

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 19, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence 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

Mr. Presnell said Item 1 was being pulled.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Recognition of Miller's Lighthouse Seafood & Grill

2. Proclamation – Chattahoochee Woman's Club

Commissioner Morgan read aloud the proclamation and then presented it to the Chattahoochee Woman's Club.

3. FDOT Presentation-Florida Transportation Plan and Strategic Intermodal System Update

Ms. Virgie Bowen, representative from DOT appeared before the Board and gave an update and said they were updating their Transportation Plan and Strategic Intermodal System Policy Plan.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Ms. Bowen explained the FDOT Transportation Plans.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

CONSENT

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

4. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitative Contract-SHIP Program**
5. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitative Contract-SHIP Program**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Request Directions from the Board on the Process of Reviewing the Legal Services Proposals

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to request direction on the process the Board desires for the review of the Legal Services proposals.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was an option that the Staff recommended, but as the newest commissioner he was not familiar with the criteria used in determination of the firms and suggested tabling until the next meeting.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM.

7. Request Board Approval to Approve Award of Bid and Allow Chairperson to Sign the Contract for the Replacement of Three (3) High Efficiency Commercial Water Heaters at the CRMC-Gadsden Campus

Mr. Presnell introduced above item and said the Board was seeking approval to award the lowest bid and allow the Chairperson to sign the contract to replace three high efficiency water heaters at the hospital.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in looking at the figures, there was a disparity in the figures and asked if each bidder was proposing the same type of equipment.

Mr. Presnell explained the County purchased the water heaters and the prices were strictly for plumbing and installation.

Commissioner Hinson asked where this was advertised and Mr. Presnell responded it was in all three local papers, website and was sent to all vendors in the area. He further explained they also sent invitations out asking vendors to bid on this.

Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to go on record saying she was not in favor of change orders and was afraid in looking at the difference in the bid amounts that might happen.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND WAS MADE BY

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, CHAIR HOLT HAD COMMENTS.

Chair Holt said the water heaters were six years old and asked the life span of the heaters.

CLYDE COLLINS appeared before the Board to address the question and said they no longer make parts for the heaters and he had taken from three to have one that worked.

Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted them to advertise in the Tallahassee Democrat to try to get more bids and better prices. Mr. Presnell stated they would do what the Board directed them to do, but they stayed away from the Democrat because of expense and as of now the ads currently ran approximately \$700.00. Commissioner Hinson stated if they advertised in the Democrat, there was a possibility of attracting more people and would be a good investment. Mr. Presnell said they had done a pre-bid on this item.

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

8. CDBG Options

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was provided in response to the BOCC's directive to pursue options requested by the Community task forces for CDBG fund utilization.

Dee Jackson, Grant Writer, appeared before the Board

Mr. Presnell said the grant illustrator had done research and two options were rehabilitation of houses in each district and construction of a new Emergency Management Services (EMS) facility.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was affordable housing and a community center they had asked about, not an emergency management facility. He stated he wanted a community center in the Havana area and was not sure how the emergency management facility came up.

Mr. Presnell pointed out once they saw the presentation; they would see the EMS facility was not an option.

Commissioner Hinson asked why they were not focused on the community center and Chair Holt stated she did not have a memory of that.

Commissioner Viegbesie recalled specifically that the Citizens Advisory body recommended that the Board write a CDBG grant to build new EMS facility at the hospital and that was approved.

Ms. Jackson explained the score sheet to the Commissioners and said there were difference categories that could be applied and the community center would come under the same category as the EMS facility. She explained some of the eligible activities were Infrastructure improvements such as water and sewer facilities; street and sidewalk paving; flood and drainage; fire protection; parking lots and natural gas lines and rail spurs. She also stated there were others such as community center, temporary shelters and parks and playgrounds and direct benefit activities such as housing rehabilitation, temporary relocation, water and sewer hookups, loans to businesses and building facades. She then listed the ineligible activities. She

said there was an initial assessment that CDBG does that Gadsden County did not score well before because of a late audit and 150 points was taken away, but that has since expired.

Ms. Jackson said she met with the CDBG people the day before and they felt Gadsden County was in a good position.

Commissioner Taylor asked in going forward, it looked like the options were for a community center or emergency facility and the possibility of renovation of houses.

Ms. Jackson said there were seven different categories that each project would fall under one and the community center would fall under the category with the emergency management facility and even though it was an eligible project the odds were very low of receiving funding for it.

Commissioner Hinson asked why the community center would score low and Ms. Jackson said she explained the scoresheet.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how the County could prepare themselves to make it more substantive in the application to have them give the County the grant money when applied for.

Commissioner Hinson said they should focus on a way to capture the kids in the communities and seniors also needed a place to and was why he wanted the community center to reach everyone.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked out of the two options, which one had better chance of receiving the funding.

Ms. Jackson responded that according to CDBG there was no chance of receiving funding for the EMS facility because even if they approved it, it would not be approved at the federal level based on history.

There was more discussion around the Board regarding possible projects.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt said they needed to wind this up and Mr. Presnell said the County had the perfect CDBG score and it needed to be used.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if it would help if bundling was done on two items if it would enhance chance of approval and was told it could not be bundled.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 FOR OPTION ONE.

9. Pat Thomas Park Dock Replacement Bid Award

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the Pat

Thomas Park Dock Replacement to Bayshore Construction.

Commissioner Taylor said she was concerned about the difference in amount of the bids.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT AGENDA.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell reminded everyone of the budget workshop scheduled for next Thursday at 4:00 p.m. and reminded the Commissioners their books were in their boxes.

Banking Services

Mr. Presnell said the banking fees were running between \$1200-1300/month and it concerned him and asked if they were interested in looking at other services and then if needed, they could do something formal with bids. Mr. Thomas said for the record the Clerk was statutorily over the banking services and explained the problem with the banking services was because the interest rates had been so low. He said when the interest rate went back to 2%, the fees would go away and explained risks they could face with changing banking services. He further explained there were certain qualifications banks had to meet. He referred them to Florida Statutes Chapter 28.33 that explained the duties.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Chair Holt said she was in favor of Mr. Presnell checking in case a few dollars could be saved.

Grants

Mr. Presnell then stated there was a spreadsheet and with the grants already approved there was \$20,115,044.92 in the past two years that the County was awarded in grants.

Senior Citizens

He added at the last meeting he was asked to write a letter and he did and there was a response and there was a meeting on Thursday with the Board and he still needed names from two of the Commissioners.

Job Fair

He said a Thank You note was received and there were 23 employers present and had 150 job seekers that attended the job fair.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the summer jobs and where they were with the process. Mr. Presnell said there would be three orientation meetings coming up and selections and placements had been made.

Chair Holt stated they needed to “dress the part appropriately” of where they were working.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

11. Update on Various Legal Issues

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was an update on Havana Heights and Mr. Weiss stated he had not been contacted since the letter was sent and they needed to determine what the next step is.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

12. Report and Discussion Of Public Issues and Concerns Pertaining to Commission Districts and Gadsden County

COMMISSIONER GENE MORGAN, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, PhD, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie asked when Scottown could expect money for their park and Mr. Presnell said the grant would be approximately six to eight months and they were next.

Update on Quincy By-pass North and South

CRPTA finalized the funding cycle for vision projects beyond 2040.

Commissioner Morgan thought the PDE (Planning, Design and Environment) studies for the north end was included when they did that originally. Commissioner Viegbesie said the vendor was selected but the PDE study had not been done to know environmental impact and what the road costs would be. Commissioner Morgan asked what the \$700,000 covered and Commissioner Viegbesie said he would inquire as to that.

He then asked if instead of spending the money for television recording if it was possible to stream the meetings into the website and found out the Clerk’s office was doing it already. He asked that there be a link to the County’s website and found that it was being done already.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had already asked his questions.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said for clarification as well as professionalism and asked that they make time valuable and felt the comment may have been taken out of context. She stated when they were there they were making decisions for the citizens and that at the end of the day they could walk away and says they had done an honest job. She added that was the only reason and rationale for the statement and wanted to clarify that and say that professional courtesy goes a long way around the dais.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to personally thank Dee Jackson for everything she was doing.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt said she had spoken with Sheriff Young and there was a need for a workshop to look at several items regarding the jail.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad she had raised the issue with what happened over the weekend (inmate escaping from the jail) and that this Board was responsible for what happened at the jail. He said the Sheriff ran the jail, but this Board was responsible for the facility and the Sheriff was responsible for the operation.

Chair Holt said there were several options and felt better to workshop the issue and look at options.

Commissioner Viegbesie clarified she was asking for a motion to hold workshop and she said yes.

Commissioner Morgan felt it important to have detailed documents before workshop and the proper parties were at the table.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A WORKSHOP REGARDING THE JAIL.

She asked that the Manager and staff look at a five year plan for the County regarding where they needed to be next year economically, looking at facilities, I-10, social issues, etc.

Receipt and File

13. Mediacom Letter

UPCOMING MEETINGS

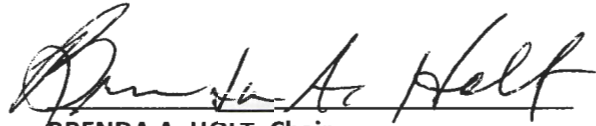
14. June 2, 2015-Regular Meeting

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 19, 2015 – Regular Meeting

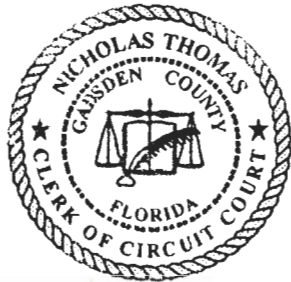
MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:44 P.M.

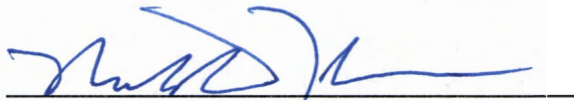
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk