

AT A SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR  
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 15, 2019 AT  
4:00 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 1  
Gene Morgan, District 3 (appeared by phone initially)  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. and asked everyone to stand for the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

He stated for the record, Commissioner Morgan was on the phone and was unable, due to a prior commitment, to be here physically.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at 4:02 p.m.*

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

Chairman Viegbesie asked the citizens to restrict comments to 3-minutes. He said all the Speaker Forms he saw were for Non-Profits and asked them to wait until they got to that portion of the Agenda.

There were no speakers for non-agenda items.

**Tony Lombardo, 312 NW 1<sup>st</sup> St., Havana, FL**

**Abby Edwards, 1204 Miccosukee, Rd., Tallahassee, FL**

**Diana Bixler, 1204 Miccosukee, Rd., Tallahassee, FL**

**Pam Irwin, 1204 Miccosukee, Rd., Tallahassee, FL**

**John Mahoney, M.D., 1204 Miccosukee, Rd., Tallahassee, FL**

**Nick Maddox, 3987 Bobbin Brook Circle, BGCBF Funding,**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Introduction and Summary Highlights**

Mr. Lawson said they had the draft Budget before them and hoped they made decisions to help finalize the process prior to the first public hearing in September. He stated they had presented a draft balanced budget of the revenues and expenditures. He further stated they had requested,

in order to get to this point, that each County department as well as all of the Constitutionals cut their budget by 5%. That was reflected in what was being reviewed. He requested any changes the Board would like to make in any of the recommendations be done tonight if so desired. He stated there were worksheets presented for each member to decide whether they wanted to add, subtract, or leave as is all of the recommendations and they will move forward. At this point, before discussion was had, it was time to hear from the non-profits unless there were questions.

Chairman Viegbesie asked the Commissioners if there were any questions, and there were none.

## 2. **Non-Profit/Human Services Community Organizations FY20 Budget Requests**

### **Abby Edwards, 1204 Miccosukee, Rd., Tallahassee, FL –Gadsden County WE Care Case Manager.**

She stated she receives referrals from Primary Care Physicians who have adult Gadsden County Patients who have a diagnosis or potential diagnosis that goes beyond Primary Care. She explained the services they provide to the citizens in Gadsden County and had one of their former patients with her and explained the patient's case to the Board. She stated that she was just one story and there were many others.

**Diana Bixler, 1204 Miccosukee, Rd., Tallahassee, FL-We Care Program Coordinator,** appeared before the Board and said she worked with the We Care budget and applying for the grants necessary to fund the program in the Counties they serve. She stated next to Leon County, Gadsden County generated more We Care network referrals and the highest valued services provided but We Care Network received minimal funding to coordinate that health care. She stated Gadsden County was ranked 63 out of 67 for Florida Health outcomes and 16% of the residents in Gadsden County were uninsured. In fiscal year 2018/19 they served 470 Gadsden County patients out of a total of 2056 in all four Counties that We Care served and they coordinated 530 appointments for those patients. The total value of donated services provided to Gadsden County patients was \$1,956,192. The value of patient assistance provided to Gadsden County patients in the form of gas cards, bus passes, prescriptions, and medical equipment was \$6,960 which was paid from their own patient assistance fund with very few grants provided. She stated each year it was a challenge to put enough grants together to cover the expenses necessary for the program to provide services to Gadsden County patients. She explained they budgeted for \$27,000 from the Gadsden County Health Department which had been awarded. She said they were no longer funded by United Way in Gadsden County due to the United Way of the Big Bend eliminating access to healthcare as a funding focus. Last year, Gadsden County BOCC voted not to approve their request for \$4,500 through the Non-Profit Human Services Grant. \$27,000 from the Gadsden County Health Department did not fully cover the operating expenses, salary and benefits necessary to provide services in Gadsden County. Pam Irwin, the Executive Director was going to request additional funding in the amount of \$66,000. She explained without the additional funding they would be required to reduce the acceptance of referrals from Gadsden County patients and would put them in the difficult position of turning down patients in need of treatment for serious illnesses. She respectfully requested they be awarded \$93,000 for fiscal year 2019/20.

**Pam Irwin, 1204 Miccosukee, Rd., Tallahassee, FL-Executive Director of Capital Medical Society Foundation** appeared before the Board representing We Care Network. She stated they were the only program in Gadsden County that provided free specialty medical care to the indigent Gadsden County population, including physician care, surgeries, hospitalizations at TMH and

CRMC's Tallahassee locations, diagnostic testing, prescriptions and transportation to and from Gadsden County related to their diagnosis.

*Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 4:16pm*

Ms. Irwin wanted to clarify for the Commissioners that the We Care Network had been receiving \$27,000 annually from Gadsden County Indigent Care Surtax Fund (Fund 140) from the funds allocated by the Gadsden County Commission and the Budget to the Gadsden County Health Department in accordance with the requirements of Florida Statute 212-055. The Statute states the funds shall provide a broad range of health care services for indigent persons and the medically poor, including but not limited to primary and preventative care as well as hospital care. It shall emphasize the continuity of care which would include specialty medical care in the most cost-effective setting. The Statute further requires that the fund be used to promote the delivery of charity care and required cost containment including but limited to case management. The We Care Network clearly meets all of the requirements. After the required health care services are provided the ordinance may pledge surtax proceeds to service bonded indebtedness incurred for the hospital and the county. The We Care Network requires \$93,481 annually to operate its program in Gadsden County. With this funding it leverages almost \$2million in donated specialty health care annually. In 2016 and 2017 We Care Network was awarded \$5,000 and \$4,500 through the Non-Profit Human Services Community Grant. In September of 2018 the Gadsden County BOCC voted 3-2 not to fund the We Care Network through this Grant. During the September 2018 Commission Meeting the Commissioners were not aware that the We Care Network was funded through the Indigent Care Surtax Fund in fulfillment of its requirements. Following recent discussions with Dr. Adrienne Wilson at the Gadsden County Health Department, she stated she was here to advocate for funding for the We Care Network in the amount of \$93,481 from the Indigent Care Surtax Fund for fiscal year 2019/20 in lieu of the non-profit grant funding for which they had applied.

*Commissioner Hinson returned at 4:18pm*

She further stated that We Care Network partners with Gadsden County Health Department and the delivery of health care to the indigent population, therefore they are requesting the funding provided to Gadsden County Health Department for the Indigent Surtax Fund be sufficiently increased to fund the Gadsden County Health Department Health Services to the indigent population and for them to allocate \$93,481 to the We Care Network. This constitutes a \$66,481 increase in funding to the We Care Network over prior years from the indigent Care Surtax Fund. With this funding the We Care Network program can maintain the current level of services to address the health care needs of Gadsden County's indigent population in accordance with Florida Statute 212-055's requirement to prioritize the delivery of health care with the voter approved funding.

**Tony Lombardo, 312 NW 1<sup>st</sup> St., Havana, FL- Executive Director of Havana Main Street.** He stated last year they did not receive funding from the Commission and it was a major loss. They adjusted their program and he thought they had a successful year. This year he was back to request County funding. He said their needs this year were much more urgent. The reason was 2 weeks ago, Havana Main Street purchased the old Havana State Bank building, one of the oldest and most historic buildings (built in 1907) they were able to purchase it because they got a very generous donation from an anonymous donor. It was a great gift but would not cover the

extensive cost required for restoration of the building. The building needed to be sealed immediately so the elements did not continue to damage the building. There was internal and external damage, roof, electric, air conditioning will have to be 100% replaced. Total repairs would be somewhere in the \$100,000 range. If repairs were not made it would be demolished within the next year, just as the building across the street. He believed saving the Bank would be testament as to who they are and what they stand for. For over 100 years that bank has played a major role in the lives of many citizens and to lose it would be a major slice out of the fabric of downtown Havana. He stated they were requesting Gadsden County Commission to be a major stake-holder in the preservation of a Havana treasure by funding \$10,000 each of next 2 years.

**John Mahoney, M.D., 1204 Miccosukee, Rd., Tallahassee, FL, Chairman of the Capital Medical Society Foundation, We Care,** He said they could no longer continue to have such a program if they could not get any additional funding to run the program. The Specialty Physicians (hospitals) are not being paid anything, they are doing it because they recognize how important it is to the citizens of the counties they serve. He stated they were entirely dependent upon grants to hire people, particularly case management, system analysis, computerization, reports that the board need to ensure that they are doing their job and performing a service that you would expect for the funding that the County might give them. He asked to have serious consideration to the request.

**Nick Maddox, 3987 Bobbin Brook Circle, BGCB Funding, Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend,** He said last year the BGCB had 335 members registered with 80% being from single parent homes and 88% were on a free or reduced lunch program. He stated they serve Chattahoochee, Quincy, Havana, 128 in Quincy, 80 in Chattahoochee and 127 in Havana and were looking to increase their numbers this year to about 500. He stated they cannot do what they do without funding from the County. He understands the budget request was a little higher than what was posted on screen but if level funding was all the County could do, they could continue what they do in Gadsden County. He believes BGCB plays a big role in Gadsden County in trying to put kids on the right track not only any kid, they specialize in kids that need them the most. He believes his non-profit provides the value in return for the dollars allocated. He said he wanted to know what the Board's expectations are and what they are doing great and what the Board would like to see be done better.

**Casey Dennis 3987 Bobbin Brook Circle, BGCB Funding, Boys and Girls Club of the Big Bend,** said their mission was to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need them most to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. On a day to day basis in Gadsden County kids rush in and get a healthy snack and they get homework help then they have a party outcome which may be Character Leadership Development to teach them how to make healthy and wise choices and avoiding poor choices. The fun component which keeps everyone coming back every day is called triple play which is recreation time. He said they have partnered with the City of Quincy and the recreation Building and over the summer they served 102 on average every day. They are in the old high school in Havana serving 50 kids daily. The goal is 500 kids in Gadsden County.

Chairman Viegbesie asked the age range of the students they serve and Mr. Maddox said 6 to 18 years old.

Mr. Morgan asked the number of students in each club and Maddox gave those numbers that were stated before.

Chairman Viegbesie said We Care provides Indigent Care and the County is in the process of negotiation with CRMC where some funding would be reverted to the Commission from the process and they hope when the process was complete there would be money there specifically for indigent care. He did not know how much it was going to be and hoped some funding was available.

Ms. Holt said the negotiation with CRMC had not been completed and the BOCC has to see how it was going to turn out but that funding would come from the Indigent Surtax, not out of the County Budget. She stated she requested last year that the BOCC contact United Way to see if we could put the non-profits money there and they would look at disbursing it.

Chairman Viegbesie stated when he was in Tallahassee there was a process the communities used to fund non-profit and he was a citizen on that committee. The funding in Leon County was through United Way Associates, the City, and the County and they used the Community Human Services Partnership Process where the citizens in the committee that go around to determine the level of services provided by the non-profit and they determine who gets what amount of the money. He stated there was a template and would distribute it to the Board members and they wanted to consider it for the future to distribute what the County has into non-profit and Community organizations.

Ms. Holt stated that was a year ago and the BOCC should have looked at that before now so the filer process was there instead of committing. She said it would not work today and Chairman Viegbesie said it was just a spreadsheet he requested yesterday and did not expect to use it today. She further stated she requested it a year ago and Administrators have changed since her request. She further said We Care's request for the small amount was there but not the \$96,481 and that would have to come from the Surtax if it was going to be granted. She asked if the \$27,000 that We Care said they received and was answered yes from the chairs for the public. She further stated you did not receive anything from Gadsden County Health Department and the same person said GCHD will receive funding from BOCC budget and will give to the We Care Network. She further stated as far as the Bank, she could not support that for a Bank. It was a request and the BOCC should have gotten a request for it before the purchase of the Bank. Ms. Holt said she was good to go with North Florida Legal Services and BGCB. She asked if there was someone from the Museum because it was already funded for 3 years and it was enough of funding for that. She said the County Staff was cutting so the County could not keep funding and cutting at the same time and those were her suggestions so far.

Chairman Viegbesie asked the Attorney if the BOCC had adopted the funding process of 3 years.

Ms. Holt explained that was her opinion and 3 years was enough for them to get on their feet and on the TDC, that process was in place and if you give for 3 years to the non-profits, that should be enough and then the next time they can decide what is going into the United Way and let the committee filter the groups before they get to this point.

Mr. Lawson asked they look at Action Item 1 and let Staff know what they wanted to approve and not approve and the Board could move forward.

Mr. Hinson asked for the Board to go over their wish list first and then come back and discuss the action item. He asked if once it was approved it was approved.

Mr. Weiss said the way the budget process was set up, none of this was absolutely final until the final budget is adopted at the final Budget hearing.

Chairman Viegbesie suggested as far as the Boys and Girls Club-wished there were a money tree, but since not, stay at \$101,250 instead of cutting, Havana, \$2500, Arsenal \$2500, We Care \$4,500.

Mr. Morgan asked if we would not consider the Constitutionals and the other priorities prior to the non-profits he stated the day to day operations had to be ran before talk of non-profit funding.

Chairman Viegbesie stated yes, but the Agenda was set for nonprofit first and that was how the workshop had been presented in the PowerPoint and why it was being discussed now.

Mr. Morgan stated he could not commit to any non-profit funding until the BOCC finalizes how they would move forward with the day to day operations of the County Government.

Chairman Viegbesie, after hearing from the Commissioners said they would suspend the discussion of Non-profit and go to the Constitutional before they come back to discuss.

Mr. Morgan stated he was not trying to say the Non-profits were not important but others things needed to be funded first.

Chairman Viegbesie stated they would go to the Constitutionals and come back to the Non-profits.

Mr. Lawson said the first Constitutional Item was Clerk of Courts with a 5% decrease had a request of \$944,517 and the recommendation was \$897,291. He asked if the 5% decrease was going to be considered or to fund what they had asked for.

Chairman Viegbesie asked if BOCC was going to one Constitutional Item after another or if they were just going to go ahead and discuss all.

Mr. Lawson stated to help move it along they could just go to the line that said Action Item 2 and he could go through each one and tell what the recommendation was and the BOCC could decide.

Ms. Holt said she would like to go through and each say if they accept the recommendation and there would be no need to discuss if they do not accept then they would need to discuss. She stated she accepted the recommendation for the Clerk of Court, the Constitutionals took a 5% cut she had no problem with the Non-Profits taking a 5% cut as well.

Ms. Taylor asked Mr. Lawson if he had spoken with each of the Constitutionals because she heard very loudly from the Clerk in response to the 5% budget cut and was wondering if everyone else was able to make it through with the 5% cut and not cut positions or services.

Mr. Lawson stated he met individually with each of the Constitutionals and they all said they needed what they requested but did not indicate they would have to cut positions and they were given the decision on where to make the cuts.

*Mr. Morgan appeared in person after being present by phone.*

Ms. Taylor asked if the 5% was taken away from their request or from what was funded last year and Mr. Lawson said it was taken away from the request to which Ms. Taylor stated that was not a cut.

Chairman Viegbesie said even though there was a 5% reduction from what the request was, there was actually a \$5,897 increase from the previous year compared to the request for 2020. He asked how a 3% cut would impact the overall budget as opposed to the 5%. He further stated an increase from the request last year was not actually a cut, it was an increase from the previous year operations.

Ms. Taylor said she did not see how the 5% cut would impact the budget. The 5% came off a request and that was not savings. It should come off what was budgeted in the previous fiscal year and that was how it would become a reduction. She does not see moving forward a savings or a reduction unless the 5% cut was cut from the amount they were allowed last year. She stated she did not want to under fund the vital services needed. Each Constitutional Officers had a responsibility and mandates that were not funded and BOCC had to make sure they had funding for them. Each one had to be looked at differently because of what was mandated on them.

Chairman Viegbesie said, looking at the Constitutional notes, the only one that actually had a reduction in their budget was the Tax Collector who last year had \$588,255 and this year \$581,347. Everyone else requested more this fiscal year than they did last. He stated the Property Appraiser asked for \$47,336 more.

Mr. Morgan stated one thing he was interested in before his specific comments was the total budget of \$50.5 Million had a balanced draft and what he was looking for was a trend. He said it was a jump and he understood there was a new communication system put in at around \$800,000 but he wanted to know what the difference was between the previous year budget and this year and what it was causing that difference. Regarding the Constitutionals, He said he thought it was important to understand each individual and look at the BOCC operations in the same manner and find the reason they were not asking for an amount that reflected the 5% cut.

Mr. Price stated in looking at the current year (2019) it was \$48 Million and this year it was \$2 Million more, mainly gas taxes went up for transportation and even the library tax went up. He further stated some expenses went up and there were some payroll issues and equipment that was purchased and he could get more detail if it was needed.

Mr. Morgan stated because of the hurricane, with overtime and things like that he was not as interested in the payroll but he asked about staff and salary. He asked what the difference was in

the total staff salary in this budget compared to the last, separate from the hurricane over-time pay.

Mr. Price said that was looked at and it was approximately a \$750,000 increase.

Ms. Taylor asked if that was in one fiscal year and Mr. Price stated that it was from one fiscal year, including benefits. Ms. Taylor asked where it was from. Mr. Price answered the EMS people were dually certified and were now trained as Firefighters as well as EMS there were new Supervisors hired.

Mr. Morgan stated that deserved a little more investigation because a \$750,00 increase in salary was dramatic on a County the size of Gadsden County and the BOCC should understand exactly what that was about. He was speaking completely separate from storm overtime pay. He stated if the BOCC was asking the Constitutionals to take a cut and we are giving out \$750,000 in raises in 1 year, that was a problem.

Mr. Hinson said he thought they were looking at something different than the Interim County Administrator had laid out 2 meetings ago and he thought the difference was more.

Ms. Holt asked Mr. Lawson when the first Budget Workshop was and he answered it was in June. She stated the homework should have been done before this meeting and that October 1<sup>st</sup> was in a few weeks and the BOCC had to be finished. The State said they had to have the Budget Meeting on time and balanced. Her point was for each Commissioner to speak with the Constitutional Officers and this was discussed before. She has questions and she called the Officers and spoke with them. She further stated the BOCC cannot wait until now.

Mr. Lawson stated there was two budget hearings scheduled but between now and then they could maybe get a couple more meetings in. Ms. Holt asked when the deadline was and Mr. Lawson said it was September. She further stated she had no problem with the 5% coming off the requested amount. She said "If you tell me you want \$800,00, I say you can have \$750,000, you will come back with another number if you need \$800,000. That was what the Workshops were for and if the Clerk knew he was going to get the maximum amount that he could get, he knows that was going to be \$897,000, as of today, he would not be able to tell you exactly what he does or does not want to do. She wanted a simple up or down on the budget. She does not want to run over deadlines.

Mr. Hinson stated he thought the notice for meetings had to be out 2-5 days in advance, not 2 weeks.

Ms. Taylor stated that there was more time than previously stated to get the budget balanced and each person had a different way of doing their job and she wanted to make sure she was not cutting the needs of the Constitutional Officers. If the extra was for something mandated, she did not have a problem giving what they asked. She would like to go through one by one instead of across the board for the reasons she stated.

Mr. Lawson said they could schedule another meeting before the first public hearing and invite Constitutionals.



*Chairman Viegbesie asked Mr. Hinson and Ms. Holt to cease talking among themselves and listen to the other Commissioners.*

Ms. Taylor stated she wanted an explanation to any increase to make sure everyone was given the funding they really needed.

Mr. Morgan stated each office could be sent a positively worded email request asking them to reply with 2-3 sentences to the request and why, rather than requiring them to attend the meeting.

Chairman Viegbesie suggested the Board approve the worksheet as presented with the 5% off of the request amount and each of them could ask the Constitutionals why the 5% off of the requested rather than off of last year's budget was needed. He also suggested the BOCC put numbers together with regards to 3% instead of 5% and see if that would affect the Constitutionals effectiveness as well as the bottom line.

Mr. Morgan stated he was fine with that and that left the BOCC with a clear path as far as how much the BOCC would have to look at regarding General Fund Balance.

Ms. Taylor stated at this time no vote was needed because this was a special meeting. Mr. Weiss stated it was at the Boards discretion.

**MS. HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS BUDGET FOR 2019/20 WITH A SECOND BY MR. MORGAN WITH A QUESTION:**

Mr. Morgan said he would support that but want to make sure that it would be with the premise of the BOCC looking at their budget moving forward, meaning he would not stand for approval on that without them reconsidering where they are on the BOCC. Ms. Holt said that was not a problem because they were doing that anyway.

Ms. Taylor asked for clarity asking the BOCC was going to approve the 5% recommended by staff to the Constitutionals but she did not understand what part of the BOCC budget Mr. Morgan was referring to.

Mr. Morgan stated he wants the BOCC to, rather than just draw down automatically from the General Fund Balance on the \$400,000, to re-look at total salaries and what was going on in that regard and other areas as well so when they come to a total budget that was considered. As far as what Ms. Holt had motioned, he had no problem seconding the 5% reduction of the requested amount from each of the Constitutionals and that was what the motion called for.

**CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED, MS. TAYLOR, MR. HINSON OPPOSED. THE MOTION WAS PASSED. 3-2**

Mr. Lawson stated they were now back to Non-Profits.

Mr. Hinson stated the Commissioners may want to propose some things and Chairman said that was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Item on the Agenda. Mr. Hinson asked if that could be done first or go to Non-Profits

and Chairman pointed out that Non-Profit was next and Commissioners Priorities would be next. Mr. Hinson stated he was fine with that.

Chairman Viegbesie stated they would move to Non-Profit and his suggestion was to keep Boys and Girls Club at \$106,187, Havana Heritage Museum \$2,500, the Arsenal at \$5,000, Legal Aid at \$5,850 and We Care at \$4,500. Those were his suggestions for the Non-Profit on the list.

Mr. Morgan stated, as he mentioned before, he did not understand why the BOCC was looking at Non-Profits before they firm up the day to day operation budget of the County. He was not trying to diminish the importance of the Non-Profits but he wanted the other issues addressed first.

Chairman Viegbesie asked the BOCC, after hearing Mr. Morgan, what was the recommendation of the Commission.

Ms. Holt stated she had previously said she had no problems with the ones she thought they should fund; she did not mind 5% if everyone was taking a 5% cut and that was her opinion.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the 5% that was asked to be cut was taken from what they asked for this year and not from what was funded last year. He further stated the BOCC day-to-day operations should be looked at and see what they were doing. The question he had for Mr. Lawson was did he have any meetings with the Commissioners with regard to priorities and requests and how did that factor into this budget that was presented.

Mr. Lawson stated he had not had any individual meetings with the Commissioners on their requests and he thought that would happen at the series of workshops that were set up.

Mr. Morgan said there was a perception that some of the Commissioners were not doing their homework or looking into the issues and he said that was not the case. Ms. Holt apologized telling him that was not directed towards him.

Chairman Viegbesie asked if the BOCC was going to let the Interim County Administrator do the same with Non-Profits as Constitutionals and see how it all panned out and come back for the next workshop to make sure everything was concrete and in place. He asked that everyone please consider his requests and changes that were being made.

Mr. Lawson stated they could move on to the Priorities and Direction and give the Commissioners opportunity now to discuss what they wanted to bring back for the next workshop and then schedule another special meeting at soon as possible.

Ms. Holt stated the BOCC have looked at the Non-Profits and was asking if the BOCC would give them some type of direction of where the item stood instead of saying they will come back and discuss it another day.

Chairman Viegbesie stated that was why he made his request and he hoped other Commissioners would make a request as far as Non-Profits.

Mr. Morgan said the BOCC had the organizations they were considering and the amounts they requested and he would like to button down the other business and come to the Non-Profits knowing what the starting point number would be for them.

Chairman Viegbesie said there were no numbers yet. The numbers they had were Constitutionals and what was recommended for 2020. If they were going to leave it at that then those numbers were the numbers staff had been working with.

Mr. Morgan stated from a priority standpoint, those numbers might have to change. We cannot ask these folks to expect to receive a certain amount when the BOCC had not even considered the daily operations. We understand their request and who they are but at this point the Board should not make that decision.

### **Board of County Commissioners Priorities and Directions**

3. Commissioner Hinson stated he had phone calls that came in in the last year or so they said the BOCC made a promise to do Lake Yvette and the Board agreed with it. He thought it was 2013 or 2014 and there was a huge number there and Lake Yvette West was done and postponed Lake Yvette East when the Board promised East and West would get done. He proposed to the Board to stick with their promise and go ahead and fund Lake Yvette East. He stated that was his personal request. The other one was 125 jobs for summer youth employment for the kids in Gadsden County. Emergency Housing Repair was another one where we have a lot of folks losing insurance now because the roof and stuff was not there, put that back in the coffer for the \$100,000 Emergency Housing repair he stated it was what was done last year as well. (\$25,000 each district.) He also stated Havana senior citizens are doing an excellent job there. He stated we give each citizen some funding but they have major projects going on now and he would like to add an extra \$10,000 for every Senior Citizen. He further stated the kids enjoy this program that was in the budget that he spearheaded for the college students to be a student assistant. He stated everything they had last year he wanted to go back to again, \$10,000 for that.

Commissioner Morgan said to Commissioner Hinson concerning Lake Yvette and said there was conversation about that and asked what the necessary fund required to do it. Commissioner Hinson stated he would have to get with Justin Ford and he would let them know. Commissioner Morgan asked Commissioner Hinson what was left in his paving money. Commissioner Hinson said the problem was he had already committed to a couple of projects in Midway and a couple in Havana. Commissioner Morgan asked him if he chose those projects over the Lake Yvette Project. Commissioner Hinson answered that those projects were in dire need as well. Commissioner Morgan said he understood that but pointed out that he chose them over Lake Yvette. Commissioner Hinson stated Lake Yvette would take all the money. Commissioner Morgan stated he made that decision.

Commissioner Holt said her only request was for the back-parking lot to be fenced in. She said it was 2 different property owners complaining about it. The complaints were something she did not want to say in a public meeting and she asked the other property owners not to come to the public meeting and make those statements. She further stated the County was going to have to do something about securing the back-parking lot. Several incidents had happened and it was now time to look at it. It is County property and we know there were things going on here and we want to take care of it. She said she did not know how or if there was money to be used but it is a need and she did not want the property owners coming. She said she would take statements from them and bring them to the Manager. He may have already heard some things, the previous

manager did. We know better and we have to do better, the liability part is what she was very concerned about. A lot goes on out on the back porch and it needs to be fixed and quickly.

Commissioner Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Hinson in regards to some of the community activities that she would like to see put back in place. Summer activities, programs for persons with disabilities as well as senior citizens. She said she was asked about a park and she thought there was money put into a park last year for her district, in particular off of High Bridge Road, there is land there they want to acquire and she was asking to see if that process could be initiated this year. She asked for \$25,000 for that park. She asked Mr. Lawson to add that in for dollars to fund a park.

Mr. Lawson asked Commissioner Taylor if she was agreeing with Commissioner Hinson for the \$125,000 reviewed and \$100,000 for Emergency housing. Commissioner Taylor said yes.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the unrestricted fund balance was and Mr. Lawson answered it was right at \$4 Million. He said he thought it was important to consider. He further stated obviously it was not every fiscal year the County comes behind a Category 5 Hurricane and there are different priorities and the BOCC had to consider whether it be roads and bridges, code enforcement, all of those things and in his personal opinion those are things that are important from a safety standpoint. He said Ms. Holt mentioned the issue with the parking lot out back, that is very important and he agrees 100%. The first step, he said was to understand from a survey standpoint where the property starts and stops, where the County was allowed to fence off because there are liability issues to deal with back there and the Board had been aware of it. It thought it was a common sense day to day operational thing they should take care of.

Commissioner Holt said she would like for the BOCC to look at a piece of paper she handed all members. She said they were taking about Hospitals and she wanted them to look at the numbers. She stated she called different Counties and asked them what they were doing in the categories of Summer Youth and the Chamber. For Franklin County Chamber, they want 3 tourism booths and they take care of all the tourism in Franklin County on the water. They have a responsibility and also have a coordinator that was hired by the Commission so they know exactly where the money is going with the chamber. She pointed out what the other counties spend for the Chamber. She called back and got information for Economic Development Councils. She asked for everyone to look at the data and also the Summer Youth and see that the only one that sponsors Summer Youth besides Gadsden County, in this area, was Leon County. At \$40,606. They get the extra money by going through Career Source. She stated that if Gadsden County partners with them the county could get a couple hundred thousand because if we go through Career Source, we can pick up the other money. She further stated the County was missing money, the same way when they do non-profits and not going through the United Way because they match, and it is important instead of doing it by ourselves. She said the BOCC was not looking at any other businesses this year to sponsor Summer Youth and to Sponsor any of them, even in the Chamber if you are going to sponsor the Chamber at \$80,000 to which she disagreed with. She further stated if you sponsor them at \$80,000, you should be a voting member in the Chamber and the BOCC was not a voting member and the County is funding a group. Any group you give tax dollars they have to be accountable to you for it. These reasons are why she believes the BOCC should go through the United Way.

Mr. Lawson stated the information would be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Taylor stated concerning the back porch area that she had observed people on the back deck and she had concern with it but as far as fencing off the entire parking lot, she was not sure the county had legal rights to it because it was a tax paid parking lot area but she believed the building should be secured as far as people taking a seat on the back porch. She stated there was previous conversation about fencing in the back-parking lot and the legality of it should be looked into. She did not want citizens to get the idea that the BOCC was not receptive.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Taylor in regards to restricting the tax payers rights to come into a County Building during operating hours but it also had to be looked at from a safety standpoint, have it surveyed. Folks who are not doing County business are who need to be restricted.

Commissioner Hinson stated that was almost equivalent to the City of Tallahassee putting a fence around their facility and telling the people at Andrews restaurant they were not allowed to go over there and he would like to know the legality himself because he was not sure.

*Commissioner Morgan left at 5:45 p.m.*

Commissioner Taylor asked Chairman Viegbesie to recognize that Commissioner Morgan had stepped away and he did.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed with everything except one thing as she previously said, the County is responsible. If a person is taking care of County business, that was fine, but if you were not taking care of County business and other things were going on that were illegal, and you are a County Government, you are responsible if you do not take action.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at 5:46 p.m.*

Commissioner Holt then asked if she was correct. She further stated the BOCC had to realize who they were and what they were supposed to be doing.

Chairman Viegbesie stated he had talked with the County Attorney right before the meeting and he explained what he was about to do. He stated Commissioner Nick Maddox was at this meeting but not in his capacity as a Commissioner but as supporting the B&G Club. Chairman Viegbesie wanted to recognize Commissioner Nick Maddox as the fellow Commissioner from Leon County as well as the Current President of the Florida Association of Counties. He thanked him for coming and welcomed them to come back anytime.

Commissioner Morgan said regarding the fence, he stated they were not here to talk about a fence, it was about the budget

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
August 15, 2019 Public Roadways Workshop

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, CHAIRMAN VIEGBESIE ADJOURNED AT 5:49 P.M.**

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**ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH. D., Chairman**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**