

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY,  
FLORIDA HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:**       **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**  
                  **Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5**  
                  **Eric Hinson, District 2**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3-arrived late**  
                  **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                  **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. **Rev. Gregory Houston, Pastor of St. Matthews Primitive Baptist Church** gave the Invocation and Chair Viegbesie led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was conducted by Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker and everyone was present with the exception of Commissioner Morgan and Chair Viegbesie informed everyone he was on his way.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to pull Item 22 so she could get with the Clerk to come up with options.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood she has tried to make some effort to talk with the Clerk to resolve this matter. Mrs. Jackson said she put Option 1, which was Board direction and she was asked to come back with choices for the Board to vote on. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted clarification because the Clerk indicated at the last meeting he was waiting on Board direction before he could move on anything and she wanted to make sure they were not prolonging this item. Chair Viegbesie said his understanding from his conversation was the Clerk and the County Administrator should meet and determine the options to resolve this issue and that should come before the board to be voted up or down.

Mr. Thomas said he did not set the Administrator’s salary, this was a Board decision and should be between the County Administrator and the County Attorney to come up with something for the Board to approve and then Finance will follow Board direction.

Commissioner Hinson concurred with what the Clerk said and felt they should move forward and get this out of the way tonight. He said he had questions also.

Commissioner Holt said they needed some type of agreement to vote on and they need to wait until there was documentation before them. Chair Viegbesie said if someone made a motion it had to be included in this Agenda but currently there were no options for them to vote up or down or to modify.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THEY HAVE FURTHER DOCUMENTATION TO VOTE ON AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE FOR DISCUSSION AND VOTE.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-2 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION DIED BECAUSE OF THE TIE.**

Commissioner Hinson said he gave direction six weeks ago to the County Administrator to bring in the Resource Officer contract and asked if that could go on the Agenda so it could be discussed. Chair Viegbesie said he understood the sense of urgency but if they discuss this and it was not agendaed, the public would not have a chance to speak.

Commissioner Holt said in order for them to discuss it, they needed to have people from the School Board and the Sheriff's Department present.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to get the ball rolling first. Chair Viegbesie suggested he wait until Commissioner Comments and bring it up at that point.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Plaque Presentation**

**Ken Moneghan, Florida Association of Counties Trust**, appeared before the Board for a brief presentation. He said Gadsden County has been a member of the program since 1989 and was owned and managed by the members of the program. He said the program and the Board was constantly looking at the services and coverages provided to the member counties and were updating as things evolve or change. A plaque was then presented to the Board.

*Commissioner Morgan arrived at 6:18 p.m.*

**2. Recognition of Latresha Peters**

The Board presented Latresha Knox with a Resolution where it was read into the record and then they posed for pictures.

**3. Recognition of Vanessa Betsey**

The Board presented Vanessa Betsey with a Resolution where it was read into the record and they posed for pictures.

**4. Recognition of Major Barkley and the Gadsden County Jail Staff, the Honorable Judge Hobbs, the Honorable Judge Garner and Public Defender Daniel Hogan for their Efforts in Maintaining Low Inmate Population at the Gadsden County Jail**

Commissioner Taylor said they were summoned to the Jail to be informed the Jail was at its lowest population and was below 100 in more than three decades.

Major Barkley had a few words to say and the Resolution was presented to them and pictures were taken.

Judge Barbara Hobbs was presented with a Resolution, had a few words to say and pictures were taken.

Representatives from the Public Defenders' Office appeared and was presented with a Resolution and pictures were taken.

Tameka Chaney appeared before the Board and was presented with a Resolution and pictures were taken.

Chair Viegbesie said he would like to include an update on the Stevens School after the hurricane update.

#### **5. Lobbying Presentation**

Ronald Brisé appeared before the Board and gave a presentation on behalf of the Gunster Lobbying Firm.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 6:47 p.m.*

He mentioned some of his team members said they bring a team approach to the table to representation. He said they would be working with each of the municipalities to serve their priorities. He said they would also partner with the County to make Gadsden Day at the Capitol a success.

*Commissioner Taylor returned 6:51 p.m.*

He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Commissioner Taylor said she was glad to meet them and their references came very high. She asked questions about the new Governor and their relationship.

Mr. Brisé said George Lemieux, their Chairman of the Board of Directors and used to be Chief of Staff for Governor Charlie Crist, was on the transition team and helped and was still helping to shape who would be where within the administration of the current Governor. He said there was a current and active relationship with the current administration. She then asked if they were looking at stronger possibilities this year due to Hurricane Michael or were they at the mercy of the Governor and did he know where he was with vetoing various. Mr. Brisé said as far as the overall budget, it was \$91.3 Billion that he has projected as part of his spending plan for this year. He said they believe the Governor was interested in water, education and in the environment. projects several things Governor interested in-non-traditional approach, supporting infrastructure

Lila Jaber appeared before the Board to address some of Commissioner Taylor's questions. She said they have relationships throughout State Government but important to the Board, they exercise discretion in how they use the relationships and earn their cases on the merits. She said it was their goal to know the County's priorities really well and to know Gadsden County so they could help with the narrative and put their best foot forward. She felt it was also critical that she mention they had agency relationships so when they start looking at appropriations and funding, they have the ability to go to the Department of Environmental Protection as it relates to the water and wastewater projects and to the Department of Economic Opportunity as it relates to the incentive packages and making sure there are champions throughout State Government on behalf of their clients.

Commissioner Hinson disclosed they were at the Sapphire Review a couple of years ago (Economic Development conference) and they talked.

**6. Hurricane Michael Debris Pick-Up Update**

Mrs. Jackson said the next item was the Hurricane Michael Debris pick-up and January 20<sup>th</sup> was the last date for citizens on public roads to put their debris curbside but D & J still have trucks rolling. She said last week they have begun pick-up on private roads and still getting demolition debris.

Chair Viegbesie said he had noticed debris piles on the public right-of-way and was there before they started picking up and asked if they would eventually be picked up. She asked that he provide her with addresses and she would make sure. She said after a road was cleared after January 20<sup>th</sup>, they would not be back down that road.

Commissioner Morgan asked what will they do with debris in the public right of way that was put out after pickup. Mrs. Jackson said if it is not too much, there was a possibility the Public Works might assist. She said it has been well advertised of the approaching deadline. Commissioner Morgan asked the plan to remove debris and would there be a penalty. Mrs. Jackson said previously they had certain times that it would be picked up but they would be picking it up for a short time and had not put that schedule together. She said they would be compensated for all the debris they pick-up through Public Works by FEMA but they were only working with D & J for now.

Commissioner Holt said she and Mrs. Jackson had spoken earlier with people of Emergency Management and did not know if they needed to put in another request because several people could not afford to get debris to the road and they need to sit as a Board to look at this. She said if they look at the debris they have, is there a place it can be taken or would it go to the same site the County does it and if taken to the same site that the debris company takes it to, would the equipment be there to mulch it. She said if they were looking at doing the debris by the County, they did not have the personnel to do their regular job and get the debris. She requested a workshop on this matter.

Mrs. Jackson said with citizens that had not been able to get debris curbside, she has been approached by several volunteer groups that were willing to assist and asked that they contact the County Administrator's Office for assistance at 850-875-8650.

**6a Update on Stevens School**

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Taylor and others had been requesting information on the Stevens School project and since 2008 she had been working with Mrs. Ford and others on getting funding and they were awarded \$500,000, and the school burned and was unable to get the funding. She said Senator Montford and Representative Alexander were here Monday and they were interested in the project. She said they were requesting \$500,000 from the Legislature. She said Senator Montford and Representative Alexander told them \$500,000 was not enough money. She said they thought that during the disaster recovery they could get funding now and had to be in last Friday. She said the Friends of Stevens School had an emergency meeting and they were asked to present and raise the amount of money, got with the County Engineer and had plans drawn up.

Chair Viegbesie suggested this be discussed during the regular meeting and Commissioner Holt said Mrs. Ford had more contact with Florida A & M and she appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan asked where they were on the Agenda and Chair Viegbesie said he had asked to add this at the start of the meeting.

Mrs. Ford said FAMU wants a full partnership with Gadsden County and especially with the School of Architecture and with the School of Science and Research Institute.

Chair Viegbesie asked it to be added to the next agenda.

Commissioner Taylor said she was not made aware of a meeting and there was a collection of people speaking on this project and felt especially the Commissioner from the District should have been made aware of this.

#### **CONSENT**

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

- 7. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-SHIP**
- 8. Approval and Signature for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien SHIP**
- 9. Ratification Memo**
- 10. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. December 4, 2018-Regular Meeting**
  - b. December 18, 2018-Regular Meeting**

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**11. Approval of Resolution No. 2019-001 Amending the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2019-001 and adoption of the SHIP Conflict of Interest Policy.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND THEN WITHDREW HER MOTION.**

Mr. Weiss said there were a few typos, clerical errors and the policy was not as clear maybe as it ought to have been so a few changes were made to it and the item that replaces it was placed at the dais.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this should be tabled and brought back later.

Mr. Weiss said it was just a form, the substance of the document did not change, and he only corrected typos.

Commissioner Morgan said he felt it would be helpful to the public to explain what they were doing here.

Mrs. Jackson said this item had been before them before, and was for Board approval of Resolution 2019-001 and adoption of the SHIP Conflict of Interest Policy. She said it was approved at the last meeting and the Conflict of Interest form was not there and Purvis Gray thought there needed to be one for all applicants.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT WITH ADDITION OF THE CHANGES AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Hurricane Recovery Housing Initiatives SHIP Grant Award**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was requested by Commissioner Taylor at the last meeting to clarify the allocation of the \$201,500. Mrs. Jackson said as stated previously, the dollars are for emergency repairs for Hurricane Michael.

**Suzanne K. Lex, AICP, Growth Management Director**, appeared before Board. She said the State set aside approximately \$5 Million for disaster related recovery efforts, and based upon population and the category level within the disaster, Gadsden County was allocated \$201,500 in addition to the annual SHIP allocation. She said these funds could be used to assist recovery efforts for victims of the disaster for repair and rehabilitation and must meet the same criteria that were set forth on the County's LHAP and SHIP guidelines regarding income and eligibility.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this could be broken down and explained in detail.

Ms. Lex said SHIP was the State Housing Initiative Program that was run by the State and Gadsden County receives an annual allocation of around \$350,000. She said there was certain criteria in the way the County must spend the money in terms of income, eligibility and was set forth in the Housing Plan, which was the LHAP Housing Plan. She said at this time, any money they had unspent from previous years, and clarified that after an audit there were suggestions made for ways to improve the Housing Plan and to insure the program met all State and Federal guidelines. She said they did revisions as recommended by the Auditor and this money at that time was not spent. She said that once they were approved with the revisions, State granted them to be able to take those remaining funds and use them also for disaster recovery. She said they were currently accepting applications, have put it on the website, have made announcements and was their second round of applications for disaster recovery rehabilitation and repair.

Chair Viegbesie suggested one way to get the qualifying criteria out is mail to the churches and let them pass the information on to the members.

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed in past with the qualifications, could a person apply that lives within the city limits and Ms. Lex said yes. Commissioner Hinson then asked for her contact information and it 850-875-7591 or she can be emailed at [slex@gadsdencountyfl.gov](mailto:slex@gadsdencountyfl.gov).

Commissioner Taylor asked if there were previous years where the money had not been spent and she said yes. She asked if those dollars could now be put in a pool and used for emergency housing. Ms. Lex said for disaster related rehabilitation and repairs. She said that item was brought before the Board for approval and the Housing Plan was amended for the ability to take those funds now and use them. Commissioner Taylor asked the total amount of the budget and Ms. Lex said approximately \$800,000-\$900,000; there were some projects they have committed to and they were put some bids out.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the people that were on the list that was kind of approved, was she saying that waiting list would become null and void because they were now looking ones that were damaged by the hurricane. Ms. Lex said they were finding that most that had a need before Hurricane Michael have a greater need now.

Commissioner Taylor asked about mobile homes that were damaged and said there were homes that was damaged before, homes that was damaged during and after the hurricane and asked if they were looking at new houses or what was on the list or a combination.

Ms. Lex said they would be looking at a combination; they were finding people on the list that still had a need and an even greater need after the hurricane. She also clarified in their Housing Plan that they approved, mobile homes were not eligible and was specifically stated.

Chair Viegbesie said to let Ms. Lex send information to the Commissioners and then this could be agendaed and discussed at a later date.

Commissioner Morgan asked how they were determining whether the damages were due to the hurricane and she said due to existing requests, they already have a list and have a professional consultant that was part of this program that was a Home Inspection Specialist and was trained and can identify lack of maintenance versus new damage.

Commissioner Holt wanted it clear that they (the Commissioners) did not select the houses, the Staff would.

**13. Approval of Appointments/Reappointments to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the appointment/reappointments for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council.

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

Mr. Weiss asked if they needed to appoint a member from this Board as well and Commissioner Morgan said he thought Option 1 included the reappointment of Commissioner Holt. Commissioner Taylor said this item only talked about Commissioner Goldwire.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was only for Ms. Goldwire. Mrs. Jackson said she understood that the terms were not up for the other members.

**14. Appointments to the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to appoint Mr. Stan James as Commissioner Gene Morgan's representative to serve on the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated Mr. James for agreeing to serve on this Board and thanked Mr. Harold Bailey for serving.

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

Commissioner Hinson said there are members on that Board that are not showing up and they are unable to form a quorum and hard for them to make a vote. Mrs. Jackson explained there was a meeting earlier today and there was a quorum and it was discussed they wanted to change their meeting to an afternoon.

Commissioner Morgan called for point of order.

Commissioner Hinson asked that an email be sent to all the Board concerning the meetings.

Chair Viegbesie asked that he hold that comment until the County Administrator Updates.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**15. Little Sycamore Road SCRAP-CEI Contract**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to execute the agreement with David H. Melvin, Inc. to provide Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) services for the DFOT funded Little Sycamore Road SCRAP project in the amount of \$108,652.50.

Commissioner Taylor asked how much more they were going to do for Sycamore Road. Mrs. Jackson said it was the same project, just different phases.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board to address Commissioner Taylor's concerns. He said it was designed a year ago and then delays with FDOT and after tonight it should be the end of it.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1.**

Mr. Weiss said this was approved in December and understand they approved a certain amount for CEI services and the amount was not sufficient and it went back to DOT for an additional amount and he wanted them to approve the revised item that was before them that he drafted instead of the one drafted by the contractor.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was any substantive difference and he said yes. He explained what was in the book is the contract proposed by the vendor. He added he was unsure as to why the contract he drafted that they approved in December was not used and was why it was before them and what he suggested they consider.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator when she received the contract that the attorney drafted



that was not included in the Agenda and they have one prepared by the vendor that was included.

She said she was unsure if it was today or the day before and Mr. Weiss said it was November, but with a different number.

Commissioner Hinson asked for an explanation from the Administrator as to why she did not use what they voted on. She said she was not sure she understood. The one before them was just revised either today or yesterday and Commissioner Hinson said it was approved in December. Mr. Weiss explained the contract was the same that was approved by them in December except that the compensation was less on that contract and his understanding when it went to the contractor the amount was not sufficient because there was not a sufficient amount in the budget from DOT and had to be renegotiated and was shy it was back before them. Commissioner Hinson asked the reason because the majority of what she sends out had to go through the attorney before coming to the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said option 1 was to approve the agreement with the negotiated fee proposal and the way he took it was it was the same proposal they had with the increased amount of money that was settled on as the appropriate amount of money, was approved and paid through FDOT. Mr. Weiss said that was correct. Commissioner Morgan asked the issue with approving Option 1. Mr. Weiss said the contract currently attached to their Agenda Item was the contractors' proposed contract whereas the contract they previously approved with a lower number for compensation was the contract he drafted in December. Commissioner Morgan said he was still unclear on the differences and that was neither here nor there; if the attorney tells them to approve what was before them, that is how he would amend his motion to approve this based on the agreement drawn up by the attorney with the current numbers to be paid by FDOT.

Commissioner Holt said she would amend her second. He further stated that this was the item she was going to bring up under Commissioner comments. The Agenda is out two weeks ahead of time and if it had any alterations, it should have already been emailed to them. She said she had down for the attorney to make sure the agenda items with any alterations were given to them before the meeting and it is on the website. She asked the differences in the two contracts. He said for one thing the one on the dais incorporates their request for proposals as well as the grant agreement and holds the contractor to the terms of those documents, which he felt was very important; also includes various protections for the County; a lot of things required under SCRAP agreements; are liability provisions, indemnification and hold harmless provisions. Commissioner Holt asked if there was any communication between him and the Contractor about the changes and he said no, this was approved by them in December.

**Jake Mathis, Melvin Engineering**, appeared before the Board. He said they were the ones that provided the proposal; went through negotiations with Staff and provided a proposal. He said the form of agreement that the attorney has, they could look at tomorrow and sign it and everything will be fine. They just provided their standard proposal that they provide for every other CEI project they do across the panhandle of Florida. He said if there was an agreement that the Attorney wanted to use, they could look it over and be happy to sign, he was sure. Commissioner Holt said they approved this in December. She asked if he saw the contract they approved and he said he had not seen the contract he was talking about. Commissioner Holt said to the attorney, when he looks over, they expect him to hash that out because they don't know the terminology of everything in the contract and the requirements.

Mr. Weiss said he respectfully disagreed with that. Obviously he represented the County and his communication goes thru Administrator; if he is not made aware of or a contract is not forwarded to him, he had no idea it exists; if not asked to review something or communicate with someone, he had no reason to do so. Commissioner Holt said she was not debating that; when he saw the item in the Agenda, did he not think he had not had a chance to look over and send communication to the Manager. He said yes. Commissioner Holt asked if the Manager received it and she said yes, it was either today or yesterday. Commissioner Holt said the item was out for two weeks and was why they were sitting there debating something in a public meeting that could have been taken care of by email.

Chair Viegbesie said if there was that kind of discrepancy between the attorney and administrator, that was something that could have been pulled and re-agenda the item. He said why not approve this item contingent on the revised version of the contract.

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the discussion but was not sure there was a two week window for the attorney to review items. He said there was obviously a mix-up in the agreements and appreciated the candidness and the attorney setting them straight. He felt they should approve the previous document approved with the updated figures contingent upon the Contractor signing off on it.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN RESCINDED HIS MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT RESCINDED HER SECOND.**

Commissioner Taylor said the Contractor had not seen the contract and did not know the terms and to move forward without Melvin having chance to review the contract was asinine. She said there had been some blunders here, they were not pointing fingers and maybe they should table this item and bring back on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Morgan mentioned the information was the same contract previously approved with the exception of new numbers and his motion was contingent upon Melvin reviewing the contract.

Mr. Weiss said this could be approved by the Board and then would need to be approved by the contractor.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT APPROVED BY THE ATTORNEY CONTINGENT UPON MELVIN ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**16. Little Sycamore Road SCRAP-Amendment to Agreement**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an amendment to the original SCOP agreement and associated Resolution to reduce the available budget for the widening and resurfacing of Little Sycamore Road by \$244,164.00.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**17. Adopt-A-Road Program**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board discussion of the Gadsden County Adopt-A-Road Program.

Chair Viegbesie said they need to discuss how they were going to implement this program and with this Program, families and churches can adopt a road and pick up trash.

Commissioner Holt wanted to know from the Administrator if there was a certain department someone should call if they wanted to adopt a road and Mrs. Jackson said Public Works.

Commissioner Morgan said they had half dozen roads in place now and asked how it was working and was told it was working pretty good. Commissioner Morgan said it seems to dissipate and asked how they could keep people involved and strapped from a financial standpoint.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED WHAT THEY WERE APPROVING AND MRS. JACKSON SAID TO BRING BACK.**

**18. Waiver of Interlocal Agreement Fees**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to waive the charges for permit review and inspection services between Gadsden County and the six municipalities.

Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator, after reading the options, were they asking for a contractual fee waiver from some municipalities and was there some that were already getting fee waivers and if there have been, why it was not waived all this while. Mrs. Jackson said she was not sure how three received services without an Interlocal Agreement. Chair Viegbesie asked how some were getting waived and some not.

Mr. Weiss said this was a matter of waiving the building permit fees that were not collected because they were waiving them.

**Suzanne Lex, AICP, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board. She said the Cities they had an agreement with have followed the direction of the Board and were not charging for permit fees for any hurricane related work. For the three they have an Interlocal Agreement with, that Agreement still stands and the County still wants their money every month and they are asking for the County to consider that since they are not collecting money, would be also consider giving a waiver for those same 6 months that we waived our building permit fees of this agreement. With the municipalities with no agreement, the citizens come directly to the County and receive no services from the municipalities.

Commissioner Holt said she knew she was new in the County and asked with three under contract and three not, which worked better. Ms. Lex said it was what the local municipality had the capacity for. They were servicing the customers and each city had a different way of doing it and was the direction they wanted to go.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out 8:35 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking and it said the County will not receive revenue for

services from the municipalities in Interlocal Agreement until April 12, 2019.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:36 p.m.*

Mrs. Jackson said the fiscal impact for all the fees being waived.

*Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 8:37 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson asked what the ball-park figure was and Ms. Lex said she would have to calculate the numbers. Commissioner Hinson said they have missed approximately \$27,000 in fees.

*Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:39 p.m.*

Ms. Lex said they will be cataloging permits granted and no fees were charged and what was missed; through a grant a staff person will assist the building department and that was one of the hobs they will be tasked with.

Commissioner Holt said to Commissioner Hinson he was correct, she heard that also from an individual. Gretna, Midway and Quincy were paying; Havana, Chattahoochee and Greensboro were not paying, and everything was balanced, they may have their own permitting department.

Commissioner Morgan said the original intent of waiving fees was to help citizens; they could not help what contractors do if they charge or not charge. All they can do is put the policy in place for the benefit of citizens.

Commissioner Holt said notice has to be sent out to those cities, they have to do the right thing to waive fees for those three cities and should fees should not be passed onto citizens.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Attorney could look into it where they could talk to the contractors at some capacity because you don't want the citizens robbed.

Commissioner Taylor said they agreed to waive the fee until April 12, after that date would the three municipalities enter into an Interlocal Agreement. The individuals will come directly to the County and pull their own permits. Commissioner Taylor asked what was being waived because they were waiving three anyway, no; when they agreed to waiving fees, thought it was specific was for anyone that received damages from hurricane Michael. They did waive fees for all citizens requesting permits.

Mrs. Jackson said the municipalities were asking that they not be charged because the County was not charging.

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

**19. Reinstatement of Building Permit Fees**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction on whether the permit fee waiver was applicable to all structures.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought if they did not stick to a simple waiver of fees, there will be confusion.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Morgan.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE OPTION 2 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**20. Award of Bid No. 18-18 for Security Guard Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award Bid No. 18-18 to provide Security Guard services for the Edward J. Butler Government Complex; Social Security Office at the Gadsden County Health Department and the Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee Libraries.

Commissioner Hinson said they need a recommendation from the County Administrator first and Mrs. Jackson said there were three bidders and a 20 cent difference in rates. Even though the lowest bidder was in Miami and the two other companies were local, even though they were higher, they did not have to go with the lowest bid because it was not a commodity, it was a service. Mr. Weiss said he understood a solicitation was issued and was based on price, did not matter if commodity or service. They were looking at the invitation to bid and had to show they were qualified to provide the service once that was done, everyone is in the same boat and they have to take the lowest price. He said they were required to take the lowest bid under their procurement policy. He said they don't have a local preference in their Procurement Policy and they cannot use that. If they had additional criteria that were legitimate, then they could evaluate it based on more criteria that was in their (inaudible).

Chair Viegbesie said he saw the Administrator gave them option 3 and his question was, did all three vendors meet all of the qualifications needed to provide the services and she said yes. He said as an economist, 20 cents was the difference between the local and one that was further south; 20 cent would create jobs for those local if that was the one they went with and felt it was worth more than 20 cents difference and if there was no specific recommendation from the Administrator, in looking at those and other positive impacts that keeping it local would have in the community, for 20 cents, he would lean towards IFW Security that was local in Quincy.

Mr. Weiss said their Procurement Policy said they have to use the lowest bid.

Commissioner Morgan said the contract provides for a 30 day standard out clause built into that for termination. He then said the only other option was to award or reject all bids.

Commissioner Hinson said just somethings he saw that they should add and thought they should reject all bids.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked when their contract would run out and Mrs. Jackson said they have been doing month to month with IFW and Barkley Security.

Commissioner Taylor disclosed that one reached out to her and she said stated she could not state a position.

Commissioner Hinson said he needed to disclose he had two reach out as well and told them the same thing.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR ASKED IF THEY HAD TO HAVE GROUNDS TO REJECT BIDS AND THE ATTORNEY SAID IT WAS PRETTY BROAD. COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SOME OF THE ITEMS HE WANTED TO ADDRESS IN THE QUALIFICATIONS. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE TO REJECT THE BIDS.**

**21. Appointments to the Tourist Development Council**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for appointment of two citizens to the Tourist Development Council for staggered terms if four years.

Mr. Weiss explained they currently have two tax collectors and both could be tax collectors but one must be a tax collector.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT NICK BHACKTA AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS APPOINTMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson nominated Anthony Lombardo and Commissioner Taylor made the second.

Commissioner Holt nominated Penny O'Connell and Chair Viegbesie made the second. Commissioner Morgan asked if a second was necessary and then asked if the nomination met the requirements. Mr. Weiss said it appeared they did.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she looked at Ms. O'Connell, she works for the Gadsden County Times and should help promote tourism for the County. Commissioner Hinson said he felt they should have a space for a media person on Board and maybe they could add another space. He was told they could not do that.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE FOR ANTHONY LOMBARDO.**

<b>COMMISSIONER HOLT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER HINSON</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER TAYLOR</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>COMMISSIONER MORGAN</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>CHAIR VIEGBESIE</b>	<b>NO</b>

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR NOMINATED PENNY O'CONNELL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS NOMINATION.**

**22. Reimbursement of Overtime Pay**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of reimbursement of the overtime funds paid to the County Administrator after Hurricane Michael.

Commissioner Morgan recommended since there were no specific choices or options to consider, letting the County Administrator speak with the Chair with two viable options she can live with and then he could discuss it with Clerk and then bring back to the Board for them to consider from that point. He said if that was agreed upon, he would motion to table the item until that point.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Taylor said they may want to include, whole idea tonight was to get directions from the Board so the Clerk would have specifics given so they could document. She said Commissioner Morgan has directed the Chair to speak with the Administrator and come up with a couple of options and hoped the Chair would also speak with the Clerk also. She said it had to be agreed upon on all terms. She said she wanted to make sure that the Clerk was in agreement and wanted it on the 19<sup>th</sup> Agenda if possible.

Chair Viegbesie said that was the direction on how they could get to the bottom and get this item resolved.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING TO ENABLE THE CHAIR TO MEET WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO COME UP WITH TWO OPTIONS FOR REPAYMENT AND THE CHAIR TO MEET WITH THE CLERK TO DISCUSS THE REPAYMENT PLAN AND UPON ACCEPTANCE OF THE CLERK TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**23. Updates**

Mr. Thomas said it had been a long night. He said there were a few things felt left hanging as it related to money and the Indigent Tax. But first the Discretionary Sales Tax, he said they passed a budget in which there was a distribution of 1/3, 1/3, and 1/3 of the tax. He said an Ordinance was presented to them to codify that and they either tabled or did not pass it and puts them in a difficult position. He said they were going to put one-third in the EMS fund for the Ambulance, they did not budget a General Fund transfer and started the fiscal year with the Ambulance fund with \$250,000 negative cash. He said from Finance's perspective, a budget is a legal document, there is a negative cash situation. He said they have to start or he will have to come to them to do something immediately. He said they could start putting one-third in the EMS fund; they were still about \$22,000 negative cash. He said the Collections were off to a slow start but has improved significantly. He said he believed if the projectory continues, the collections may be enough in the future to almost sustain the operations.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out 9:27 p.m.*

He said if they were not going to carry this out, they need to let Finance know. He said they were recommending they pass the one-third, one-third, one-third Ordinance for one year only and if the projections work out with collections being up, and may have a nice fund balance. He said that also during the budget process, it was mentioned there was over \$1.2 Million in the Fire fund and in the 2019 budget they appropriated \$942,000 of that. He said once the money is spent, in the future, they will need to go back to one-half, one-half. He said for this fiscal year he thought they

needed to do one-third, one-third, one-third. He said based on the size with the ambulance collections, that would be significantly improved and they may not need funds from the Discretionary Sales tax.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 9:30 p.m.*

### **Indigent Sales Tax**

He said he knew they were supposed to meet with the Hospital Board and they have proposed to give back money they are receiving, and based on what he just told them about the Ambulance service, they may not need that money. He said in addition, the voters thought that money was to go to the Hospital anyway and if they allow CRMC to give that money back, it may take away any incentive or pressure on them to expand services to indigent patients. He continued and said about five years ago when they extended the contract, there was a slight negotiation on dividends and interest from the Trust. He said that change was made five years ago and now they have \$1.23 Million that can be used toward future build-out of the hospital. He said this money could only be used for hospital, major repairs, potential build-out, and equipment.

### **Paving Fund**

He said there had not been much paving the last fiscal year and they still have remaining \$1.20 Million in the fund and were still paying a debt service on the money. He said there was another proposed Ordinance, on the Emergency Repair Ordinance, all the Clerk's office wanted and felt the County needed was a Statement of Public Purpose to use those funds for that reason to protect the Board in the event it was ever challenged and it was up to the Board to decide the procedures. He said they felt upon further review whenever there were issues and questions about the authority to spend money; it was safer to go with the Ordinance.

He said they talked about the General Fund Balance so much and did not want to harp on it, for the record they knew it was down about \$3 Million since its peak about five years ago. It said it could easily be reversed through conservative revenue numbers, not appropriating Fund Balance by building their budget on 95% of revenue. He said if they did that, their General Fund Balance would automatically go up.

Chair Viegbesie thanked him and said they were given quite a bit of information that they needed to digest to make them more fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Holt asked if he would be willing to sit down in a workshop and he said yes.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

### **24. Updates**

Mrs. Jackson gave praises to Staff and said they were moving and shaking in a lot of areas; she was proud of collections of EMS and said morale was high at that Department.

She said there were some changes made in Public Works, Interim is Fredigas McNealy and Allen Meeks is in charge of Fleet and Facilities.

She said they were saving money like never before.



She said there was a request for a Proclamation for Florida Economic Development Week and was requested by Beth Kirkland for February 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

**UPON MOTION BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Mrs. Jackson said Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> is Media day for the Crappie Tournament and the tournament will be February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup> is the Senior Services workshop, a joint meeting with BOCC at 4:30 in Commission Chambers.

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. is the Private Road Workshop.

She said the March 5<sup>th</sup> BOCC meeting is cancelled due to the NACo Annual Conference.

March 20<sup>th</sup> is Gadsden County Day at the Capitol, more information will be forthcoming but asked they plan to spend day and there will be a Reception that night.

She said insurance dollars were coming in apparently because they have over 100 active permits. She said they have two fulltime building officials; 1 electrical inspector; 1 part-time building official that is inspecting; and some additional staff given to them from CareerSource Capital Region. She said they received a grant to put displaced people due to hurricane Michael to work.

They are currently advertising for the Assistant County Administrator position, have the Public works Director position and the Building Official position close this week and interviews will be done next week and will be making a hire.

Commissioner Holt said she will not be attending the NACo Conference.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **25. Updates**

Mr. Weiss said he was glad the Clerk brought up issues about the Hospital and thought they would be moving forward and will be meeting with the Clerk.

He said he appreciate and share frustration with changes made to contracts and policies after publication, he did not mean to point fingers and want to make sure there is a good working relationship with the Administrator. He said he will get together with her.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were going to look at any changes with the CRMC contract, will there be time to do so before the deadline. He said if they do not send notice of non-renewal by May 30th, it will automatically renew. Commissioner Holt said they need to have workshop regarding this matter. Commissioner Holt said they met in November and it was now February and Mr. Glazer had not gotten back with the Board yet.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought Mr. Glazer has been in meetings and was progressing regarding this matter.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

#### **26. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

##### **Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for their five hour patience.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 9:48 p.m.*

He said they had approximately twenty-two items on the Agenda in addition to some that were added.

##### **Resource Officers**

He said two or three meetings ago he asked this be brought up and Board agreed but it had not yet been placed on the Agenda. He said at the next meeting he was requesting it be placed on the Agenda and have the Superintendent (or his staff) and the Sheriff present. He said there were three schools that have no resource officer.

Chair Viegbesie said he did not think that could easily go on next agenda and asked what action the Commissioner wanted. Commissioner Hinson said the proposal was sent to the County Administrator on November 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator to make sure that item was on the February 19<sup>th</sup> Agenda. Chair Viegbesie also asked Commissioner Hinson to speak with the Administrator regarding the action options and Commissioner Hinson said the Sheriff had done that, all she had to do was look at the email. Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator why the information had not been shared with the Commissioners if she had received it. She responded that she does not remember receiving the information but had heard him ask for an item. She said the only information she had received was from the Sheriff Association's attorney stating it was not the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office to provide resource officers at the school. She said she had no problem in bringing back an Agenda item; she just needed to know the options to place on the item.

##### **Homeless Facility**

He said he knew they were strapped for cash but could they have dialogue and at least talk about it and discuss it.

##### **Brickyard Road and High Bridge Road**

He said there have been several deaths the last few years and know the roads would qualify for grants.

**Justin Ford, Dewberry/Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board and said they requested DOT approximately four years ago and was selected for funding by DOT and was currently being designed by DOT and was being done in-house. He said the design was underway and was probably close to 90% complete. He said he met with DOT last week and that project came up and was his understanding that the construction component was moving forward in August of this year but was 100% in DOT's hands.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly, he looked at the road projects and the PD&E was almost completed.

He said as of now, the County had two full-time Building inspectors and Mrs. Jackson said there were two full-time inspectors, one part-time; one part-time electrical inspector and two more permit techs. Commissioner Hinson asked if they were full-time and worked for the County and Mrs. Jackson said contractors.

He said they needed to figure out a way to bring the Summer Youth jobs back.

*Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 10:02 p.m.*

He said to him it was a reinvestment back into the community.

*Commissioner Taylor returned at 10:03 p.m.*

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she was told by a contractor that another utility company was helping to remove trees off homes and thought they should reach out to the utility company to see if they could be of help. She asked the Administrator to speak with Talquin concerning this matter.

She said she has been talking with people about having a Post Hurricane Michael event and has talked with City of Quincy about using the Amphitheater and have it open to the public. She said maybe some businesses or companies might want to sponsor it.

Chair Viegbesie said if the next agenda was not too long, maybe it could be added for discussion only.

She said she checked with other Counties and checked with the Association of Counties and asked how they handled hourly and salaried employees in Administration during disasters and emergencies and was told some pay them.

She said she asked the Veterans Director if there was something the VA was doing to help veterans during the hurricane and asked the Administrator to look into that.

She said she wanted them to go back to people answering the phones and not use the automated service.

Chair Viegbesie said on the automated phone service, he differed with her, everywhere was using that now.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said they were told by the Administrator they have full-time inspectors and that was not a true statement; they have contractual inspectors. Mrs. Jackson said they have contractual inspectors that are working eight hour days. Commissioner Taylor asked who

approved the contract, did it come before Board. Mrs. Jackson said she spoke with the attorney, and when it concerns the Building Official position, they do not have a Building Department without someone with a Building Official license and to that extent there was a provision in their policy where in an emergency, procurement can happen and this was the only company that could do it with the notice they had. She said it would come before the Board at the next meeting, there was not an Agenda item ready for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to make sure the information she was sharing with the Board was clear and concise otherwise it was considered insubordination when saying they have full-time employees and actually have contractual services as there was a difference.

Commissioner Taylor asked if anyone at Public Works was LAP certified. Justin Ford reappeared before the Board and said people were not certified, the Counties were. Commissioner Taylor said she was told because of the LAP certifications they would not be able to get funding and wanted clarification.

Sand

She said she understood there was a hold on dirt. **Fredigas McNealy, Interim Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board and said there was a waiting list on ditch dirt that went back to 2013.

Commissioner Taylor said they went through an embarrassing moment tonight because of lack of communication; even though the contract was not in the packet, the contract was on the dais, and they approved a contract where the company had yet to see it. It could have waited a couple of weeks to let the company look at it. She said it did not look good and was not professional.

She said she heard about all the contracts and hiring but there was not enough funding to give 70 children jobs during the summer but they were hiring 2 ½ contractors when they usually have 1 or 2, the secretaries have secretaries; two or three raises being given in the middle of the year and she thought the Clerk sent that.

Mrs. Jackson said no, she sent that also, she said she did a Public Records Request and there were not raises.

Commissioner Taylor said if they were being told there was an issue on funding, why is there not a moratorium on hiring. She said the Chair said at one meeting they were only replacing positions or people in positions that were let go and that was not quite true, she said positions were being hired outside of what was being let go.

**Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**

Chair Viegbesie said it had been a long night.

Chair Viegbesie said there were going to be events and days he may not be present as Chair and will be reaching put through the Administrator for her to chair.

He asked for two Resolutions; one to congratulate Mt. Hosea Missionary Baptist Church on their 100<sup>th</sup> year.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR MT. HOSEA MISSIONARY BAPTIST**

**CHURCH AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNER SONYA HINES-HALL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 10:25 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt said she was happy to call the County and get a response, just wanted to make sure to get a response.

She said the event she mentioned was a fundraiser event to help people and this Board should be pro-active to help people in these events.

**Receipt and File**

**27. January 10, 2019 Invoice from Ausley McMullen**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**28. February 19, 2019-Regular Meeting**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:26 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair  
Board of County Commission**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**