if it sunsets, will would be gone.

James Anderson, appeared before the board and asked if the motion carried on the previous item concerning the Boys and Girls Club and the Board informed him it did.

Lillian Johnson, 2150 2350 Camp Road, Havana, FL appeared before the Board and asked where the zone was in Havana.

Chair Holt said she was happy she asked that and added when the Economic Workshop was held at the IFAS Center, the Enterprise Zone map was up and she said it needed to be added to the County's website so everyone knew where it was at and would enable a business to know where the zones were located.

Robert Gonzales, 115 East 8th Avenue, Havana, FL, appeared before the Board and said he had purchased a building in Havana; it was ready for new businesses, was willing to work with new tenants and wanted them to understand that small business was the engine to the economy.

Emily Rowan, 1200 Little Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and said she had been attending the meetings for approximately twelve years and had never been allowed to speak without filling out a Speaker Request form and asked if they were changing the rules, that they please notify people that the form was no longer necessary and asked that they go back to old rules and forms being filled out for more organized meetings.

Chair Holt explained the forms were for non-agenda items, but citizens could speak on agenda items.

Mrs. Rowan said she was not aware of that and had attended almost every Planning & Zoning meeting and never knew about the Enterprise Zone. She added that Commissioner Viegbesie was the first to explain the benefits of the Zone. She asked that they stick to the rules.

20. Approval to Sell a Parcel of County Property

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was to seek approval to sell a parcel of land owned by the County on Crawfish Road. Several properties were listed with realtor and offer was made. He said the Attorney had comments he would like to say regarding the matter.

Mr. Weiss said FL Statutes 125.35 required that the property be publicly bid and this was premature and there needed to be public bids and if this person was the high bidder, go with that person.

Chair Holt said the item needed to be pulled from the agenda at this time.

UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO PULL THIS ITEM FROM THE AGENDA.

21. Approval to Renew the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement with Waste Pro of Florida, Inc.

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to renew the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement with Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. and to authorize the Chairman to execute the new agreement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, BEFORE THE BOARD COULD VOTE, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED TO MAKE A COMMENT.

Commissioner Taylor abstained from the vote because Waste Pro had done a lot in the community and worked with some of the organizations she affiliated with.

CHAIR HOLKT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

22. Appointment of Gadsden County Representative to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said was for appointment of a representative to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA).

UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO THE AGENCY.

23. Appointment to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council-Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said there needed to be an appointment of a County Commissioner and an alternate to serve as Chair of the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. He added that Commissioner Hinson had been serving on that Board.

CHAIR HOLT NOMINATED COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

24. Consideration of State Lobbying Services for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said it was for consideration to renew the contract with Christian B. Doolan and Associates to provide State Lobbying Services for the 2014/2015 fiscal

year or to accept additional quotes for these services.

Commissioner Taylor asked to discuss this item before a motion was made. She asked about the attached letter from Mr. Doolin.

Mr. Presnell said he had received the letter and forwarded same on to the Board. He added that he had contacted Mr. Doolin for the details. He said the current contract was on the table and he thought there was interest in expanding the services and wanted to offer that alternative. He said the other alternative would be to bid the services out.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they were only discussing the item before them and Mr. Presnell said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it would be good to move forward with Mr. Doolan. He added that he thought they had to bid out anything over \$25,000 and suggested they stay with Mr. Doolin, but felt they needed someone who could handle specific projects for the benefit of Gadsden County and it be someone who understood the legislature. He added that he knew the letter had Mr. Doolin working with Al Lawson, Jr., but would like to separate the items. He said he would like to fund Mr. Doolin \$10,000 to continue the current contract, but also asked the Board for \$20,000 for a second person to handle specific projects for Gadsden County and wanted to separate the items instead of them working jointly.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what the firm had done for County and the Commission and if the lobbyists had made arrangements with the legislators during the legislative session so the Board members could present their case with their items. He would like to require from the firm a prepared legislative agenda with a list of items of interest to the Board and the County and the firm then go to the legislators and arrange meetings for the Board to meet with the legislators and provide productive service for the money the contract calls for.

Commissioner Morgan said Commissioner Viegbesie had a very valid concern and said since he had been on the Board since 2008, Mr. Doolin had done exactly what he had talked about, they have had a legislative agenda, had the opportunity to meet with them on Legislative Day or individually if they had chosen to do so. He added that he had disagreements with Mr. Doolin and that had been discussed and appreciated his candid remarks. He said they had invested \$10,000 for the past three years and had been pleased. He asked that the Administrator expand on the letter received requesting \$25,000 for that service for a year and said with that, it included the addition of Senator Lawson as part of their team and thought that would be a great value top Gadsden County. He said he understood the agendaed item and thought they could renew the agreement for the \$25,000 or if they had to stick to the original amount.

Mr. Weiss asked where the additional amount come from.

Mr. Presnell said there would have to be a budget amendment done.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Board to consider and would give Commissioner Viegbesie an opportunity, is to bring this item back at the next meeting and felt it made good sense to move forward in the manner they were approached by with Mr. Doolin.

Chair Holt said they were under a time constraint and had no time to play. She said the legislative session had started, they were already choosing committees and it would help tremendously to have a former Senator on their team. She explained that the letter that was referenced was from Mr. Doolin and referenced Mr. Lawson. She added the County needed their help desperately.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to pay Chris Doolan \$10,000 and hire Mr. Lawson's firm for specific projects and pay them \$20,000.

Mr. Weiss said there was \$10,000 in the budget currently and in order to entertain a motion for additional amounts, there needs to be a budget amendment.

Commissioner Viegbesie said what he expressed was not to bring in district representatives here, he meant the lobbyist, he said he was not sure what kind of services the current firm brought to the County.

Commissioner Morgan said they should address what was on the agenda and he hoped they would stay with one firm and move forward, he had a problem with two separate lobbying firms.

Chair Holt said maybe there was a solution, Chris Doolan had agreed to join with Lawson and Associates and they could approve the current item and then, as a consensus, tell the Manager they want him to secure Lawson and Associates.

There was more discussion among the Board concerning this item.

Mr. Presnell explained they could vote on both tonight because there currently was a contract with Doolin and Associates, they were expanding the scope of the contract with Mr. Doolin to include Mr. Lawson and they were under the threshold amount of \$25,000 that required an RFP or new bid.

Commissioner Taylor said, like Mrs. Rowan had said, they were getting away from their normal way of doing things.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said they were getting away with the general way they did business. She said when they had an item that had not been placed on the agenda and properly advertised, they always brought it back. She added that Gadsden County was already paying \$5,000 to Doolin and Associates through FAC and was one of the few counties in Florida that was paying an additional \$10,000 to a firm.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said they were receiving no more than other counties that only paid the \$5,000. She added that she did not understand paying one firm \$10,000 and the other \$20,000. She added if they were separate contracts, what was one doing outside of the other. She further stated by law, they should approve this item on the agenda tonight and then bring the additional item at a later agenda. She added she did not feel they were receiving the "bang for their buck" and was not going to vote for him and was certainly not going to vote for an additional contract

that had not been properly advertised.

Commissioner Morgan agreed with Commissioner Taylor's last comment and that was the point he tried to make earlier. He said he did think they were getting their bang for the buck and \$25,000 was not lot of money to have budgeted for lobbyists.

Chair Holt said she agreed to move the item and then had comments she wished to express.

Commissioner Hinson said Mr. Doolan was doing an excellent job, he would like to give Lawson and Associates specific projects to work on and thought they should go with \$10,000 to Doolin and Associates and \$20,000 to Lawson and Associates.

Chair Holt asked if Mr. Arthur Lawson could step forward.

Mr. Lawson stepped forward and said the two contracts would be over the threshold and would have to be bid, that they could only do one contract tonight. He said they could do \$25,000 tonight, but it was a commission decision as to whether the item for \$25,000 was the item that was properly agendaed for execution tonight. He added as far as the Procurement Policy went, they could approve as long as they kept it \$25,000 or less.

Mr. Weiss said the procurement policy did allow the Board to go to \$25,000 with three informal quotes. He said it also applied to contracts that are entered into or amended or revised. He said he felt if they went above the \$10,000, they would need to get informal quotes that were called for under the policy.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in looking at the letter from Doolan and Associates, his understanding was Mr. Doolan was bringing Mr. Lawson on board to work as a team for the total fee of \$25,000 and now he was hearing the Commission wanted to split them and give away additional money, more than what they were asking and he did not realize the County had that much money to give away.

Sheriff Young asked if letter from Doolan and Associates could be read aloud.

Chair Holt read the letter for the benefit of the audience.

Commissioner Taylor said they were asking for an additional \$25,000 but the scope of services would remain the same. She suggested they make this item \$25,000 and move this to the next meeting and have an opportunity to come up with legislative ideas they want to give to them and have it properly advertised.

Linda Dixon, 4332 Attapulcus Highway, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and wanted clarity. She said the letter clearly stated that Mr. Lawson would be added, and not that it would be two separate entities and not talking about \$10,000 here and \$20,000 there. She understood it was for \$25,000 for both lobbyists to work together under the current contract. She asked if there were a list of desirables for the lobbyists to work on and if not, they should vote **CONTINGENT** upon them listening to what the Board had to say and the Board listing what they wanted for the citizens of Gadsden County.

Chair Holt explained they do exactly that each year.

UPON MOTION BY CHAIR HOLT FOR APPROVAL OF \$25,000 FOR CHRIS DOOLIN AND ASSOCIATES TO INCLUDE SENATOR LAWSON IN THE CONTRACT. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR \$15,000 FOR SENATOR LAWSON AND \$10,000 FOR CHRIS DOOLIN. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A COMMENT BEFORE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor asked if he agreed for Senator Lawson's contract to come back at the next meeting and if so to state such in his motion.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT TONIGHT FOR DOOLIN AND ASSOCIATES AND PUT SENATOR LAWSON ON AGENDA IN TWO WEEKS, BEFORE VOTE WAS TAKEN, THERE WAS DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Commissioner Hinson's motion was to approve the item before them that had been properly advertised and Commissioner Hinson said yes. Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem with that and no problem with Senator Lawson's services, but had problem with attaching the two items together.

Commissioner Hinson rescinded his motion and Commissioner Taylor rescinded her second.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH CHRIS DOOLIN AND ASSOCIATES. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

25. Approval of Commissioner Hinson's Travel to the 2014 Sayfie Review Florida Leaders Summit
Moved to Item 10A

26. Approval of Revisions to the County's Travel Policy

Mr. Presnell said the above item sought Board approval to the County's travel policy as it related to approval of the commissioners' travel requests.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER MORGAN CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Morgan asked why the policy was being changed so the public would understand.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt said in the past, the Chairman approved travel for everyone and the Vice-Chair approved travel for the Chair.

Commissioner Morgan said has proven to be helpful, along with other policies that were put into place in 2009 and had helped to improve the financial position and felt important to "stick with what got us to the dance" and was in very good shape financially.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

26A Discussion of the Boards Policy for Press Releases and Press Conferences

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for clarification on the Board's policy for press releases and press conferences.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the Board for allowing item to be added. He said that currently there was no policy or guideline in place for press releases or press conferences established and had an instance last week concerning economic development and Gadsden County being open for business. He said, however, it was not properly vetted through the commission to see if that was the message and venue to have in order to do that and felt it did not show respect for the board. He added he would like a policy in place to help guide so did not happen in the future and thought it was evident that he was agitated at the press conference. He further added that he heard his feelings were hurt and said that was not the case, he was angry and did not feel it was handled properly.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO HAVE THE ADMINISTRATOR BRING BACK A GENERAL POKICY FOR BOARD APPROVAL.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

27. Update on Various Board Issues

Mr. Presnell said he would like to recommend that the Board consider having an Economic Development workshop prior to the next meeting on December 2nd.

Commissioner Taylor said they had not designated the money either way and they still had \$240,000 as a line item and suggested they advertise so they could take a vote.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan clarified there was the GCDC and the Gadsden Economic Development Council under the Chamber, it was not the Chamber and never had been, it was an economic development arm within the Chamber.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested a workshop with each body, let them market themselves showing what they have and have not and see how each one panned out.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor wanted to hear from both of them to make sure they were getting the best bang for their buck.

Commissioner Morgan said they had received quarterly reports over the past few years from their economic development investment and were available from the Administrator to review. He asked when the current contract with the GCDC expired.

Mr. Presnell said it expired September 30th.

Commissioner Morgan said they were preaching that Gadsden County was open for business, had the money and no contract for economic development services with anyone. He added in reviewing over items at tonight's meeting, they had to rush because the information was not before them in a timely fashion to consider and they did not need to put themselves in that position with economic development.

Commissioner Hinson returned at this juncture of the meeting.

The Board decided to hold the Economic Development workshop on December 2nd at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Presnell said the next item was for legislative priorities workshop and get ready for the delegation meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

28. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

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

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for everything, congratulated Commissioner Viegbesie, congratulated Chair Holt on becoming Chairman and thanked the staff for making the impossible possible. He also thanked the Chamber of Commerce and the GCDC and everyone involved in the press release. He also pointed out that Dr. Nesmith was in the audience.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie expressed his appreciation of the welcome and warmth received from the Commission and added he saw a true need for a unity of purpose. He said that J.K. Rowling once said, "We are only as strong as we are united and as weak as we are divided". He added that he hoped as they continued to work together, they take their individual personalities out of the discussion process and work toward making Gadsden County better.

He added that he proposed some initiatives:

- 1) Revisit Citizen Growth Planning and Management bill; and
- 2) Suggested if not already in place, they require staff to be available to attend conferences so the knowledge of what happened outside of Gadsden County be broadened to be able to help execute policies to move forward in achieving goals.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan congratulated Commissioner Holt on the election of Chair and Commissioner Viegbesie and looked forward in working with him.

He expressed his thanks to Shawn Wood and Emergency Management that responded to the Sycamore area where a tornado touched down and was able to quickly get roadways cleared. .

He said he felt a need to focus on better planning on the agenda items and work backwards on deadlines to alleviate the rush.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt commented on the ambulance having a deficit with EMS, there was in the contract with CRMC that an ambulance sits at the hospital. She said there was an incident that a teacher passed out at Carter Parramore, one ambulance was in Tallahassee, and another one was on a run. She said the one on the run, the run was cancelled and came back. She said the ambulance at the hospital was contracted to CRMC so there was an ambulance missing and needed to be fixed.

She said Commissioner Taylor was correct in her comment about the amount of money received by CRMC in the transportation of patients. She said if patients were picked up and were Medicaid patients and taken straight into the Emergency Room, CRMC filed and received the funding for it and the County cannot receive the money for the transport.

She said when Commissioner Morgan mentioned the tornado that touched down, she asked the former Chair if he was notified and he was not. Emergency Management should have notified them because the State looked at the Commissioners for anything that happened in the county.

She further said that the \$640,000 for Economic Development, when she brought up the \$500,000, it was for recruiting new business.

She further stated that sidebars were needed at times when things happen.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she saw where EMS had a deficit because they were unable to collect unpaid services and they were looking at another service to come in to attempt to collect.

Mr. Presnell explained that each year they try to set a target number of what they think will be collected and the budget is built around that and that was the reason it was off each year.

Commissioner Taylor said she thought CRMC was capitalizing off some of the dollars with Medicaid and since the County services were being used to bring patients to CRMC, bring them to the table and discuss having some of the costs offset.

She further stated they had \$400,000 set aside for Economic Development and thought the press conference was a little premature because nothing had been outlined as of yet.

Mr. Presnell said Allara was working on a document for a start.

She said they set a trend for the meeting, and the audience can feel when there was tension and collaboration and asked in going forward, they read each item, discuss it, and move forward with respect and also that sidebars be kept to a minimum.

Commissioner Hinson said received today that SBA sought nominations for Small Businesses of the Year.

RECEIPT AND FILE

- 30. a. October 15, 2014 Gadsden County Health Department Quarterly Progress Report for ½¢ Sales Tax Prevention and Education Program**
- b. October 20, 2014 Letter from Gadsden County Health Department (Variance Report-10/2013-9/2014)**
- c. October 8, 2014 City of Midway Community Coffee Annexation Ordinance 2014-10**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

31. December 2, 2014 – Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
December 18, 2014 – Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
November 18, 2014 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:10 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

BRENDA HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners