

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 2, 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
Brenda Holt, District 4
Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to mute their phones and stand for the Invocation.

Rev. Barry Cottle, First Baptist Church, Chattahoochee, FL gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:01 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda and Mr. Lawson asked to pull Item 6.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a need to amend the Agenda because of the replacement of Item 7 and Chair Viegbesie stated that item was on the agenda, it just replacing what was there. Ms. Minnis said the Agenda has to be advertised; they could change information at the meeting that was not actually publicized as long as the Agenda item was there and no harm if Board wanted to do a second amendment. Commissioner Morgan stated he had no problem in amending the Motion. Commissioner Holt said she had no problem but did not want to start precedence.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Chair Viegbesie asked that the presenters keep their presentation to 5 minutes because they had several presenters to speak this evening.

1. Census Briefing

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:08 p.m.

Evelin Ramirez, Partnership Specialist, United States Census, appeared before the Board and explained the benefits and goals of the Census. She also said the census would be hiring temporary help.

Commissioner Hinson said this was important and if she wished, she could speak little longer. She said she actually lived in Leon County and was available to come back at a later date.

Commissioner Holt said other counties have already set up a Complete Count Committee.

2. Mobile Communications Update

Debbie Giles, Mobile Communication, appeared before the Board to give an update on the communication equipment. She said they were looking at have everything up and running by the end of the year.

Commissioner Holt asked if there would be a generator at that tower and Mrs. Giles said yes, the County will be providing generators at each site and will be diesel and will have automatic transfer switches. She said they will need to be tested every so often.

Commissioners Morgan thanked her for the update. He reminded the Commissioners this was a major project that was ongoing for the past several months and appreciated the leadership of her team and how it had rolled out in the last few months.

Commissioner Taylor asked about the diesel generators and Mrs. Giles addressed her questions.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 6:39 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 6:41 p.m.

3. Economic Development Strategies

Beth Cicchetti, CEED, Executive Director of GCDC, appeared before the Board and gave an update. She said she would like to build on the marketing they were investing in and were working with CareerSource on the Florida Georgia Workforce alliance because employers wanted to know that the entire region was serving them not just one specific governmental jurisdiction. She mentioned two publications the County was in and will continue to be on NPR and WFSU.

Commissioner Holt said if they did nothing else, they need to take advantage of trips. She said she went to Pascagoula and toured businesses and asked what they might be needed that they could not get. She told them we had access to ship to them via I-10, Highway 98, Highway 90 and CSX Railroad ran directly through there and the gentleman told her that when the roads were shut down the railroads kept running. He also said if there were an opportunity to work together, manufacturing the needed lists could be done anywhere around the gulf and could get to them in a couple of hours compared to everywhere else where they would have to ship or fly it in. She said this was an economic opportunity. He also told her they had a need for welders and started at little over \$100,000/year. She said there was a direct pipeline and the ability if they were able to work with the School System, because they start training at 10th grade. She said if they could pull this together and work together with the School System, the employment level would go up. She

said there was a new industry here and asked if they have done any work with the marijuana industry and looked at any of the economic engines there and Mrs. Cicchetti said yes.

Mrs. Cicchetti said they were part of the upcoming hiring fair and if allowed, Ms. Carter Palmer Smith would speak on that.

Commissioner Taylor said she was concerned with the strategy in place with how they were going to help with the recovery through or with economics being a fore front item. She said they were hearing a lot about housing and replacing some of the municipalities' losses and she was concerned with what strategies that would go in place to help recover and build on economic development using some of those dollars that were coming from through the State. She said she was going to mention to the Interim asked if could get both economic development engines involved, the Chamber and GCDC, in finding out if there were opportunities that could be capitalized off the disaster recovery process coming that could help in the economy. She asked if they were maximizing their efforts in using their existing assets they had in the County, the lake, antique shops and mining in the County. She also asked what the engines were doing to transform the County globally.

Chair Viegbesie said one concern she expressed was one he was going to make regarding visibility.

Carter Palmer Smith, CareerSource Region, appeared before the Board to give a report. Gadsden County Hiring Fair will be held August 7th at Florida Public Safety Institute.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out 7: 18 p.m.

She said there were fourteen companies registered to date to be there. CareerSource has been working with Trulieve over the past year and helped them with recruitments and hiring of a couple hundred career seekers in the region.

Commissioner Holt asked about industrial certification programs at the high schools for juniors and seniors.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 7:20 p.m.

She also said she went to a location near Tennessee and that was what they did and everyone had the same software on their phone and when a position became available with a particular certification, it automatically notified them. She said she also expected the Chamber to be here to give a presentation and if they were going to be funded, they should be present to report.

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for the report.

CONSENT

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

- 4. Ratification Memo**
- 5. Approval of Minutes**

a. May 7, 2019-Regular Meeting

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Shellman, 901 Circle Drive, Havana, FL appeared before the Board. He said he was here regarding loud music and profanity that is going on just North of Havana. He called Havana Police Department, they referred him to the County, he called the Sheriff's Department, they referred him to Commissioner Hinson, and Commissioner Hinson invited him to a meeting where he was introduced to the Sheriff who handed him off to a Major. Since that time, there was another event at the Old Jerusalem Baptist Church, was told there was a permit and the event was to end at 7:30; at 8:00 p.m. he called the Sheriff's Department and was put in contact with Major Barkley and was told the event was ending at 8:00, at 9:00 he called again standing in his front yard and reported hearing profanity, racial slurs and have small children in his home. He filed a police report Monday Morning as instructed by Major Barkley. He called Wednesday to check on it and was told it was lost. He said he kept a copy of it and sent it to Commissioner Hinson and Major Barkley. He was told there would be a meeting the past Thursday at the Library in Havana with the property owner and have not heard a resolution of how he could stop the profanity and it was suggested he come appear before the Board.

Chair Viegbesie said he was speaking of events that were taking place at the Old Northside High School and Old Jerusalem Baptist Church next door. He asked that he continue to work with Commissioner Hinson and the Interim Administrator and they get in touch with the organizers of the events so they understand the concerns of the citizens of the surrounding area. Chair Viegbesie asked that Mr. Lawson work with Commissioner Hinson to rectify this matter.

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with Mr. Shellman and with whom he thought was the producer of the events.

Commissioner Morgan thanked him for appearing and said he had received several calls regarding this and have reached out to the Administrator. He knew he had been proactive in communicating with some local folks over there in the area and the issue was two-prong and hoped this would have an end date on how it was addressed. He said they have someone before them that has gone through the proper channels and still getting pushed to the next person and It needs to be addressed and if events are happening without proper permitting going on due to the size of crowds attending, that also needs to be looked into.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Shellman how close he was to the events.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:33 p.m.

Mr. Shellman said he was less than a mile from the events and the performer did not get there until 9:00 p.m.; at 10:00 p.m. they turned their televisions on to drown out the noise so they could go to bed.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:34 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie assured him they would look into the matter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Approval of use of the Language Line Solutions service through the State of Florida Contract Number 90121702-17-ACS

Item Pulled

7. Approval of Millage Rate for TRIM Notification and Set the Date, Time and Place for the Public Hearings to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Gadsden County Budget

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the millage rate for the TRIM notification and to establish the September budget adoption public hearing dates.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney If they set a rate and decided to change the rate, would that pose problem? Mrs. Minnis said they were approving the tentative.

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

8. Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members

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

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER MORGAN AS THE COMMISSIONERS AND GAY STEFFEN AS THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY REPRESENTATIVE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED BUT SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO SERVE.

9. Approval to Utilize County Law Enforcement Funds to Assist with the Cost of the Seventh Annual Rural County Summit

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to utilize County Law Enforcement Training Funds to assist with the cost of the 7th Annual Rural County Summit that was held June 26-June 28.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A COMMENT.

Commissioner Holt said this was a County sponsored event, whether it was Emergency Management or County Commission, she mentioned to the Sheriff, it should be part of their agenda, It was what they do and what they pay for and they need to make sure their logo and everything is upfront on this item, should be known that the County Commission sponsors the Emergency Management and asked the Interim Administrator make a note of that. She said the reason she asked for that was their funding from FEMA and everywhere else in Emergency Management goes by County, it did not go by any other organization. In order for the Sheriff to

get their funding, it had to come through a County and their logo should have been on the Agenda. She asked that the Interim Administrator mention that to the Sheriff since they own the Emergency Management.

Commissioner Taylor said this item gave her heartburn because most come before the event and this came afterward. She wanted it echoed to the Department of a job well done but not the way it should have been done on requesting funding from the Board. She asked Mr. Lawson if he was aware prior to the event of the request for funding and he said yes, it was brought to him at the last minute. Chair Viegbesie said he told the Sheriff it was not fair to the fellow Commissioners to not have time to review the item before the meeting. He also said he was going on record saying he told the Sheriff that the item needs to be submitted in a timely manner for the next event prior to the event.

Commissioner Morgan said not only was this something locally, it was a program recognized throughout the State and the Country. He said the dollars for this was coming from the proper funds and the only issue he had was the fact they were approving something after the fact.

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

10. Commission Appointment/Reappointment to Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was to appoint/reappoint one Commissioner to serve on the Committee to oversee the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds for the Gadsden County Jail for the provision of inmate programs and services.

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

11. Approval of Public Works Mosquito Control Budget FY 2019/20

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the annual Mosquito Control Budget FY 2019-20.

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

12. Approval of Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Melvin Lowe

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Melvin Lowe for Hardaway Highway from Bonnie Hill Road to Lincoln Drive in District 3.

Commissioner Morgan said he knew them and the Lowes' were already involved in Chattahoochee.

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

13. Appointment to the Tourist Development Council

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to appoint two citizens to

serve on the Tourist Development Council.

Commissioner Holt asked if this came before TDC and was told no because the Board has to appoint the members. Commissioner Holt said the reason she asked if a person was serving on the Board, an activity could not come before them, for instance, if a person was on Main Street and Main Street had an activity they wanted funds from the TDC, she was not sure if they could be on the Board and get funds. Olivia Smith said the County Attorney was asked about that, Commissioner Holt said if it was not a written response, it did not count, and Ms. Smith said he felt that it would not be a conflict. Commissioner Holt asked if that would not abstain them from voting and Ms. Mennis replied documentation had to be submitted as to why it was felt there was a conflict and was limited times when could actually abstain. As far as TDC members, she was unsure. Commissioner Holt asked if it was needed now and Ms. Smith said there was no quorum without this. Commissioner Holt asked when the next meeting was and Ms. Smith responded July 22nd.

Mr. Lawson asked if the Board wanted to appoint the Tax Collector and wait on the other appointment.

Commissioner Morgan said they have gotten verbal approval from the attorney it would be proper to do that, they have qualified people that have expressed an interest in serving, two openings that need to be appointed; they are not meeting later in the month...

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney again what she said.

Ms. Mennis said she did not know the answer to this question because she was not asked this question. She was dealing with if the Board could abstain or not and if so, what they would have to do to do so, as far as TDC, she was unsure about that Board.

Commissioner Taylor said she was unsure if people that submitted their names knew they would be unable to apply for funding and they need to be made aware of that and given a chance to withdraw their names if they wish to.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Smith if she spoke with the attorney about conflicts and she said no, she spoke with them and they still wish to serve.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT JOHN GARCIA AS TAX COLLECTOR AND ANTHONY LOMBARDO AS PERSON OF INTEREST AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Taylor felt they needed to wait and wanted more information.

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

CLERK OF COURT

14. Updates

Mr. Thomas gave an update on the Hospital Endowment Trust. He said in 2010 they took out \$3.2

to buy equipment for the hospital and the Trust is now valued at \$9.4 Million and in addition to that have paid out dividends and interests totaled about \$10.5 Million in total assets. He said the Trust was totally restored and in addition the dividends and interests could be used for the benefit of the hospital for major upkeep. Commissioner Holt made a compelling argument at the last meeting about beds and that was potentially one of the things could be used for in the negotiations. Commissioner Morgan said he could not hear him and the Clerk said the dividends and interests was money that went into their account and was monies they did not have to go into the Trust to get; they receive in distributions and was available for their use **ONLY** for hospital use for major upkeep and as they go into negotiations with CRMC, wanted them informed of assets they had to make improvements to the hospital and the funds were available for the hospital for improvements to the hospital.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she brought the argument up was during the hurricane both hospitals filled up in Leon County and there was no more space available. She said they need to look at how they could at least use triage if needed. She said it was a warning with Hurricane Michael.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

15. Updates

Mr. Lawson gave some reminders:

Tomorrow was the Veteran's Appreciation picnic at the Courthouse from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.;

The second BOCC meeting on July 16th meeting will be cancelled;

There is a Budget Workshop scheduled for July 18th at 4:00 p.m.;

Chair Viegbesie also reminded everyone about the Career Hiring Fair scheduled for August 7th that was mentioned.

Commissioner Taylor said she contacted his office yesterday about the clean-up around the parks and he said it should be completed by now. She said they might want to look at that being routine especially during the months when families frequent the parks. Mr. Lawson said it was scheduled but they would them give more attention during special events.

She said she had asked earlier and wanted the Attorney's contract put on the Agenda along with CBOR.

Cutting Grass

She said they were not keeping up with the schedule and understood it was that season but if there was any extra funding to help catch up now.

Hospital

She had to take a client this past weekend and said they need to look at what happens in the evening in the area where people are waiting and where they enter into the Emergency Room and corridor. It has nothing to do with staff and they need to see what needs to be done.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to look at lighting at the hospital as well.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Lawson for his efforts as Interim. His question was about the replacement for the permanent Administrator and asked about the timeline. Mr. Lawson said they were advertising and the position closes July 12th. He said they have received applications and he could give a better update at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could investigate the salary from other Counties.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out 8:18 p.m.

Mr. Lawson said he recently found out the County initiated a salary survey.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:19 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said Mr. Lawson had a good workshop on hurricane recovery and they need to have a check-off list. She said District 3 had a road affected after the hurricane as a side effect because of the trucks travelling carrying chips. She said there was still a need for two more building inspectors and two more Housing people. They need people to process the paperwork and the currently have only one person working in that Department.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Clerk about the disaster funding coming, would he not be CFO over funding? They would approve how the money would be spent but he would handle the distribution and documentation. Mr. Thomas said any money the Board of County Commissioners receives the Clerk would handle in terms of Treasurer and cutting checks and making sure of documentation but they decide how it is spent just like always. He said the Board would submit all the requests for reimbursements of monies spent, in terms of cutting checks, the Clerk's Office would make sure that all documentation that is needed to disburse checks was there.

Commissioner Holt asked to clarify because this was a serious subject. She said there were people shaking their head that it did not work this way. He would not get that money and if he got that money and they did not have the documentation to justify it, even though they may fill it out incorrectly and spent it incorrectly, then they were held accountable, not him, he just checked out what was turned in to him. It was what they did that was the concern and was why the people were there said what they must do. She said they were held liable for that money.

Mr. Thomas said he agreed with that also, there is a Statute that basically said County Commissioners were liable and Commissioner Holt said the experts also said the people needed to help them.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

16. Updates

Ms. Mennis said she had nothing to update.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

17. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked to have the Dean of Agriculture of FAMU to come speak.

He said they had spoken briefly about the Permits and hoped it was under wraps now.

He also noticed they were cutting areas but were leaving a lot of debris on the ground and asked if there was a blower that could be used and could they go further back to the poles.

He said he saw large items in the Hampton Heights area in the ditches.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan thanked Ms. Minnis for being here.

He said Mr. Spellman came before them with a noise issue and asked if it was a policy issue, they needed to address it.

Secondly, the need to hire a permanent Administrator and the need to come together and have the next step ready to go.

He commended staff for helping him out with issues in Chattahoochee and along with Code Enforcement and wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. He invited everyone to the western part of the County to enjoy the fireworks and other festivities there.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked about the timing on the fireworks in Chattahoochee and Greensboro and he said as with every year, around dark.

Commissioner Morgan left at 8:38 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said in the past there was a campaign to take trash to the dump and they need to revisit that because trash is being placed on the ground and everywhere else.

She said she was seeing bills from Mr. Glazer and have not received an update from him regarding the hospital negotiations. Mr. Lawson said he has been working with CRMC on bringing an update to the board.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR REV. EDDIE ALLEN, JR. AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor had no updates.

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

Chair Viegbesie wished everyone a happy Fourth.

Receipt and File

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
July 2, 2019 – Regular Meeting

18. **City of Quincy Annexation Letter**
Ausley McMullen May 8, 2019 Invoice
Ausley McMullen June 12, 2019 Invoice

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 18, 2019-Budget Meeting
August 6, 2019-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:43 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk