

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. She asked that everyone please mute their phones and then asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Presnell said there were no amendments.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CLERK OF COURT

Mr. Thomas was present and said he had a couple of informational items for the Board. He said the Cash report showed \$14.6 Million in all funds combined. He said the cash in the Library fund might make it without having to add cash before the end of the fiscal year. He said they have talked about EMS and they would need to amend the budget around \$860,000 or more; with the General Fund, Payables were done on Friday and at the end of Payables, they saw that all the cash in the Operating Account was out-a negative \$85,000 and will need to draw down some money from one of the investment accounts around \$1 to \$1-1/2 Million to finish the end of the fiscal year. He said the money drawn down and used to get to the end of the fiscal year was money that was spent and gone. He said into October to the end of November, they would draw down money to help get through the first few weeks of the fiscal year and basically would get restored when the Ad Valorem taxes would come in. He said the Finance Director looked at this and saw a trend where the Fund Balances were dropping. He then mentioned the Transportation fund and said it had \$588,000 and that figure was pretty low. He said there was a trend where the fund balance was declining and they wanted to point this out to the Board.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the Clerk for coming and bringing them up to speed and asked if he was talking about a cash issue or a cash flow issue or both. Mr. Thomas said it could be both- the cash actually declining and cash flow in terms of getting into a new fiscal year and having to draw from Fund balance to operate. Commissioner Morgan said to put this in perspective, they

needed to look at this historically, he heard what was said about trends and asked if this was something they saw each year or if it was unique. Mr. Thomas said each year they have to draw October 1st to operate until the end of November every year. He added that having to draw cash before then was a little different. Commissioner Morgan asked about the Library Fund and Mr. Thomas explained there had been a fund balance in that fund and at the end of this year there will not be and meant in next year's budget, unless more State Revenue was received, it meant they would be transferring more money from the General Fund to subsidize library, just like they were transferring more money from the General Fund to subsidize EMS. Commissioner Morgan asked if there had been expenditure this year within the Library system that had gotten them to this point and Mr. Thomas said they had an expended budget and was not saying on the expenditure side of the budget that they had over-expended anything, they had revenues and expenditures based on projection but cash was based on the actual dollars that come in that they actual have. He said going forward there was no more fund balance that they had to maintain the same level of spending if State Aid did not go up, that meant they would subsidize more from the General Fund. Commissioner Morgan asked where the negative \$85,000 came in and Mr. Thomas said there was general fund monies in different places and meant it was a cash management issue but was significant to point out that generally they did not have to bring in money until the beginning of the new fiscal year but now having to bring in to help finish out the current year and was the difference. Commissioner Morgan asked if he was implying there was a revenue issue or expenditure issue or no issue and he was just pointing out...Mr. Thomas said he was pointing out that the fund balance was dropping.

Commissioner Hinson asked the difference in gas tax and the transportation fund balance. Mr. Thomas said the gas tax is the revenue that went into the Transportation fund and when they talk about the fund balance it was the money that was left in the fund that was the savings, the extra money that was built up in the fund that had not been spent. Commissioner Hinson said he thought they had \$800,000 last week in the Transportation Fund and now was hearing that they had \$500,000. Mr. Thomas explained said there would be payroll in five days, that there would be more revenue to come in but would also have expenditures. Commissioner Hinson said with EMS, the auditors issue was not that the citizens were using them for rides; the additional \$600,000 was because of overtime. Mr. Thomas said he did not address the operational issues, he left that up to the Administrator. Commissioner Hinson asked how much they had at this time last year in the transportation fund and Mr. Thomas thought they ended up with \$800-900,000 at the end of year and said he would check the numbers.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was hearing that they were not in a state of doom and gloom but right now they were doing what every household did, just funding to the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Thomas said that money applies to the new fiscal year and why it was important to have fund balance reserves. He added that what was used to draw down to get to the end of the fiscal year would be gone and said long term would catch up to them. He further stated If the unrestricted fund balance went down he would not be surprised if they did not see concern from the auditors. Mr. Thomas said based on the Finance Director's email, they were probably going to have to take \$1.5 Million to get to the end of the fiscal year and that would put them below \$5 Million in actual cash, and asked what they were appropriating in their budget. Mr. Presnell said they were anticipating with the tentative budget as of now, the balance should be \$5.5 Million. Mr. Thomas said they were potentially looking at the unrestricted fund balance being below \$4 Million because when the auditors look at what they appropriate, they will say it cannot be spent twice. He added that ultimately it will be a spending or tax issue that they will have to face; it may-may be a while

or may not. Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Clerk for his advice and said they needed to slow down the rate of spending.

Mr. Presnell said their budget for the upcoming year they adopted, the only line they spent any more was EMS and they have taken steps to correct that issue. He said with every line item the Board's budget had, they were in line or less than where they should be other than EMS. He said he was at a loss of the \$1.5 Million figure and had Mr. Price make contact with Mrs. McLendon to try to clarify it because even with the \$600,000 with EMS, the \$500,000 that was taken in on the insurance settlement should off-set it. Mr. Thomas said that was not included in his figures because they had not decided how they were going to spend it. Mr. Presnell said that answered part of his questions.

Commissioner Holt said normally the Budget Department says "let's have a workshop before budget time comes" and any new information should have been hashed out at a workshop, they should not be surprised at a Commission meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said what he took from this, first he appreciated the Clerk coming to them and he was trying to recognize that presently they were financially healthy, but the concerns were when there were multiple years or trends when they were taking money from fund balance to balance the budget, that was when they might want to start looking at it and being aware of the spending and felt that was what the Clerk was trying to do. He felt that everyone has done a very good job and historically through the years, the Clerk has come before them to let them know where there were issues or the Finance Department sends emails when they were concerned and felt the Administrator and Mr. Price had done an excellent job of keeping them informed and did not think there was a shortfall of information, thought they were being proactive. He added that he felt they had done a good job and he would be uncomfortable if the fund balance dropped below \$3.5 Million and had always relied on what the auditors said that they needed a healthy fund balance for a budget their size of \$5-\$7 Million dollars and thought they needed to adhere to that.

Commissioner Hinson said this was why he was asking at the last meeting about workshops on everything because when talking about money they had to plan and they needed to have in front of them how much they were spending and how much they were getting back. He felt they were looking good as Board and they needed to be more proactive and should have started this in April or March and have each department come in and tell them what was going on. He said this was his first time hearing about the library. He said they could not plan unless they know and could not spend unless there was a plan.

Commissioner Holt said the numbers were evidence-based and data driven, nothing else, and if there were any trends going on they needed to know before they got there, that was what the budget department does and it was very important to have meetings.

Chair Taylor said at the beginning of the presentation, he indicated there were several things. Mr. Thomas said while he was away he heard they planned on having a workshop regarding travel and he forwarded a copy of their travel policy and link to the GSA. He said prior to 2005-2006, their travel policy virtually mirrored Florida Statutes 112.061 and a couple of commissioners complained they would go out of town and there was not enough money and one of the reasons for changing the policy was to tie reimbursements to the Federal GSA and required a different rate for every

city in the state. He added that a lot of times when the travel voucher comes over, there are almost always errors. His recommendation was when they have a workshop, they go back to aligning with the Florida Statutes because it was clear and addresses more thoroughly all the issues that come up.

Chair Taylor hoped he or someone from the Finance Department would be a part of the workshop.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not sure what they were talking about and the only question he could think of and assuming the problem here was workshops, not with the Commissioners but staff needed a workshop on where they were going and what the costs were because apparently that was the issue.

Chair Taylor concurred with some of the comments and felt this conversation should have been held earlier.

Mr. Thomas said this was no attempt to change the budget, it was just informational and if they had had the information earlier, they may have budgeted differently. He also said the only information he would have had in March or April would have been on EMS and he had already given them that information.

Chair Taylor said everything was projected and did not want to get bogged down in this tonight and said his name was put on the Agenda as a regular part so they could get regular information.

Mr. Thomas said that was one difference between revenue and expenditure projections and the difference in actual cash.

Mr. Presnell said he felt it was very important to mention that County and their Finance Staff meet every Wednesday afternoon.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

1. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said normally she stayed quiet but there were a few things she was going to bring up and might sound negative but she was serious about them. The first was she would like people to call to get their input on what they think makes County better but they could stop calling to tell her to keep the Manager and threatening her would not do any good, so stop calling her.

The second item was Emergency Management. She said they needed an update like yesterday and they should have been there today because of the Hurricane was an emergency and Emergency Management was under the County Commission and people needed to know to get water and supplies. Chair Taylor said they were having an emergency meeting Thursday before the budget hearing to declare an emergency for the County. Commissioner Holt said there was a high population of people that this might be their only income for the month and getting the information out was critical.

Commissioner Hinson felt they needed to have a regular Board meeting Friday and present it again

so it could be recorded. Mr. Presnell said it could be recorded Thursday.

Commissioner Holt wanted a reminder out there that last time there was a storm people had already spent their money.

She then said there were three roads outside of Gretna and Mr. Presnell said he had been working with the County Attorney and they ran into some difficulties-two of the roads were in the City and two were in the County. He said it was on the Agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Weiss said they had discussed various issues and he was looking into them to see if they could be addressed appropriately once within the city limits. Commissioner Holt said there were questions because of what had been done with a previous commissioner using County money. Commissioner Holt said she would like it to be the first meeting of the next month to give the attorney more time to research this.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Holt said asked for an agenda item for the removal of the Confederate Statute and Mr. Presnell said it would be on the next agenda and she asked it to be moved to the first meeting in October. She said she asked for this because there had been a lot of calls and said she asked for this in 2006 and at that time the Board was not interested in looking at the item. She said she did an interview with a Jacksonville paper and she said at that time if they were not going to remove the Confederate monument on the north side of the Courthouse, to put one for the slaves on the south side and to be fair. She said they needed to look at the removal of that and there were already a lot of citizens signing a petition to remove it.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Holt said she had projects she wanted to bring to the Board but was skeptical of doing so because in the past their policies and procedures had been if a Commissioner brought something forward, they were in charge of that project. She said the mural was her project, she did all the research and background, she did all of it and when it came time to present the mural, the artist was not on the agenda, people that were on the committee was not on there, the families were not on there and the project was taken from her and was something she was not going to put up with. She said people were not given credit for anything they did or approved of and said they could not do this and asked it be rectified. She added that she wanted the program done right.

Commissioner Viegbesie said to Commissioner Holt, he personally had an issue with the way the mural was handled and asked the Administrator to prepare a brochure that had all of what he heard her say but have not seen the product yet so they could have that to pass on as a souvenir so people would know what the mural represented to the history of the County. He said he felt staff was working on this without her knowledge and thought it should be finished in final product to send out.

Commissioner Holt said she saw the prototype and it was very general and she wanted it redone. She said when the Commissioners had something in their district they were in charge and she was not in charge of this and was not sure why, that it took her three years to get the project and it was snatched away.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt what happened, he normally created something and would then invite the Administrator to come and they would call everyone else to show up. He said the community planned as a group and then invited the Administrator to show up. He felt what would be appropriate when done, have a small event at the Art Center with food to have better fellowship.

Commissioner Holt said if this was OK with the Board she wanted to get started and plan the project and do it and not be interrupted.

Chair Taylor said it started out by saying if it happened in a person's district, they should be in charge. She said the mural was in her district, they do not live in a totalitarian government but lived in a democracy and one person did not get approval to finance the mural, it took three or better. She said there was legwork done and recognition was given by her to Commissioner Holt for the work done. She said they argued earlier about setting bad precedence and now they want to redo the mural because the spotlight not given the way she wanted it to. She further said the family members that should have been recognized, she felt should be and a brochure needed to be put together and given to the community but to come back and do another mural presentation shows no collegiance around the board and was petty and immature. She said she did not mind to formulate additional information, but no to another presentation, it was a waste of county time-they were trying to get jobs, get roads paved and get ready for emergencies. She said doing a brochure was fine but all the other, she would not vote to approve.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO HAVE ANOTHER PRESENTATION OF THE MURAL. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR ANOTHER PRESENTATION AND CHAIR TAYLOR SAID THAT MOTION HAD BEEN MADE PUT ON THE FLOOR AND DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND AND WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN THE MOTION.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION THAT SHE WORK WITH MR. JENKINS TO GET INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS OUT AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND BUT TOOK THE PRIVILEGE TO SHARE WITH CITIZENS WHAT HE HAD REGARDING THE BROCHURE.

Chair Taylor said she was inclined to agree, however Commissioner Holt did not have the authority to delegate a particular employee to work on a project, that direction should come from the Administrator.

Commissioner Hinson said if he was Chair, that day was appropriate, it was located in Chair Taylor's district, she gave everyone credit, she gave Commissioner Holt credit, and felt it would be great not to have just a program but to have social gathering at Art Center especially since they gave them \$15-\$20,000 dollars last year.

Commissioner Morgan asked if final approval would come back before the Board and was told yes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO WORK WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DEVELOP THE BROCHURE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD

VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Tourist Development Council

Commissioner Holt said their By-laws had been before them twice and have not been approved and they want to rotate the Chairman. She said she told them they could rotate everyone but her because she did not want that. She said they were having problems with some of the business people not being able to be there and the Board needs to be able to move forward.

Chair Taylor said they needed to find out which ones were not able to participate because lately there have been issues with having a quorum and asked they be furnished with names so they could appoint people who were willing to participate.

Commissioner Holt said they could not afford to kick the bed tax collectors off, there were not that many in the County.

She also said the Budget Department and Finance Department needed to sit with them 2-3 times a year so they could plan further looking at the map on how they wanted to develop the County and what they needed to do to get economic development there.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was going to piggyback on some comments Commissioner Holt made regarding Emergency Management and said one of the ways they could notify citizens with regards to some of the of issues was to put emergency preparedness notifications on the County’s website as well as the County’s Facebook page. He said he just received some information that was emailed to him from the Florida Association of Counties with regard to Hurricane Irma and emergency management.

He suggested they have an Economic Development retreat where they would come up with a 3-4 year economic development plan before they even begin to think about the money that they would to put in it and the plan would be what they would use as the determination of the deliverables that they had met. He added they needed to decide as a Board what they wanted kind of businesses they wanted to attract and then GTI and TCC could develop a course curriculum.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said if he was not mistaken, they had an Economic Development retreat in January where they put objectives out and he was for that 100%.

Emergency Management

He felt they should cancel the meeting today to talk about Emergency Management because people needed to know what to do, where to go and they needed to have an aggressive, bold move. He suggested they talk to Talquin Electric to see if they could drive around to be proactive to see if there were any trees causing a problem and go ahead and cut the limbs down to not have any issue.

He said there was bad weather last Thursday in Havana and there were some folks complaining they could not get in their drive-way in Hampton Heights because of the water, the culverts had not been cleaned and pulled. He said he went before the meeting today and there was a lot of debris in the ditches and there was also a problem on Lanier Road. He said they needed to be

proactive, there was a major flood coming up and they needed to get this done because Public Works was off on Friday and they needed to get every community cleared from Havana to Chattahoochee. He added they needed to be aggressive to avert the problem.

He said he thought someone asked this question some time ago, someone brought up about giving a report on what was going on in each district. Commissioner Morgan said he gets a Code Enforcement report each week. Commissioner Hinson asked for a Public Works report each week so when he gets a phone call, he can inform the caller of what was going on in the different areas.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Viegbesie made a comment about economic development and she thought it was an outstanding idea but did thing if they were going to consider that, they must go see what new projects looked like, if not, they would not know what to tell the economic development group that to do and it needed to be knowledge based.

Commissioner Hinson added he knew there was a meeting on Thursday but they needed to have a meeting on Tuesday as well. Chair Taylor suggested they wait until Thursday to see what happened then.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan had no comments.

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5

Chair Taylor asked the Administrator to have a representative from the School Board present at the emergency meeting and from the sister cities along with Talquin Electric. She added they were responsible as Emergency Management fell under the Board. She also felt with the severity they would not turn down the invitation and people needed to know.

Commissioner Morgan reminded everyone a year ago they had the storm Hermine and remembered how well Emergency Management responded to the needs of the County as well as the Administrator and Staff and felt if they would let that happen his time if there were an event, lead and let them know they had confidence in their ability.

Chair Taylor said she agreed but the magnitude was far different from Hermine in what was coming now and her understanding was the devastation could be so devastating and the size of this thing could cover Texas.

Chair Taylor said she had done something that she regretted doing and wanted to correct this publically and putting the County Commissioner comments up front was not smart and asked during her duration as Chair, to please move it back down where it previously was.

CONSENT

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

2. Ratification Memo

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **July 18, 2017-Regular Meeting**
4. **Approval of Signature for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP Program or Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program**
5. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens-SHIP Down Payment and Closing Cost Program**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Beth Kirkland

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Approval and Award of RFQ 17-21 Brownfield Community Wide Assessment Grant for QUC Services to Cardno TBE

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and award of RFQ 17-21 to Cardno for QEC services.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney if he had reviewed everything and he had.

Mr. Presnell said they had only received two bids because this was specialty work.

Commissioner Holt asked the Manager who was the owner of the company and someone in the audience said they were a corporate company and Mr. Presnell said there was an office in Tallahassee

Beth Norman, Cardno, appeared before the Board and said she and Roger Register had worked with the County for many years.

Commissioner Holt asked what the Company did and Ms. Norman said specifically they were an engineering firm but they also did transportation, water resources, brownfield and for this grant they did site assessment for brownfield properties, phase 1 and phase 2 and site redevelopment. Commissioner Holt said they wanted to get as many locals working as possible. She added they would like to do a clean-up grant at the middle school to get asbestos and lead-based paint out, demolish the building and recycle the brick and copper and to do so that would take a clean-up grant and added that would have to be done strategically during the summer. Commissioner Holt asked once they were at second phase, what notification would they use to let people know, maybe CareerSource? Ms. Norman explained the subcontractors have already submitted their bid and they were local subcontractors.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Administrator if this would conflict with other engineering contracts with Preble Rish or DPB and Mr. Presnell said no.

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

7. Approval of Contract between Gadsden County BOCC and DPB Associates for Environmental Services

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for approval of the contract between the Gadsden County BOCC and DPB & Associates as the qualified Environmental Consultant for the CDBG Grant Program.

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

8. Sheriff's Deputies Training Request for Florida SWAT Association Counter Ambush Course

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was seeking funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training, boarding, and per diem for two Sheriff's Deputy Investigators to attend the Florida SWAT Association County Ambush Course on September 14 and 15, 2017 at Escambia County Sheriff's Office Gun Range.

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

9. Medical Examiner's Office

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the contract and rate changes for the Medical Examiner's Office and said each County was required to have morgue services.

Commissioner Hinson said they talked about Florida Statutes but there was nothing attached.

Mr. Weiss pointed out that was the last two pages of the Agenda item.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Morgan said he knew this was required by statutes and asked what happened if they refused to approve it and said basically they were paying for their new office and the contract would increase by 13% next year. He asked if they could contract these services in a different manner or if they were required to use this service.

Mr. Weiss said they had an obligation to pay and in terms of what they had an obligation to pay and was an issue they discussed and he wanted to make sure it was something that was acceptable because of it being such a substantial increase. He said there was a letter sent with the contract that addressed the reason for the increase and was unsure what would happen if this was not approved. Commissioner Morgan recommended that someone speak to them before next year and asked what would keep them from increasing next year.

Chair Taylor asked if this was approved tonight if it gave them approval for additional increases or if they were only approving the 2% increase tonight. Mr. Weiss said there was a schedule and this was a one year contract that included extensions.

Chair Taylor asked if they could put in the motion that their motion was to approve this year only and they would address further increases in their next budget. Mr. Weiss pointed out this was for one year but with automatic extensions unless they exercised non-renewal.

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

10. Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for selection of the Value Adjustment Board members.

Mr. Presnell said the current citizen was unable to serve this year and Commissioner Holt said she was not serving this year as well. Chair Taylor asked Commissioner Morgan if he was willing to serve and he said yes.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT GAY STEFFEN AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

11. Project Azalea Incentive Request

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this item described Project Azalea and recommended the County participate in the state Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund (QTI) program by passage of a Resolution for a 15% local community match.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Mr. Presnell explained there were State funds available to help the company locate and required a local match. He further explained the Town of Havana voted in their last meeting to \$10,000 of the \$40,000 required match and asked the Board, if this deal closes and company moves here, they are asking for \$30,000 match to get the State money.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was in the Town of Havana and Mr. Presnell said it was near to Coastal Lumber Company. Commissioner Viegbesie said it was located at (County Road) 159A and would be using Coastal Lumber raw materials for their product.

Commissioner Morgan asked if Havana had approved \$10,000 and Mr. Presnell said yes. He then asked regarding the \$30,000 from the County if it would be spread over 5 years and Mr. Presnell

said yes, it was a little along as the project progressed. Chair Taylor asked if a funding source had been designated and Mr. Presnell said not yet, it was new territory and assumed they would want to utilize their Economic Development funds and the first year impact was minimal.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious with this, was this part of the formula they had and Mr. Presnell said no. Commissioner Hinson then asked if they made up something because he knew Havana put up 5% and was curious because they did not want to open a gate saying, even though he was for the jobs, they needed to make sure they did what was right and because they had the funding now, and have folks that worked in logging and the majority of the employees do not live in Havana, or with Freightliner Four Star and not against economic development but do it the right way. He said they were saying one thing but the jobs were not coming. He said they were for economic development but the reality was people were not getting jobs around here. He said before the was on the Board, there was Waste Pro and they would not employ anyone from Midway and they are hiring people now. He then said the Board had to set a precedence that it was OK to come here but make an effort to hire locally.

Commissioner Holt said back to what she said, when go look at places they tell you how to do this, they do not have a process in place to give them incentive to hire local people and there was no incentive to make them hire locally.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason brought up Four Star, they said they were going to bring 100 new jobs, then 70, now they were bringing their own employees over and wo;; only hiring five – ten new jobs. He said they needed to tell the truth when they come.

Commissioner Holt said they have to do their due diligence and when mention a company's name, their reputation was at stake. Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make sure locals got the jobs.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt they should vote on whether or not to approve the funding and not identify the funding source because it may be that they...

Commissioner Taylor said he was right, they could not identify the finding source tonight and Commissioner Morgan added they did not want to limit themselves to a specific funding source.

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

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

12. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said there was a Conference call set with the Governor at 7:30 regarding emergency management but they missed it. Chair Taylor asked why she was not informed and Mr. Presnell said she was copied on the email. He said he was asked about donation items for the victims in Texas and they want cash not clothes or tangible items and to go through a reputable organization such as the Red Cross.

Commissioner Holt felt they needed help now and would be more apt to use Red Cross unless there was another one. Mr. Presnell said Salvation Army came up as well.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were asking for personal donations. Chair Taylor said no, she was talking about the Government helping and Commissioner Morgan said no.

Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Morgan agree to individually help. Commissioner Viegbesie and Chair Taylor were in to see if they could find a funding source within the Government to help. Mr. Weiss said they could not use County funds.

Mr. Presnell asked if as the Board's County Administrator, if he needed to purchase food or water as an emergency for here, Mr. Weiss responded they could use County funds for County residents.

Commissioner Hinson said if something happened in another county, other counties would send something there, such as cars, buses, etc. and would still be sending something to another County.

Mr. Weiss said he did not like the idea of sending money to another state and agreed with Commissioner Hinson of assisting with emergencies in certain ways and he could look at other perimeters on how they could help.

Commissioner Holt said since they were televised, they could give a number to accept donations- 850-875-8650. Chair Taylor asked him to take the initiative with other Constitutional Officers for donations.

Mr. Weiss said www.RedCross.org was a good site to donate.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this weekend at Church he was confronted by a citizen by what transpired on county property; someone pull a gun at the Public Works building and asked the County Administrator look into it and nip it in the bud. Mr. Presnell said it had been handled already and no weapon was involved.

Commissioner Holt asked for a flowchart of county contracts with dates and asked it be sent to them so they could follow.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

13. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss wanted to let everyone know regarding the Gretna Racing, the Supreme Court denied the Motion for Rehearing this afternoon and did not know if Gretna Racing attempted to pursue any other avenue legally.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this included the Petition they were collecting to put it back on something and Mr. Weiss knew nothing of that and said there was no petition related to litigation.

Chair Taylor said she did not like the racing and gambling in Florida.

Chair Taylor asked if “the thing” between Williams and Motorola had been resolved. Mr. Weiss said there had been no bid protest filed but had been a Public Records request filed there will be an item on the next agenda. He said he still needed documents from the Commissioners to respond to the Public Records request..

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said Midway had an outstanding week-end that was sponsored by the citizens and they pinned the Chief

Commissioner Holt said regarding the public records request for Motorola, her phone was frozen and broken and she could not get anything off it. Commissioner Morgan and Mr. Weiss said she should be able to contact the carrier and they could get the information and/or go online and get the information.

Receipt and File

14. Death Resolutions

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 15. September 7, 2017-6:00 p.m.-1st Budget Hearing**
- September 18, 2017-6:00 p.m.-2nd Public Budget Hearing**
- September 19, 2017-5:00 p.m.-Census Workshop**
- September 19, 2017-6:00 p.m.-Regular Meeting**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:42 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK