

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 3, 2019 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Commissioner Morgan gave the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hall said the next item was Amendment and Approval of the Agenda.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND A SECOND (BIT THE VOTE WAS NEVER CALLED FOR).

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Resolution honoring Bonnie Ann Francis

The Board presented a Resolution to Major Bonnie Ann Francis, Retired, which was read aloud, and pictures were taken.

CONSENT

Chair Viegbesie made note that Commissioner Taylor (who was present at the meeting earlier) may not be returning due to not feeling well.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MR. HALL SAID WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 6 HE WANTED TO PULL FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER HINSON THEN ASKED TO PULL ITEM 5 FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND TO THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

2. Ratification Memo

3. Training Funding Request for 2019 Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Assembly of Cities

4. Approval of the Proposal and Service Agreement with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP for Suppression Gas Systems Test and Inspect-FM200 System

5. Approval of the Amendment to Agreement No. T1710 required by Department of Environmental

~~**Protection of the Grant Agreement for the East Gadsden Park and Multipurpose Complex at St. Hebron**~~

Pulled for Discussion

~~**6. Approval of the Agreement for State Lobbying Services with Lawson & Associates for Fiscal Year**~~

Pulled for Discussion

7. Approval of Minutes

- a. July 18, 2019-Budget Workshop
- b. October 1, 2019-Regular Meeting

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

5. Approval of the Amendment to Agreement No. T1710 required by Department of Environmental Protection of the Grant Agreement for the East Gadsden Park and Multipurpose Complex at St. Hebron

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of amendment number 2 to Agreement No. T1710 between Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Gadsden County BOCC and for authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

Commissioner Hinson said he asked to have this item pulled because he received a phone call today because things were being cut out that were detrimental to the park, i.e., lights to the restrooms so would not be able to use them, drainage and other issues and there was a potential to have other change orders and thought they needed to address those issues before they voted.

Chair Viegbesie said this would just be a walking trail for now.

Commissioner Hinson said this was still a part of the \$200,000 and they needed to make sure before moving forward all their ducks were in a row.

Commissioner Taylor arrived at 6:17 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked what the suggestions were because they approved the walking trail and asked if the restrooms would come second. She asked if they were laid out be in stages.

Commissioner Hinson said before getting into it he wanted to make sure they were on the same page first.

Allan Meeks appeared before the Board. He said originally the restrooms started out to be compost restrooms and now they will have water and skylights. The walking trail has been shortened up because they did not have the needed funds or the acreage to do a mile and the holding pond has been reduced; there was no need to build a huge holding pond until they were ready to build the parking lot, which would come at a Commissioner later phase.

Commissioner Hinson said in his humble opinion, maybe they needed to halt this and hold a brief workshop so it could be explained to Commissioners so they know exactly what was going on and to keep the change orders down. Mr. Meeks said this was reducing costs so they could build the park and this was also just an amendment to the Agreement for the State for the scope of work.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not vote because of the costs to park but it looked like this item was simply extending the existing agreement they already had by one year with DEP.

Commissioner Hinson said they did not have to extend the agreement, he did not mind stopping the agreement right now; but if they were going to continue, they needed to know what they were doing so the people would not get something that was not fully complete. He said he had a problem with this because they have a bridge that collapsed and they took \$200,000 out of this funding to take care of this and felt the bridge should take priority first.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly at the last meeting the project was approved to be conducted and explained this was only asking for the DEP extension and was changing from a compost toilet to a regular toilet. Commissioner Hinson said there would not be lights in the restrooms and it was not fair to have citizens walk in and there be no lights, it would not be safe.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was a deadline on this and what the impact would be if it was not approved. Commissioner Hinson said to table this until a workshop was scheduled. He said in short, he voted for this, after Hurricane Michael, they had a bridge that collapsed and they took money out of Public Works, and was since told another bridge was at risk.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THEY HAD A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked if Commissioner Hinson was talking about the bridge in Juniper and he said he did not have the information on hand and the Administrator said there were two bridges; one on Hutchinson Ferry and one on Juniper Creek and said Ms. Lex could give a report as to where they were on those and both were under construction.

Commissioner Morgan called for point of order and said they knew the bridges were progressing but this item was strictly regarding an agreement they entered into with DEP and was for an extension from the original completion date and had nothing to do with the impact of the project and did not apply to the agenda item they were discussing now.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE EXTENSION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

- 6. Approval of the Agreement for State Lobbying Services with Lawson & Associates for Fiscal Year**
Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the agreement for the State Lobbying Services with Lawson & Associates. He added that they currently have an agreement with Gadsden County that would expire on December 31, 2019.

Commissioner Hinson said he brought this up and thought the issue was if they went over \$25,000 and thought for the sake of time and effort, they could go with \$24,999 for the contract.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding of the item was since the contract was through December, 2019, the contract would carry them through the legislative session which was January, which was the reason for the recommendation of \$15,000.00 from Staff. Commissioner Hinson pointed out this was for the entire year. Commissioner Hinson then asked if, according to their procurement policy, they had to be under \$25,000. Mr. Hall explained with \$25,000 they had to have at least three bids.

Mr. Weiss explained there were different levels on their procurement policy; that was accurate for a formal bid. There was an existing agreement for \$15,000 and they could increase but they would need to get quotes. Commissioner Hinson asked they put this back on the Agenda.

Commissioner Morgan said he was actually the one that pulled this item for discussion and thought he would have a chance to comment on it. He said there were two lobbying firm agreements in place. Mr. Weiss said there were ones with the Gunster firm and Lawson and Associates.

Commissioner Morgan said he did not see the need for this agreement and was outvoted last year regarding this. The County did not have the money to be hiring the different lobbying firms when there was already one in place and the reason he pulled it was to encourage them to delay it for this year and maybe the next couple of years until they were in a better position financially where they could better afford it. He asked they not approve it at this time.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION OF OPTION 2 TO NOT APPROVE THIS ITEM AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Holt said some of the subcommittees have already started meeting and the County currently had no representation and a lot of progress was not made last year and there was a need to be better organized and they needed representation in the meetings.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AT \$15,000 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AT \$25,000 FOR LOBBYING SERVICES AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they take that amount in this particular agreement, would it be one that warranted a bid or could they move forward with the lobbying service.

Mr. Weiss said their procurement policy would not require a formal bid but did require written quotes from three firms. Commissioner Taylor asked if what was driving that was the amount of \$25,000 and Mr. Weiss said yes. She asked Commissioner Hinson if he was willing to adjust his amount so they could move forward.

COMMISSIONER HINSON AMENDED HIS MOTION TO \$21,000.00.

Mr. Weiss pointed out under their procurement policy, there was a \$15,000 level and then they would jump to a \$25,000 level. Commissioner Hinson said they would need three quotes anyway

at \$15,000 and Mr. Weiss said they had an existing agreement that could be extended at \$15,000. Commissioner Hinson said since they were a reputable company and they would continue to do their job, they could stick with \$25,000.

Chair Viegbesie asked if his motion was for \$25,000 and he said yes.

Commissioner Taylor said she preferred to not go to the limits where they have to do a bid or get themselves in a quagmire with regards to their procurement policy. She said for them to stay with the \$15,000 that was originally on the floor.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion and second on the floor and asked if she was suggesting a friendly amendment and Commissioner Taylor said so moved what he just said.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mary Alice Tiller, 815 Sunset Drive, Quincy, Items 8 & 9

Sean Marston, 2851 Remington Green, Items 8 & 9

Ronnie Dawkins, 28305 Blue Star General questions

Down Bot, 958 Ames Barineau Road, Items 8 & 9

Tracy Johnson, 1246 Carl Pitts Road, Chattahoochee, FL Item 8

Richard May, 331 N. Monroe Street, Quincy, Items 8 & 9

Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson, 825 Virginia Street, Quincy, FL Mrs. Anderson appeared before the Board on behalf of the Walk/Knock/Knock and two weeks ago they were able to register 45 people and this past Saturday they registered 13 people.

She also pointed out on the new Barack Obama Round-about, when it was first built, it was so horribly done a truck could not maneuver around it and it was extended so an 18 wheeler can now drive around it but the arrows are pointed in the wrong direction. She said she had witnessed two almost accidents, one being her. She went to the City and they said it was County and the County told her it was the City's responsibility.

Commissioner Holt said regarding the Round-about, it was the County's responsibility and it would be addressed first thing in the morning.

Jerry Potter, 1807 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. PUBLIC HEARING-(Quasi-Judicial)-RFM Day School Special Exception Use (SEU 2019-01)

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of an application for a Special Exception Use for the Robert F. Munroe School (RFM) (SEU 2019-01).

Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner, appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and gave a description of the item.

Sean Marston, 2851 Remington Green Circle, Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and was there to address any questions the Board might have. He said they looked at other sites but this was the best site they looked at.

Tracy Johnson, 1246 Carl Pitts Road, Chattahoochee, FL appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and spoke in support of the school.

Jerry Potter, 1807 Tallavana Trail, Havana, FL appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and read a prepared statement speaking in support of the school.

Richard May, 331 N. Monroe Street, Quincy appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and spoke in support of the school.

Mary Alice Tiller, 815 Sunset Drive, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and said she was an alumnus of the school, was a chair member and spoke in support of the school.

Ronnie Dawkins, 28305 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and had questions regarding the buffer along Highway 90. He asked what is impact regarding noise, lightning, on people now that are in school zone. Does traffic study warrant a light at Lanier and South Lanier? He said he felt it was a dangerous intersection.

Mr. Marston re-appeared before the Board to address the questions asked by Mr. Dawkins. He mentioned there were a significant number of trees within the median that would buffer noise and they could not take them down, they were DOT trees. They did perform a traffic study and had met with DOT; they specifically asked about a light at the intersection and DOT told them at that time a light was not required and they wanted to see the project in its fill build-out stage to determine the need for the traffic light and were in conversations with them concerning a Speed Reduction Study.

Mr. Dawkins re-appeared and said when DOT was putting in a turn-lane, there were accidents that happened after hours.

Mr. Marston said there was a drive-way connection permit submitted to DOT and they were reviewing it.

Dawn Burch, 261 White Oak Drive, Crawfordville, FL appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk on behalf of RFM School and said she believed in the school and also taught there.

Melissa Darby, 1010 Sunset Drive, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and spoke on behalf of RFM School. She said she also taught 68 students at the

school.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 7:32 p.m.

Christy Ulrich, 114 Westwood Drive, Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board, was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and spoke on behalf of RFM School.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:34 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said this was in his district and he wanted to disclose he had spoken with Mr. Dawkins and he had concerns and they were discussed tonight. He asked if this would trigger a traffic light in Midway and said that may spark that conversation because there were a lot of traffic accidents there as well. He also wanted to disclose he talked with someone that worked at the school and was thankful Mr. Dawkins brought his concerns forward.

Commissioner Holt said she met with Mr. Marston and he answered her questions. She said when it came to Highway 90, US 27, I-10, they had to be careful about them and they had to work with FDOT.

Commissioner Morgan said usually when they fill up a room they get a little nervous but this was a good thing. He said he also appreciated Mr. Dawkins questions and concerns, especially since this was in his neighborhood. He said he also spoke with Mr. Marston concerning his questions and issues. He said the campus would be built out in phases and thought that was a great thing for the community.

Chair Viegbesie disclosed he also met with Mr. Marston. He felt this was a very good project for the County.

Commissioner Taylor said anytime there was a chance to grow education was good and she was ready to move the question. She said she also had a business on Highway 90 and she was concerned about the egress and ingress and this was a chance to partner. She said this was an asset. She said she would yield to Commissioner Hinson because it was his district but she was ready to go home.

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

9. Public Hearing-(Quasi-Judicial)-RFM Day School Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2019-01)

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for consideration of an application for a Conceptual and Preliminary Phased Site Plan for the Robert F. Munroe School (RFM) (SP 2019-01).

Chair Viegbesie announced it was a public hearing and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak. Before that, Jill Jeglie appeared before the Board.

Jill Jeglie, Senior Planner, appeared before the Board, , was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and gave a brief description.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and called out names of ones that filled out Speaker Request Forms and earlier appeared before the Board.

COMMISSIONERHINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH CONDITIONS 1-T AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Holt asked who owned the cemetery. Ms. Jeglie said from the Property Appraiser's records a contact could not be found but the project would not impact the cemetery.

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

10. Public Hearing-Approve the Funding of the Summer Youth Program in the FY 19/20 Budget

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to discuss and take action regarding the funding of the Summer Youth program in the FY 19/20 budget.

Lori Bouie, 816 Hardin Street, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board in support of the Summer Youth program.

Cathy Johnson, 517 Country Lane Havana, FL appeared before the Board in support of Summer Youth funding, said it would reduce delinquent behavior in the community and help with emotional development for the children. She said she was an entrepreneur and hires at least two youth as did the Town of Havana and she was going to ask them to increase the number they hire.

Chair Viegbesie said this was for public discussion and he asked that staff explore ways to fund this and he asked if they were successful. Mr. Hall said most private businesses would not hire students until they reached the age of 16 years of age.

Commissioner Taylor said what the Interim did with private business, was what she did with Constitutional Officers; she reached out to some of the Constitutionals who had requested and received increases in their budgets to see if they would be willing to return some of the funding to support some of the Non-Profits they did not fund and support some of the programs they did not fund. She made her way to the Sheriff and Property Appraiser and they agreed to turn back some of the money they were given. She said in piggy-backing off the Chairman that gave directions to reach out to private sectors, call the Constitutional Officers. She said she was still rocking and rolling over the \$1 Million increase in EMS budget and that was primarily for raises, not equipment or services, and asked they look into that.

Chair Viegbesie said that was the direction he was going. He said they could think outside the box to be able to continue this.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to be honest to citizens, their budget was not tight. He said they fattened the budget so they would not be able to hire the students and they were giving false narratives about things that did not make sense because they could not increase the budget by \$3-4 Million and say they had no money. They did the same thing last year. The Clerk told them they gave \$1.5 Million in raises to selective people last year to 1/3 of staff. He told them they needed to be careful but the Board approved it anyway. He said how could they not want to

protect the kids of Gadsden County? If the kids had jobs, they would not get in trouble. He said he had a Pastor tell him a child broke into his house and when he asked why he did that, his response was because he did not have a summer job.

Chair Viegbesie said one thing brought to his attention by staff was there were some employees that work a 4 day week and some work a 5 day week. He said he did not know how much they could extract if they had a uniform five day work week for everybody and that might cut down on overtime and might be source of funding for this program.

Commissioner Hinson suggested they give the Interim County Administrator direction to increase the budget by \$4 Million and then carve out \$132,000 by any means necessary to make sure these kids had a job for the summer. He said the Board said in September “We said we going to approve the budget, y’all remember that, because now we can come back and review the budget. They said, Commissioner, don’t worry about it, we gonna approve it and then we’ll take this out and take that, we got to approve it first, am I right Mr. Attorney? We said that, you remember that conversation right? We said we can approve the budget, come back and amend the budget. That’s what the Board, these five Commissioners said. I think I still voted against it, but we voted as a Board for that to amend the budget when times come, when a time like this. So my humble opinion, let’s see how creative it be for the kids. If he can’t find anything, I’ll stop, I will stop talking, I promise you, I can’t promise you, but I will try to stop talking about this issue again. That would be my recommendation. Let’s make sure he is creative, this man did over a \$1 Million \$100 Million budget in his lifetime when he worked with the State and everything else, millions of dollars in his own business. So let him be creative and see how he can carve out \$132,000 for the kids out of \$3-4 Million increase, if I’m making up something, someone please help me out.”

Chair Viegbesie said they heard his suggestion and asked to give his fellow Commissioners time to express themselves.

Commissioner Holt said in 2006 two commissioners were fighting for the Summer Youth program and if \$2-3 Million was given to someone, she had not seen it. She said when the Clerk said what was done in raises, he never said what raises he gave (Deputy Clerk said none). She said this Board approved the budget and not one Commissioner could tell the rest they approved something and they gave someone something. They did it. She said they know they were down by \$1.5 Million. FEMA has not sent a penny; they have \$2 Million in the bank; if they stumble they would be in trouble and could not pay the bills after two months. She said she would not vote to move a penny out of reserve until they had money coming in. She said people were working every day and had a right to get paid. She said if their money was down, look at it and see if anything was there. She said if they had positions that were not filled and those people were taking up extra duties, that was fine with her, she did not have a problem with it. She said they have contractors that work with them every day; if they make money off the system, they should give back to the system. She said it gives the impression they were giving away money. If it was there, fine, but it was not there. She said to go out and lobby people for money for the summer youth fund.

Jeff Price, Senior Management & Budget Analyst, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Hinson asked him if raises were given last year to a certain group of people and Mr. Price said yes. Commissioner Hinson asked how many employees there were and Mr. Price said about 200 and Commissioner Hinson asked if 102 received the raises and Mr. Price said that was about right. Commissioner Hinson asked if there was about \$1.5 Million in raises given and Mr. Price

confirmed. He then asked how much budget increased this year by and Mr. Price said \$3 Million. Commissioner Hinson asked if they did not have the money, how they could increase the budget. Mr. Price said they had the money and at the time they did not know about \$1.5 payroll increase and now catching that up. He said he was working on the highlights of the entire budget to give them the details. Commissioner Hinson asked out of the \$3 Million, they could not find \$132,000 for the Summer Youth Program.

Commissioner Holt said they have had this discussion before, they discussed the amounts of money paid for overtime for employees; positions that were not being filled and asked if he had those numbers and he said not on him. She said he does the budget and should have had the figures attached to the agenda item. She asked the Interim County Administrator for the figures to be attached for the next meeting. She said information on the budget should come from the budget person, not the Clerk, the Clerk steps in when he sees something was wrong. She said the Finance person lets them know by State Statute whether they were spending the money correctly but the budget person was the one that would throw up warnings if something was going wrong. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to reiterate that no matter what the Administrator did or what the Attorney did, they voted on it. The Board would vote on what was brought to them. They have input two to three weeks before it reached them. She added she knew Commissioner Hinson was not going to budge on what he said and she was not going to budge on the reserves until they found some money. Mr. Price said the County Administrator asked him to look into the budget to find some money for the children. Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Hinson was bringing up concerns that must be addressed.

Chair Viegbesie said his comment was to the County Attorney. He asked if there was any policy regarding work days for employees or was it at the County Administrator's discretion.

Commissioner Holt stepped out 8:44 p.m.

He said if there was no policy and it was left at the discretion of the County Administration, he suggested the Interim County Administrator and Mr. Price directions to determine how much the County would save between a 4 day work week versus a 5 day work week.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:46 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor said she listened to both Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Holt. She said for the budget they just approved, on that particular night, everyone was up in arms that they send a balanced budget to the State and wanted to make sure that the County did not falter on sending a balanced budget and they also had concerns about the budget but knew in due time there would be an opportunity to come back to make adjustments.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out 8:48 p.m.

She listed some facts:

“\$1.5 Million increase in staff salaries that went with this budget, \$1.5 Million. The explanation for that was that because some employees took on the responsibilities of others that were not here. My God, that means that nobody was working and one person was working for 5-6 people to warrant that kind of increase. So I don't think that's going to be the rationale as to why these people received those increases when we get a chance to look closer and I commend it being

looked at closer. I support that. You are going to see people receive increase just because; it didn't have anything to do with additional responsibilities. I'm guaranteeing you, not at the numbers it would have to be at in order for the numbers for this kind of money to come for, that did not happen. So that's \$1.5 Million. Here's another \$1 Million that also came in this budget and that went to EMS. I mentioned earlier, EMS money was simply for raises. Here's another \$750,000 that went to Constitutional Officers who wanted to see increase this year in their budget, \$750,000. That's where the \$3 Million came from, from those increases. The \$1.5 Million in the salary, the \$1 Million to EMS, \$750,000 to the Constitutionals. That's where your \$3 Million came from. So we looked at that and we said 'You know what, we're over \$3 Million plus'. So thus Board had the genius idea of cutting the non-profits, the people who help children, the people who help the disabled, the people who help the seniors, they cut the non-profits completely out of this budget and that saved them a whopping \$250,000. Made sense, no-ma'am, no-sir, it did not. But that's what they did. Some you just heard a moment ago say 'Well, I will not touch the Reserves, I don't give a flying flip, I'm going to let that Reserves stay intact, we'll do it somewhere else' but that same night they went into the Reserves to fund the Boys and Girls Club. "

Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:51 p.m.

She said continued and said, "We were at \$2 Million but once they fund that Boys and Girls Club and allowed the Grant position to stay in place, we went down to \$1.93 Million. That's what happened. We fund programs that we want to fund. Programs that they don't want to fund, they don't fund. Now the Chairman of this Board sits in a very, very sensitive position. He does. If the Summer funding is going to come, it will be because of the way he swings because I know Commissioner Hinson and I are 110% of funding these programs **by any means necessary. I don't care where it comes from as long as it comes.** So, listen at this educated people, if we spend \$132,000 on Summer programs the County won't be able to pay salaries, how ridiculous is that statement. We won't be able to carry out government for two months because we chose to spend \$132,000 on children to go to work but because we choose to do this, it dips into our reserves so we cannot keep the government running so that's why they don't want to fund it. Is that not ridiculous, that a County government stands on falls, fails to see \$132,000? Unheard of. We are an A rated government and we can borrow \$132,000 if we need it to keep this County afloat. But this is what's being said to people. 'O can't go into the Reserves because if we do people are going to lose their jobs.' How ridiculous is that? We're talking about \$132,000. 'I can't go into the reserves because that means the people won't get paid'. Not so. Not so. People choose to do what they want to do but there are so many people that are out there and I think Commissioner Hinson said he got emotional, there are so many people out there that are gullible, that wants to believe what these people are saying, they really believe that this is the truth. 'Well, no, no, we've got to pay these people to work, so I don't blame you for not taking the money.' \$132,000, we'll make sure people don't lose their salary because of it. We'll make sure that we can get that money from somewhere. We're an A rated company, a business. We don't want to borrow but I don't think that would shut us down. Isn't that ridiculous? But there are people that believe that because they don't want to believe people would tell them anything that was wrong or misleading. So, yes, ladies and gentlemen, we are in a quagmire. I agree that the money should not come out of Reserves. I agree with that. But of this \$1.5 Million that went to Staff increase, of this \$1 Million that went to EMS and of this \$750,000, I'm a little off with that number that went to the Constitutional Officers; there is where your \$132,000 is. So nothing there because these people just got whatever they wanted and nobody came in and explained anything to us. They just sent a number in and we funded it. But the real organizations like North Florida Legal Services and give

free legal, the little organization like, what's the name of the company this gives free health assistance? We cut the bejeezus out of them. \$250,000 is all we saved by doing that. So I say this to us tonight and this is all I'm going to say Mr. Chairman because I know you don't like no-body going on and on and on and on, but I was going to say this at the closure. I, I, I am not seeking re-election for 2020. I am going to finish out my term but I am **NOT** seeking re-election because what's going on around here (motioning around the dais) is not me and people are able to convince people of these misleading, like this gentleman said a moment, these misleading facts. They are able to convince people and that's just not me. I have been born and raised to help. That's all I know to do. To be misleading, misguiding, that's not a part of me and I know God don't want me up here with her. But this is wrong. What we're telling people as to why you aren't going to fund it. Now that gentleman (pointing to Mr. Price) started to say something a moment ago and was cut short that this gentleman (pointing to Chair Viegbesie) directed him to find the money and that he had located it but then he was cut because now, whup, a solution, can't let that come into the atmosphere. So he was cut, because, and then, and then this was what was said. 'No, no, not right now because there is some other questions and issues that need to be solved before this can come forward.' People just keep moving it, keep moving it, keep moving it. But at the end of the day we have to give an account to what we do. Thank you for giving those directions to this gentleman, thank you for your due diligence to find the money and I know you have done just that Sir. At some point and time, Thank God it's December, Thank God it's December and it's not April and May where people trying to get jobs and its December. Maybe we can work it out. But here's one right here, November 2020, ain't got to worry about this no more. I've got enough of this up here. Thank you very much."

Chair Viegbesie said they were going to find a way and there was going to be a meeting of the minds.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO GIVE STAFF DIRECTION TO FIND MONEY OUTSIDE OF RESERVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD A COMMENT.

Commissioner Morgan said he has been pretty consistent on his position. He said he knew Summer Youth program was important to the children and they had funded it in the past years. He said their primary job was to set policy and make decisions and understand how important prioritizing was when it came to funding. He asked the Board if they wanted to go to Finance, but not just ask them to find money for Summer Youth, but to look at how to responsibly prioritize all the needs they have in the County. He said when they go to someone and say they cannot make the repair on the road because they were funding Summer Youth, they would have a problem, and there would be folks not happy with that at all. He added it was important to look at everything, not just one item; it was not the correct way to spend the taxpayers' dime.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

11. Public Hearing-Approval to re-establish the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY19/20 Budget

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for approval to re-establish the Emergency Housing Repair Account to \$100,000 in the FY 19/20 Budget using the General Fund Balance.

Commissioner Hinson said he brought this item up could make it short and the reason he brought this up was it was needed. He said before Hurricane Michael he stated they needed to refurbish homes before a tropical storm came and instead they had a hurricane. The Clerk said they had \$750,000 that hadn't been touched in about a year or so and they have money for housing that wasn't being used to help people that need help and some people had been on the SHIP list for almost 13 years. They have people that need ramps and that was what the emergency fund was for, for Seniors, emergencies, etc. and each Commissioner had \$20,000 and was able to repair a lot of homes and put ramps for people that need ramps. He said he was not into being shot down and wanted to table this issue for another night.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ISSUE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Taylor said he was on a roll. She said there was \$500,000 there. The problem was setting up the program fairly so that the money could be used. That was the direction the Interim County Administrator needed to take. She said no-one calls in and she didn't do it because she didn't trust those people over there so she didn't call in and tell anyone to do anything. She said it needed to be set up where it was done fairly and equally across the Board. She said the money was just sitting there and there was no reason why because there was a waiting list. She said they voted to have some of those dollars used in this emergency housing after it got zeroed out, that money was out there; it was just not being used, "he" needed to be tasked on how to move forward and get it used by the people that need it. She said this program was for two groups of people; seniors and people with disabilities. She said instead of \$100,000 there was \$500,000; they did not want to turn this back to the State, they did not want to use what has been given because if they do, it was hard to get it the next time they go over there. She said she thought maybe there should be another group of people; pull from another department that could help go through the applications, and award services, give people the repairs that are needed. She said she has heard a lot was going on in that department; there was a lot they had to be responsible for so some of this stuff needed to go to other departments. She added they were a big group, the money was sitting there not being used so it needed to be, in her opinion, coming up with a mechanism to be put in place so that the money could be used to help the disabled and the seniors. She said she did not want \$100,000 for her district, just wanted money to be used. She said she did not need to take part. She told Mr. Hall to come up with a plan to put this where it needed to be.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

Commissioner Taylor said it was being tabled to give Interim opportunity...

Chair Viegbesie said he heard the conversation and hoped he heeded the conversation and one was find a plan to make sure the \$500,000 was used.

GENERAL BUSINESS

CLERK OF COURT

12. Updates

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13 Updates

The Interim County Administrator said he had nothing to report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

14. Updates

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

He said he received a text and was told the Boys and Girls Club did not want to be a part of here anymore. He said the Board made it clear if they were not going to continue service for Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee, the Board would not honor their commitment. Chair Viegbesie said he talked with the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club and the Board of Directors was actually meeting to see how they are going to work into continuing services for all the locations in Gadsden County. Chair Viegbesie told them to put the plan together and bring it back to the Commission to explain to them how they would be fully operational. Commissioner Hinson said the letter he received was more consistent to what has taken place. He said he was trying to be proactive. A lot of parents were taking the children out and placing them in 21st Century in Havana and Quincy because there was no place to go. He thought maybe he could help them out little bit because him being a fan of the Club, they need to be proactive and thought if they gave them \$25,000, we keep \$75,000, and they have to show they were using it for outreach and the County would be saving \$75,000 but they have to use it for areas like traveling, outreach.

He also mentioned increasing Revenue and how they could increase revenue-with whoever they have for economic engines; they need to start having meetings with them about increasing revenue. He said maybe they could start having meetings twice a week or once a month with the economic engines and they have to tell them what they have in place to increase revenue. He said he was not worried about jobs anymore that sounded farfetched. He said they need to have infrastructure in place. He just wanted to have conversations once a month or every two weeks, whatever, with both groups.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was a fundraiser that could be done so the Veterans could have some soft money. Lots of times veterans call in needing assistance with utility bills and rental assistance.

Commissioner Morgan left at 9:11 p.m.

Mr. Hall said he would check with Mr. Jackson. Commissioner Taylor said she did and was why she was asking.

Commissioner Holt said they would do better if they went after economic development; they were not asking companies what they could do to help them expand. When they approved the tax exemption ordinance with Coastal, the County won't receive revenue, but Coastal would be employing at least 30 additional families.

Commissioner Brenda Holt Vice-Chair, District 4

Commissioner Holt said about the Manager and staff looking at some of these things they just discussed, she wanted that money to be used also, but always fell back to State and Federal law, and she was going to follow that because she was not going to jail.

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

Chair Viegbesie said he would like for the Board to pass an Ordinance banning human trafficking in Gadsden County.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

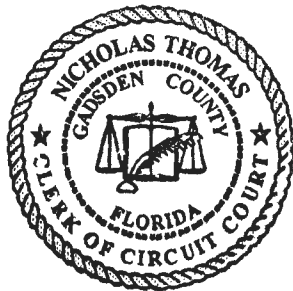
MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:22 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



ATTEST:



Nicholas Thomas, Clerk