

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 6, 2016 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, VIZ:**

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

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. A silent role call was conducted by Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Presnell said there was an amendment to the Agenda-a brief presentation from the County's insurance agent, John Pat Thomas from Pat Thomas Ins.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1a. John Pat Thomas, Pat Thomas and Associates Insurance, Inc., appeared before the Board and presented a check for a return in premium from the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust to the County in the amount of \$19,783.00.

1. **Gadsden Arts Center & Museum Update**

Ms. Grace Robinson, Gadsden Art Center, appeared before the Board to give a report on the Arts Center. They applied for a matching grant and received it.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at this juncture of the meeting.

She said they were able to expand their studio, was almost finished with the renovation and would be exhibiting crafts such as quilting, carving, needlepoint, painting, etc. for short periods of time and asked the Commission for their assistance in getting the word out.

2. **Resolution Honoring the Life of Mr. Robert Louis Williams**

Mr. Presnell said there was a Resolution honoring the life of Mr. Robert Louis Williams. The Commission came forward, along with the Williams family, Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud the Resolution and it was presented to the family.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was not present and Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker informed the Board there was nothing to report.

CONSENT

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

3. Ratification to Pay County Bills

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. PUBLIC HEARING-(Legislative) Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2016-021 to amend Chapter 5, Development Standards, Subsection 5405, Corridor Road Landscaping Standards of the Gadsden County Land Development Code

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this item was before them for consideration of adoption of Ordinance 2016-021 amending Chapter 5, Development Standards, Subsection 5405, Corridor Road Landscaping Standards of the Land Development Code.

Chair Taylor announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the audience and there were none.

Commissioner Holt said at the conference she recently attended, they were advised to present everything so the audience would know everything that was going on to prevent challenges in the future.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a good point to inform what a corridor road was and the list of displayed corridor roads was shown on the overhead televisions.

Chair Taylor said she had an opportunity to discuss this with the Administrator and this was a double-edged sword, it protected and preserved the natural beauty but also limited economic growth.

Commissioner Hinson said he concurred and suggested a workshop regarding this matter.

Commissioner Holt suggested they sit down with GCDC, Chamber of Commerce and the Tourist Development Council regarding this matter.

Chair Taylor suggested they table the item.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR TAYLOR. BEFORE THE VOTE, JILL JEGLIE ASKED TO SPEAK.

Jill Jeglie, Interim Planning and Community Development Director, appeared before the Board

and said if this was not adopted this would not be implemented and would be very confusing.

Commissioner Holt said this amendment was better.

Commissioner Morgan said what they had tried to do the past few months was adopt language and make documents work more efficiently and better and recommended going ahead and approve these changes and it protected the rural atmosphere.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Administrator if they had invited GDC and the Chamber of Commerce in since they worked for the County and Mr. Presnell said no not when it came to planning issues.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Approval of Contract Amendment #1 with DPB & Associates

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a Contract Amendment #1 with DPB & Associates for construction engineering and inspection services for the 2016 Phase II Paving Project and explained the reason for the change.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS BEFORE THE VOTE.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator when the date was for Phase II and Mr. Presnell said when the Contractor finished all the projects and thought the physical work was done but they had not received the final billing yet. Once that was received, they could give each Commissioner their final numbers.

Tom Lewis, DPB & Associates, appeared before the Board and was unsure of the date of the deadline.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.

6. Approval of Contract Amendment #1 with JB Coxwell Contracting, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and advised there were minor changes to the Contract regarding debris handling but did not involve a change in money.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the attorney had reviewed the contract and he said yes he had reviewed it and had no other changes.

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

7. 2016 Paving Project Phase III-Bid Award

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the 2016 Paving Project Phase III to CW Roberts Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,124,708.79.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. BEFORE THE VOTE, COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked with the striping if it was the same that was used previously that faded or would this last longer and Mr. Presnell said this would be more durable.

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

8. Approval of Resolution 2016-028 supporting the Gadsden County Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding through the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature by the Chair in support of the Gadsden County CTST applying for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program funding for the County Wide School Zone Improvements project.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. BEFORE THE VOTE CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.

Chair Taylor asked if there was any fiscal impact and Mr. Presnell said no, it was 100% funded by FDOT.

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

9. Approval of Resolution 2016-029 supporting the Gadsden County Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding through the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and signature in support of the Gadsden County CTST applying for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program funding for the Havana Middle School Sidewalk Project Phase II.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. 1st Street Sidewalk Project-Bid Award

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and said it was for approval to award the bid of the 1st Street Sidewalk Project to Pyramid Excavation, Inc., the low bidder, in the amount of \$42,375.00.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

11. Appointments and/or Re-appointments to the Gadsden County Planning Commission for District 1, District 3 and District 5

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Gadsden County Planning Commissioner appointments and/or re-appointments for District 1, District 3 and District 5.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the re-elected commissioners wanted to make changes, if not, they could go with who they had. Chair Taylor said she wanted to make sure each commissioner had an opportunity to vote.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt very fortunate for the ones that agreed to serve on the Planning Commission because it was a very involved assignment and took a very special person to be prepared and represent them. He added that the issue he had was he felt the representatives on the Board should be from the district they were representing and asked they take board action to ensure each commissioner reached out in each district to have representatives from said district.

Chair Taylor asked the Attorney if anything was in their policy to ensure that and Mr. Weiss said no. Chair Taylor then suggested to workshop that matter.

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

12. Appointment/Re-appointment to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)-Municipal Representative

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction for the appointment of the Gadsden Municipal Representative position on the Apalachee Regional Planning Council. He added that two of the representatives were appointed locally by the BOCC; one must be a county-elected official and one must be a municipal-elected official and the Governor appointed the third representative. He said that currently Commissioner Holt was serving at the County's representative and Karen Bass was serving at the municipal representative and Dr. Henry Grant was the Governor's representative.

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

13. Appointment/Re-appointment to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)-County Elected Representative

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the appointment/re-appointment for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

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

14. Appointment/Re-appointments to the Small County Coalition

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint or re-appoint two representatives from the BOCC to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors and to identify a County staff person to serve as the County Liaison.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell had a few updates for the Board:

Concord light He said the materials were coming in on December 8th and they would start putting up construction area signage and the pole work would start early next week.

He said the new Speaker of the House, Richard Cochran, has put in new rules that nothing would be funded unless there was a Bill following it. He added they were in good shape with what they approved in the Legislative Agenda and there was one issue with the cities (since they were working as a team) and at staff level they would be meeting with the cities to assist them in filling out the necessary paperwork to ensure it became a Bill so they could be considered for funding.

Commissioner Holt said regarding the item for the bill it was for anything and they would be having two sessions, not one and they needed to make a final effort to write up everything they could write up ASAP and get it submitted as soon as possible.

Commissioner Taylor asked who was an expert on staff to help write the bills and Mr. Presnell said it was the lobbyists.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Holt said they wanted a paper trail on everything.

Chair Taylor said it sounded like it was purposely done to keep legislation from moving.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was it was to prevent things from being snuck into the Bill and getting it passed without questioning.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Holt said when it came to small counties, there were 38 and the big dogs would feed first and we would be stuck in the back.

Chair Taylor said that was the reason we were part of FAC and Commissioner Holt said they were worried also.

Mr. Presnell said they had been going back and forth regarding a sports complex and have found a piece of property they thought would work and was working with other entities he thought would go along with the complex to get some guarantees but have come to a point in the revenue generated and was at a stalemate. He said to get it to where it could come before the Board, the questions needed to be answered and they were at a point where they need to have expertise of the person who worked on this project previously, who was an attorney, and spend a few dollars

for his services if the Board approved and he was asking the expense of \$5,000 be split three ways if the property owner and project proposer would each pay 1/3 for the services of the attorney.

Mr. Weiss said he had had conversations with the attorney and had been involved in various conversations and was not sure if Mr. Presnell had had subsequent conversations but he offered to have conversations with him and Mr. Presnell off the clock to discuss things and Mr. Weiss' thought was if he was willing to do that, do it first.

Commissioner Holt said there was no reason why he could not come and make a presentation before the Board before a scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested scheduling a workshop before a meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no issue and asked if the person bringing the project had issues and suggested going through the first two steps and see if the other parties were amenable to a meeting and then schedule a workshop.

Chair Taylor agreed they could meet with him sometime in January.

Mr. Weiss said the issue with the revenues, it was being promoted as a project that would pay for itself but the way it "paid for itself" was through revenues that it generated and some of the revenues were restricted and could not be used to pay for debt services on a project and that was the issue.

Commissioner Holt said they were looking for economic development and should be a quick step and they have the numbers or they don't. Mr. Presnell said that some of the numbers that had been presented previously were not presentable to the Board, it was something the County could not do financially and they have been revised. She said for him and the Attorney to talk with the person, hear what they have to say and they could look at the numbers, either they were there or not and that was why it is brought before the Board, to let the Board decide on the numbers, if it was filtered too much, it would be left on the shoulders of the Manager and Attorney and that was what they were elected to do.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Update on Various Legal Issues

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

17. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said the Clerk brought before them the issue about the Clerks not being funded and she mentioned to him to lobby. They are doing that and asked for the Florida Association of Counties' help in lobbying and she did say she did not mind supporting the Clerk but the Clerks must take the lead and stand up to ask for their money and she thought the Florida League of Cities was also supporting them.

She said another big issue for the County was they did not know what will happen with Medicaid/Medicare and did not know what the President was going to do.

Apalachee Regional Planning Council She said the group was looking to see if there was any extra funding to help out with transportation from here to Tallahassee. She thought it would be a good idea if they could get some funding from an organization to come up with a larger bus.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2
Update regarding CRPTA

He said there were changes made to the By-laws. He added that District 3 that CRPTA is made up of is sixteen counties and there was a new secretary and he met with him and there was an update on the work program for fiscal year 2018 – 2022. He said there were quite a number of road projects they were able to add to the Gadsden County road projects. He said one of the projects he was pushing was the Pat Thomas Parkway crossing by Captain D’s. He said they were willing to look at the crossroad and think they are very interested in doing something sooner rather than later. He said another one he wanted to see added was the I-10 Rest Area Ramp of State Road 8 I-10 bridge and also added was the Pat Thomas Parkway from State Road 8 to Jefferson Street to be resurfaced; County Road 153-Iron Bridge Road from Ochlocknee River to County Road 167; County Road 268, Adams Street from County Road 274 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd to Clark Street; Ralph Strong Road from Crossroad School entrance to State Road 10 (Highway 90); and Cook’s Landing Road from State Road 267 Pat Thomas Road to Whippoorwill Landing for resurfacing along with some additional projects.

He said when the Bylaws for CRPTA was changed and the meeting is now held on the third Tuesday of the month and the next meeting will be January 17th, and when he accepted the position, he changed his teaching schedule and now he needs to look into getting someone to represent the County. He said CRPTA suggested the County appoint an alternate and then he could change his teaching schedule for the next semester.

Chair Taylor said she was in favor of getting an alternate until his schedule could be changed. She asked the attorney for his legal opinion if that could be done and he felt they had the right to appoint an alternate. Mr. Presnell said they could have an item on the agenda regarding that.

He then asked if they could consider taking a day to ring the bell to help Salvation Army.

Commissioner Morgan asked Commissioner Viegbesie about CRPTA for a lighting update at I-10. He said that has been designed, engineered and that the project is in the current project plan and what he mentioned was for 2018-2022.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad that mentioned and she had spoken to the Secretary of FDOT to see if they could have lights on the underpasses and she thought that was a great idea.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked how close they were to starting on Brickyard Road and Mr. Presnell said it would be late 2017, probably a year away. Commissioner Hinson asked why so long and Mr. Presnell said they were dealing with now was the turn lane and the only thing left on the design part was the new project going in, the road would have to be widened and worked out good because if they had resurfaced and come back with this project, it would have had to have been

torn up and the turn lane added. Mr. Presnell added that there were a lot of roads approved at one time, the Notice to Proceed would come from DOT, then goes to Preble-Rish Engineering, they design it and then comes back to the Board and it is then bid. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was a delay with Preble-Rish or with us and Mr. Presnell said the County did not have a design. He clarified we proceed with the bid when we receive the design from the engineering firm; they work off of DOT's Notice to Proceed timeline. He said there were a lot of reports that had to be done and sent to DOT and he is copied on them. Mr. Presnell said McPhaul Road was still out, two in Commissioner Hinson's district and one in Commissioner Holt's district. Commissioner Hinson asked if they had to talk to the engineering company and they could do a presentation on why they were delaying it if that was the issue. Mr. Presnell said the day the County received the designed, they were bid.

Commissioner Hinson asked for an update from the engineering firm.

Commissioner Holt suggested if he could forward memos onto Commissioner Hinson to update him automatically and Mr. Presnell said yes or if they preferred, he could have the engineer come. Commissioner Hinson said both would be great.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if memory served him right, in one of his books the Brickyard Road project timeline was listed and he would look back at the books to see where the project stands with regard to how fast it will proceed. Mr. Presnell said it was programed in the five year work plan.

Commissioner Hinson said in the past two to three years have had been 6-7 deaths on the road, maybe more and was the reason he was so adamant about it.

He thanked the Board for approving the sidewalks today in Havana.

He asked for clarification on the Concord light. Mr. Presnell said the materials would be delivered on the 8th, signs would go up towards the end of the week and they would be working on the installation of poles next week. He said the timeline was matching up with the dates they were given but if they do not put up poles next week, they will not meet the deadline. Commissioner Hinson his daughter's birthday was the 19th and she wanted that day to herself and asked if they could do something special on the 20th assuming they would be done if they could hold a dedication at 10:00 a.m. at the intersection.

He then thanked the AKA sorority for donating to needy families and he was able to help them out some.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had no items.

Commissioner Holt said she forgot one item-would like an update and have a presentation done on grants and where they were, what they were applying for and would like the Grant Department to update.

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5

Chair Taylor thanked the Board and felt everything ran quickly and effectively and she appreciated

the adjustment in the reseating. She said it was her intent moving forward to extend an olive branch to work together around the dais to work together effectively.

She urged they be mindful of how they treat staff and support them and work with everyone.

Receipt and File

16. FY2016 Budget Amendments

UPCOMING MEETINGS

17. December 20, 2016-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**SHERRIE D. TAYLOR, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk