

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL. ON SEPTEMBER 3, 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
 David Weiss, 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 to stand for the Invocation.

Rev. Eddie York, Pastor of Mt. Hosea Missionary Baptist Church, Quincy gave the Invocation.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:02 p.m.

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

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lawson stated he would like to pull Agenda Item 1 and it would be rescheduled at a later date.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. ~~Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services~~
Pulled

2. **Mediacom Communications 10G Announcement**

Christopher Lord, Mediacom appeared before the Board and gave an update of the Mediacom 10G Upgrade Announcement. He said they would be launching a 10G service in their market and will be expanding their service areas.

Commissioner Holt asked how the upgrade would improve services like what happened with Hurricane Michael. Mr. Lord said it would be difficult to prevent that with a cable system and no way to mitigate that kind of damage when it comes to catastrophic storms. He said they were working to increase redundancy so if a main line was cut, it would not knock everything out.

Commissioner Morgan asked where services were currently provided. He said mainly in the Havana area, they did not offer services in the lower part of the County yet. He said as they launch

10G, they will do a re-evaluation of all the areas to make sure as they go out if there were any areas where they could build out with new technology or existing technology to provide more rural areas. Commissioner Morgan said he knew there were no competitive internet services.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:11 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he had any contact information. Mr. Lord said he had a business card and a website, Mediacom10G that laid out everything in specifics on what the service change would do.

Chair Viegbesie asked, in his area Mediacom was not there at all and was there any way it could be an overlap so customers could have a choice. Mr. Lord said yes, they have a franchise with the State.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. MR. WEISS HAD A COMMENT.

Mr. Weiss asked to remove Agenda Item 4 from the Consent Agenda to discuss dates to make sure they were correct. Commissioner Taylor asked why they were discussing the Agenda, why the CBOR was not on there and Mr. Lawson said it had to be advertised after it came from Planning and it was set for the 17th.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO REMOVE ITEM 4 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN AMENDED HIS SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.

3. **Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Annual Report**
4. ~~**Approval of 2020 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**~~
Item Pulled for Discussion
5. **Ratification**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

4. **Approval of 2020 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**
Mr. Weiss said on Page 6 of 11 in the Agenda packet, the project timeline had old dates and the dates were changing and that was the only change.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-011 An Ordinance of the BOCC of GC, FL amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to include costs and expenses, including personnel, necessary for the day to day operations of the emergency medical services departments as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes beginning on and retroactive to October 1, 2018; providing for repeal, severability, inclusion un the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and scrivener's errors; and providing an effective date

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for adoption of Ordinance 2019-011 amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to include costs and expenses, including personnel, necessary for the day to day operations of the emergency medical services department as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes, beginning on and retroactive to October 1, 2018.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments from the audience and there were none.

Commissioner Holt asked if this was not approved tonight what the ramifications would be from it not being approved. Mr. Weiss said he understood in the County's approved budget for fiscal year budget 18/19, there was approximately \$800,000 in funds that were allocated in surtax for EMS and if this was not approved, that money would have to be returned and any shortfall would have to be covered by General Funds.

Commissioner Morgan said he was in support of this item, but not because of the budget looming out there but because this was the best thing to address the current issues they had for EMS.

Mr. Weiss also pointed out this required a super majority vote.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND

Commissioner Hinson said he was in full support of EMS but they needed to be careful because they need to fully fund Public Works because of the bridges collapsing and felt they needed to have a workshop first and that was his humble opinion.

Commissioner Taylor said she was in support of Commissioner Hinson on this. The State will not help unless it was on a State highway. She said until they have another source of funding, she was afraid and did not want to use others paving money to take care of this project and from what she's heard, there were several bridges with structural concerns and the one that caved in was not one of them. She said she did not want to go forward with the surtax unless there was some proposed schedule of repairing the bridges. She stated she was not in favor if they have not identified funding to fix the other bridges.

Mr. Lawson said this was only authorizing to do repairs to roads, bridges and those kinds of things at Public Works, he was not sure if they needed to designate a certain portion of it specifically for bridges. That was something Staff could do from a budgetary standpoint.

Commissioner Taylor said they need to target more than has been done in the past and not put more asphalt on the bridges.

Mr. Lawson said the cost of one bridge was more than this whole fund.

Commissioner Taylor said they know there is a problem, she said she would vote for it if they could tell her what was in place to fix the bridge problem.

Mr. Lawson said they were currently addressing that problem with the County engineers and would be coming back to the Board with a plan. At this point in time, they were developing engineering drawings to focus on this one bridge. He said Juniper Creek was already in the hopper to be bid on. The other information they have received from DOT on bridge reports are things that the Public Works Department can do in terms of showing up the other issues. DOT did inspections of all the bridges and they provided Public Works Department a detailed list of the areas that needed some concern and what needed to be done and a number of those can be done within the Public Works Department. He said they have reached out to DOT to see if they could get any type of assistance with this particular bridge and they said they did not have anything at this time. He said about the only thing they could do to address this at this time was to apply through either SCRAP or SCOP for bridge replacement and that process could take some time.

Commissioner Taylor said she was willing to share a part of money that she had left over to get that bridge repaired but was more interested in a funding source available.

Commissioner Morgan said what they were looking at is an enhancement to this Ordinance to make sure they could fund the day to day operations for Public Works, Fire, and EMS. He said they were charged with prioritizing and making the best decision they could make. By not funding this and including EMS services to say we could take those funds and repair bridges, is not going to happen because those costs are beyond what is going to be in this fund, those are long range projects. He further stated Juniper Creek, as previously mentioned, was already in the hopper and being addressed. He said not including EMS tonight to put those funds back for Public Works, all they were doing was hurting EMS. He further stated if they do not fund this, they were looking at borrowing another \$800,000 from Fund Balance and was not going to support that and was then going to have to go into the budget and start making some serious cuts. He said they needed to consider what was before them, make the best decisions, prioritize and move on to the next item.

Commissioner Hinson said he heard about the day to day operations. He asked them last year to be mindful of the and there was an increase in Administration in salaries of \$1 Million. This fiscal year not over and one-third of the staff had salary raises by \$1.5 Million. He said he was in full support of EMS. He also wanted to make sure they were reimbursed for their overtime from the hurricane. He said that right now he could not support this.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Lawson if notification was sent to FDOT about going after funding on the State level. Mr. Lawson said they were informed that the programs that the County normally participates in were the only programs that were available and monies have been requested for bridges in the past and have been funded for some but from their perspective those are the only monies the County could tap into. She asked for copy of that documentation. She asked about DEO as they do funding for projects, not for roads and bridges but they were set up for Small County Coalitions. She said they have to lobby legislatures in order to get anything. She said the

State used to do bridges and cut it out. She said they need to look at the list and see if they could go after SCRAP and SCOP money. She said they need to go to FDOT, Governor's Office and Secretary of Transportation and work them. They won't listen to Staff, they will listen to the commissioners and they each need to go to them and ask for funding. She asked Commissioner Hinson, said she was talking about money for now, not talking about his remaining money left in his paving account.

Chair Viegbesie said with CRTPA, the District 3 secretary was the one that oversees the MPOC across the region and for the good of the County, they have an Executive meeting on Tuesday at 2:30 and he was pushing this item with the Bridge issues and have been asking for a listing of bridges for repairs and replacements. He said this particular bridge was not one that was on CRTPA's list.

Commissioner Morgan said he hoped they could make a good decision tonight on this item before them because what he just explained was how they move the other large projects forward. CRTPA typically worked on a five year plan and this was the way the items were addressed. He said Commissioner Hinson mentioned the salary increases they were told about from the Office of Management and Budget under the previous Manager and thought the figure given was \$750,000 for salary and benefits and costs were added to that, by not approving this if they need to go back and look at those salaries and ways to address those to meet that deficit, he assumed that was what he was talking about doing, he encouraged them as a Board as a whole, to support this in moving forward to support this and thought that would be a better choice at this point and time and he moved the question as there was a motion and second on the floor.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not saying to take the salaries; that was up to the County Administrator; but be mindful that that did occur and they were at this point today because of that. He said they decreased library services and they increased administration of the library.

Commissioner Taylor asked if it was correct that the one-third amount of money they were allocating toward EMS was around \$800,000 and Mr. Lawson responded yes. She said it was that amount of money every year that could be designated repairs out of that money. She said EMS should get a portion of this, she thought they needed to levy it and generate the revenue so they could take care of bridges and EMS. She said she was willing to put this in a motion to take on some important issues they had. She said they were looking at two important things, building their bridges and EMS and there was only one solution to the goal and that was an increase in the gasoline tax. They are not making any more money, there is no debt service going away and this particular item has restricted funding so the money would be geared primarily toward EMS and building those roads. She said she was not going to support this tonight. She said "We need someone up here to help us through this that has the experience and knowledge and that is Robert, to help us through this situation. Now he's got connections over at DOT." She asked if there was a list prioritizing which bridge was the most dilapidated and Mr. Lawson said there was a list indicating which bridges needed repairs.

Chair Viegbesie said they need a super majority and it was already understood that this would not be approved. He said he would support this because EMS was a vital component of the services they provide. He further stated EMS was running out of money until they began with outsourcing with the delinquent fees collection and that began to bring in more money. He said when that bridge collapsed, two vehicles ran into the collapsed bridge. If EMS did not have the money to run,

who would have gotten those people out and how would that have gotten to the hospital?

Commissioner Holt called the question. Commissioner Morgan said he called the question a few minutes ago.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A CALL TO QUESTION AND A SECOND AND THEY WOULD VOTE ON THAT BEFORE THEY CARRY THE VOTE ON THE AGENDA ITEM. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED THE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
COMMISSIONER HINSON	NO
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	NO
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	YES

MOTION FAILED 3-2.

Commissioner Taylor asked at what point, when they could get something added to the agenda because they need to address this issue. She wanted to see if they could get an increase in the surtax on the agenda. Chair Viegbesie said with regards to items on the agenda, he has had no say on; it is at the exclusive jurisdiction of Mr. Lawson.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked what if they voted for it for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Chair Viegbesie asked if he wanted to reverse his vote and he responded no. Chair Viegbesie said in that case there was no reason for further conversation.

Mr. Weiss said the same motion could not be made but if he was intending to make a different motion on the same item would be ok to make that motion limiting it to fiscal year 2018/2019.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:02 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said he could not support that for every year but what if they decided to do for one year for 2018/2019 and if that suggestion was made at the next meeting he may bring that motion back up.

Chair Viegbesie asked the attorney if Commissioner Hinson was considering this item and wanted to make another motion on the item, he could make now and not wait until another meeting and Mr. Weiss and he could, , the problem with deferring it to the next meeting, they would not have time to advertise for next meeting in Gadsden County papers. They could potentially advertise it in the Democrat because they have to have ten days' notice. Commissioner Hinson said he had a few more questions first before making a motion like that and they could move on to the next item.

Commissioner Holt said in the Analysis, it stated the money would be pulled from the General

Fund and she asked if there was a deadline on that. Mr. Weiss said he understood from the Clerks' Office it had to be done prior to end of this fiscal year, which would be the next meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval of State Contract Vendor for Fuel Purchases

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the contract and ratification of invoices for Petroleum Traders.

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

8. Approval of Bid for Products for Dr. W. S. Stevens School

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award a bid to Point Glass & Metal, LLC to provide the windows and doors for the Stevens School project.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:05 p.m.

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

9. W. A. Woodham Justice Center Roof Replacement

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a GMP to replace the roof at the Woodham Justice Center.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to entertain TCC about purchasing the building before making such big investments.

Mr. Lawson said the County was in talks with TCC and they want to donate the building to the County but they have to take it to their Board of Trustees first and they were working through the process.

VICE CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

10. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Local Municipalities and Gadsden County School Board

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Interlocal Agreements with the Municipalities and the School Board for Public Works to do their maintenance work on roads.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. VICE CHAIR TAYLOR ASKED IF THE CONTRACTS WERE THE SAME. MR. LAWSON SAID THE FEES INCREASED. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:07 p.m.

11. Approval of Interlocal Agreement with the Florida Department of Children and Families Services, Florida State Hospital

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said it was an Interlocal Agreement with the Florida Department of Children and Families Services, Florida State Hospital.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

12. Board Direction on Scheduling Interviews for the County Administrator Position

Mr. Lawson introduced the above item and said Board instructed Staff to bring back the top three candidates for the County Administrator position and they were included for Board discussion and direction as to how they wanted to move forward.

Chair Viegbesie said he had some comments he wanted to make before they got started. He said they needed to understand what nepotism was. He explained it was “the practice among those with power or influence of favoring relatives or friends, especially by giving them a job.” He said Florida has a statute, an anti-nepotism law, “FS 116.11(2)(a)” prohibits any public official from engaging in any practice that was nepotistic in nature. At a BCC planning retreat July 16, 2016, this Board established certain criteria for employment to the position of County Administrator. Out of the workshops, the Board developed minimum qualifications for the job description needed for who could apply for the position and there have been three formidable candidates that have applied.

Commissioner Holt said she had looked over the candidates and there were three that there qualified and fit. She said she had someone that was not on list that she liked but they did not apply. She said she wanted to interview these three people.

Commissioner Hinson thought nepotism was based on relatives, family members, and friends. He said when Mr. Presnell was here and they went through THE process and when he gives his word that was it. After his election, he asked the Board to give Mr. Presnell another year. When he made the suggestion for the person to be the Interim at the time, he said he would give her 3-6 months and said they had to go through the process and they did not go through the process and they gave her the job. He said when that happened, he felt “bamboozled and hoodwinked” by the Board. Chair Viegbesie said for him to get the story straight and stated that he nominated Anthony Powell and out of nowhere, Commissioner Hinson nominated Jackson and there was no process. He said he felt bamboozled because they forewent the process and appointed her as the County Administrator. He then admitted that he talked to one of guys on the list and told him that he could not make a commitment and told him good luck.

Commissioner Taylor said when he started out with his comments about nepotism, she concurred with one of the Commissioners that it was more or less along the lines of being a relative and that was the only definition she had heard that it be a blood relation. She said he also mentioned friends among others. She stated she had never been quiet or shy about who she wanted to see back in that chair and they did set specific qualifications moving forward. She said that she felt they were in a state of emergency and tonight they had to decide whether to fund EMS or bridges and that was a very difficult task. She said right now the Board was pretty much split and Board voted 3-2 pretty much of the time and it should not be that way. A strong Administrator should address that and help them get through the process. She said morale was low and the reason

gentlemen were sitting in the audience, they won't come to podium for fear of retaliation, but there was a reason they were there. She said nothing was happening with regards to turning dirt. She said with Planning and Zoning, most of the municipalities were looking to find their own building inspectors because they were not satisfied with the County. She went on to say the County was providing those services and using those revenues to generate our services. She said they needed someone there that could hit the ground running. She said she was looking for a good fit because they had problems and issues and they could not continue to turn their heads to.

Commissioner Morgan said he had listened to all the discussion. The Board voted 2 years ago 4-1 to fire an experienced Administrator that did not want to leave and was in the DROP program. Commissioner Morgan said he explained in detail what would happen and it has happened. He said one of the most important things they do collectively as a Board is to hire a County Administrator.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at 7:29 p.m.

He said during those discussions, he tried to include having work experience as an option to replace the minimum requirement because he felt particularly in a rural County, there would not be a response there would be in other areas. He said he did look over the paperwork for the candidates and did not see anyone that had day to day operational experience with County Management. They need someone to groom someone to take over that position. He said they also had a very experienced Building Inspector and he left as well and there are issues with that as well.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 7:30 p.m.

He said they need to have someone in place that was qualified and have them work with someone that could be groomed for that position. He said he has not seen anyone apply that meets the qualifications that he was looking for particularly in the state of affairs they were currently in. He said what he would recommend and as he heard from another Commissioner, they should consider opening this back up and reassessing the requirements to include experience in lieu of a four year degree and see who responded in that regard and assess the candidates and pick the one they felt was the most qualified at that point. He added they needed to do this the right way and this has not been done the right way. They need to move forward in the proper manner and find someone with existing experience to do this.

Commissioner Holt said years ago she asked Mr. Presnell to apply on the back porch and experience had nothing to do with it. She said this was the right way, it was advertised. She asked what they would say to the three candidates. That was no way to do business. There has to be something that was totally incorrect with this process. She said she has looked at their accomplishments. She said they had never been through the craziness that that they had been through with the hurricane and may be a while before they get the money. She said for them to not take this process and throw it out the window. She said for them to at least interview the applicants, honor what was put out there and be fair about the process. She said the candidates and the position was on the Agenda, not Mr. Presnell.

Chair Viegbesie wanted to go on record saying he never had an issue with Mr. Presnell and they were very cordial to one another. He said there were a lot of things they talked about outside of

being the County Administrator and the County Commission. However, this Board was the one that sat the criteria and the criteria and what is the process and the process is as important as the product. He said they advertise, there is a minimum requirement and those who meet the requirements should apply. He said if the process is not followed, then they were not doing the right thing. He said they have to follow the process and it had to run its course and they have three candidates. He said they should follow what they advertised and if they did not want to vote to approve any of the applicants, and then they should open it again. He said it was very unfortunate they were using Mr. Presnell's name in this conversation.

Commissioner Holt wanted to clarify they did not fire Mr. Presnell, his contract ended.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO SET A DATE FOR INTERVIEWS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A STATEMENT.

Commissioner Taylor said to not always look at the product but the process and sometimes look at the product and not the process.

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

Commissioner Taylor asked if they could add a timeline on it.

CLERK OF COURT

13. Updates

Mr. Thomas mentioned EMS again. He said because the Ordinance did not pass, they would need to back out of next year's budget the 1 cent surtax money. He said in reviewing, he thought their projections for collections were a bit overstated in next year's budget and thought they should ask staff to review that and look at the proposed budget for next year.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed with him on that.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Updates

Mr. Lawson asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Taylor had a request; she asked what the possibility was of getting CBOR on the Agenda between now and November and he said it should be on the next agenda.

Mr. Weiss said in terms of advertising an Ordinance, it is ten days prior to a meeting, It went to the Planning Commission on August 22nd and was not advertising time between that meeting and Commission meeting. It has been advertised for the September 17th meeting and will be on that Agenda. She wanted to ask the Gadsden Times Editor a question. The Editor said their Code of Ethics prohibits them from participating in meetings.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the home owners' insurance program and if Staff had rectified the problem or found out any information for the community because there were a lot of citizens that were losing their home owners' insurance because of the hurricane from leaking roofs, etc.

Mr. Lawson said he could not address that tonight and was not sure what staff could do to assist in that.

Chair Viegbesie asked if he and staff would explore what could be gotten from the Insurance Commissioner's office.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Updates

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Taylor asked about litigations and if there was any way to find out potential lawsuits against County of what was actually filed because she was hearing rumbling on the street. Mr. Weiss said he would get with the Administrator and would get them the information.

Commissioner Taylor said at the last meeting regarding the County Attorney bid and they agreed to move forward with the bid and was a stipulation made they would not do so until after the contract expired. After thinking about it, she concluded she did not know if they could hold themselves true to that if the attorney did not fulfil his contractual duty, they were not required to stay with the firm until February. Did that agreement hold them to the fire and did not want that to hold them in the event there was some issues between now and February.

Chair Viegbesie said that comment was something they had talked about since he had been on the Board with regards to performance with regards to the two positions that the Board hires, the County Administration and the County Attorney. He said if they had an instrument for evaluating the performance of the two positions, then they could upon the determination of a vote of lack of confidence and if they were no longer confident in their services, they could go about terminating the contracts before maturity. But they had no instrument in place to do such.

Commissioner Taylor said there are forms that have been used in the past.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt they needed to look at all of that to make sure there was an instrument in place for County Administrators if Staff file a suit against the County Administrator, instead of it going directly to the County Administrator, the information goes directly to Board. Chair Viegbesie said the County Administrator or anyone who works for the County is working on behalf of the County and the lawsuit would be against the County Government. The person would be suing the Board. Commissioner Hinson asked if staff sued the County based on actions taken by the Administrator, the County would make a claim on the policy and the insurance company appoints counsel to represent the County. Once that happens, the carrier has control over the settlement if there is a settlement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked how permits were coming along.

Commissioner Morgan left at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Lawson said if a citizen called with a concern, they would address it from their office and every citizen that called him with a particular concern, they could meet with him and discuss the issues and they will be addressed in an individual basis with any permit issues. He said they also need to start thinking about their Legislative priorities sooner. He said he was not sure if they had money in the budget for lobbyists, but they needed to look into that.

He asked they consider looking at how they could help push Havana Northside High School on the historical registry so they would be eligible for additional funding.

He said they should do something for Dr. Robert Bryant to commemorate him.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Asked Mr. Lawson to make a note and did not think there was a Public Records clause in the contract with CRMC. She said she brought up 1 cent infrastructure tax at one of their meetings. She said they need to figure out how to generate money because the (downed) bridge would not be the only one to go down.

She said to Commissioner Hinson if a Commissioner called the Insurance Commission, they would listen to them and they have a whole group of people that can take care of that.

She said she spoke with Mr. Lawson earlier about organizations that help them with FEMA and asked if he had a chance to check on things and he said they had not gotten a response back yet.

She said they needed to push SCRAP and SCOP with DOT to get help with the bridges.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they should recognize Shanks "Be Out" day and Greensboro had a big event and he wanted to bring the groups here and recognize them soon.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor Vice-Chair, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she would rather the Administrator meet with Gadsden County Times so they could get an official statement how they, so the whole Board would know, how they could get an item advertised in a timely manner and they will not be under fire and felt it should be an official statement that came from the Administrator.

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

Chair Viegbesie said he was going to bundle his motion for Resolutions; one was to honor Rev. Sterling Barkley; other is for Proclamation for Health Department Second Annual Pride Health Symposium on September 11th. Commissioner Taylor said so moved and Commissioner Holt made the second.

He said last meeting he requested an independent audit for all contractors awarded in this County for the past ten (10) years and said the audit was very much needed because he has heard complaints from contractors as to unfairness and disparity in the award of contracts. He said for the County to retain their integrity and transparency in their government; he was renewing his

request for an independent audit of the contracts they have awarded for the past 10 years.

He said this was a call for action for citizens of Gadsden County. He said they need to hold the government accountable. If anyone sees any improper behavior by staff or commissioners, please call the Florida Commission of Ethics at 851-488-7564. He said this was the only way to hold public officials accountable.

Commissioner Taylor left at 8:22 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a Resolution for Pastor Lawrence Reed and Chair Viegbesie made the second.

Commissioner Holt gave a shout out to Christopher Holt and said "DJ Trucker" filled up Tanyard Creek Park and said you could not drive down MLK for 3 blocks when they had the event. She said it was a nice event and they need more events in the County.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO VOME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:24 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk