

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 17, 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 1
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Wesley Hall, 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 6:04 p.m. and asked everyone to mute their phones. He asked Rev. Jimmy Salters to give the Invocation and then led in Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

14a-JAG Contract 2019-JAGC-GADS-1-M2-174
14b-JAG Contract 2019-JAGC-GADS-1-N#-072

Mr. Hall stated he would like to pull Items 3 and 14 on the Consent Agenda.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Commissioner Holt asked about the two additions. Commissioner Morgan stated he thought they were added. It was confirmed they were pulling Items 3 and 14 and adding 14a and 14b to the Consent Agenda.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

1. Ratification Memo
2. Code Enforcement Lien Satisfaction/Parcel ID No. 2-17-3N-3W-0000-00234-0200
3. ~~Approval of the Amendment to the CenturyLink Master Service Agreement and Amended Quotes between CenturyLink and Gadsden County~~
Item pulled
4. Approval of Signatures for the Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contract-State Housing Initiative Partnership Program

5. **Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Contractors Payment Addendum to Section 21**
6. **Approval to Renew the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement with Waste Pro of Florida, Inc.**
7. **Green Shades Fire Station Buildout**
8. **McCall Bridge Striping Bid Award**
9. **Appointment to the Gadsden County Planning Commission At-Large Position**
10. **Appointment/Re-appointment of Board Members to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors**
11. **Armory Board of the State of Florida Addendum**
12. **Approval of the Change Order with Motorola Solutions for the New Jail Tower**
13. **Ratification of Payment for Fire Truck Repair**
14. ~~**Approval of the Contract for Advertising, Promotional, Marketing and Public Relations with Paradise Advertising & Marketing, Inc. for the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council**~~
Item pulled
- 14a. **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Contract 2019-JAGC-GADS-1-N2-174**
- 14b. **Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Contract 2019-JAGC-GADS-1-N3-072**
15. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **October 15, 2019-Regular Meeting**
Mr. Hall said the next item was for Approval of Minutes.

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

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rev. Shirlean Thomas, 482 Frank Jackson Road, Quincy, FL Item 7, appeared before the Board and thanked them for the support of Greenshade/Dogtown fire station and had a few words to say.

Kirk W. Douglas, 1226 Dodger Ball Park Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and spoke on behalf of Greenshade/Dogtown Volunteer Fire Department and thanked the Board for their support regarding the fire station.

Pam Kenon, 1252 Jamieson Road, Havana, FL Item 7

Willie Robinson, 7164 Salem Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Willie Robinson II, 7164 Salem Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Gloria Thomas, 8602 Salem Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Kirk Douglas #7 appeared before the Board and thanked them for their continued support.

Patricia Kenon, 1160 Dodger Ball Park Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Jesse Kenon, 375 Jack Scott Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Lina Douglas, 1226 Dodger Ball Park Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

James A. Smith, Item 7

Linda Smith, Item 7

Ben Albert, 814 Dodger Ball Park Road, Quincy, FL Item 7

Daryl Lightfoot, 6896 Attapulcus Highway, Quincy, FL, Item 7

Gloria Bost, 215 Williams Lane, Quincy, FL , Item 7

Jasper Hill, 89 Glover Akins Ct., Quincy, FL Item 7

Nick Maddox, Post Office Box 7141, Tallahassee, FL

Gadsden County Students Working Against Tobacco

Elijah Robinson, 45 Strong Road, Apt. 115-C, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and spoke against tobacco use.

Kenshaun Isaac appeared before the Board and spoke against tobacco use.

Jeremiah Williams appeared before the Board and spoke against tobacco use.

Shelanda Shaw, 1356 St. Hebron Rd., 21

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 16. Public Hearing-Adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-017 An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to include as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes, up to \$460,000.00 of the proceeds generated during Fiscal Year 2019/20 for capital expenditures for the Emergency Dispatch Center renovation; providing for repeal severability, inclusion in the Gadsden**

County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener's errors; and providing an effective date

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was for Board adoption of an ordinance amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances to include as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes, up to \$460,000.00 of the proceeds generated during Fiscal "Year 2019/20 for capital expenditures for the Emergency Dispatch Center renovation.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there were any comments from the audience and there were none.

Commissioner Morgan asked for clarity on the use of the proceeds.

Mr. Weiss said the operational expenses referred to were in the Statute itself and the Ordinance would dictate the use of the surtax. Commissioner Morgan asked if it was for capital expenses and he said yes.

Commissioner Holt said he hit where she was going and said it was not for operation of parks and Mr. Weiss confirmed it was not for parks. He also pointed out this would require an ordinary (super-majority) vote.

Chair Viegbesie asked what would happen to other parks that were in the County with regards to being able to maintain them.

Mr. Weiss said parks was not an authorized use of this fund. There was an amendment for the St. Hebron park for a certain amount of time.

Commissioner Morgan said there was already a line item in their budget for Parks and Recreation in their existing budget they fund.

Commissioner Taylor said if they use these dollars, it would mean less dollars for other items they had planned for in their 2019/2020 budget and by approving this item tonight, what other items would be impacted by this.

Mr. Hall said he would bring up Mr. Price to explain how the \$460,000 would be impacted.

Jeff Price, Senior Management and Budget Analyst appeared before them. He said the surtax would be split between the Fire Fund and Public Works fund and both funds currently have over \$1 Million fund balance. He added the money coming out would not affect the daily operational use of either of the funds.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was no particular project ear-marked for FY 2019/2020 that would need these funds. She added, based on what he said, the money would generate itself back over the year and wanted to make sure there was no paving project, no bridge that needed to be built, or anything that was a priority that might lose because the dollars were being moved elsewhere. Mr. Price said nothing had been budgeted.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Taylor asked if this was a bid item or a sole provider. Mr. Hall said it was a sole provider item.

GENERAL BUSINESS

17. Project Azalea Incentive Request

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said was for Board approval for an extension or push of one year to the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund schedule for Hoover Treated Wood Products.

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

18. Sublease Agreement between Eye Associates of Tallahassee and Lighthouse of the Big Bend for a portion of the hospital building space that is currently leased to Eye Associates

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said was for the Board's consideration of a sublease agreement between Eye Associates of Tallahassee and Lighthouse of the Big Bend for a portion of the hospital building space that was currently leased to Eye Associates.

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

19. Evaluation Committee Results of Legal Services Proposals

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board with the Committee's evaluation results of the proposals received from law firms desiring to provide legal services to the County.

Chair Viegbesie said with whichever firm selected, suggested the contract should be two years for the first run and after that should be annual. He also pointed out a typo in the Agenda Request item under options and said should be beginning February 22, 2020 and ending February 22, 2021.

Commissioner Holt said they had a workshop and looked at the numbers on the three firms and the law firm with the most points was the Williams Law Group and that was her recommendation.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR THE WILLIAMS LAW GROUP AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR CONVERSATION PURPOSES. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD A COMMENT.

Commissioner Taylor said although they were ranked according to numbers, all three firms were interviewed and all should have been given consideration. She said if they were going to take the top ranked firm, she did not feel they should have wasted the time of the other two. She said she was still open, although she felt Williams was a reputable firm, but they were not her first choice and thought the Board should decide.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the ranking they were looking at came from the committee members only and Mr. Hall said yes. Commissioner Morgan suggested and hoped they would consider, recommended they maintain continuity and encouraged them to maintain their relationship with the Ausley McMullen Law Firm. He said they hire two positions, the County Administrator and the County Attorney and asked they maintain continuity.

Chair Viegbesie said one thing he looked at, especially in preparing for the Legislative session, he wanted them to consider the firm that had lobbying experience.

Commissioner Morgan asked the Administrator if the Board currently had a relationship with two separate lobbying firms and Mr. Hall replied the County had a relationship but the contracts were close to expiring.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood at the previous meeting the Board did vote to fund Lawson & Associates and those dollars were approved and Chair Viegbesie said yes.

Commissioner Holt said they were already behind because the sub-committees have already started meeting and she called the question.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A VOTE AND ASKED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR THE AUSLEY LAW FIRM. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR THE PITTMAN LAW GROUP AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND.

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

MOTION PASSED 4-1. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.

Chair Viegbesie said the Pittman Law group will be new law representation and asked if the Board would consider making it two years and then the contract be annual.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no problem with a two-year term but wanted language in the event they wished to separate ties if the attorney was not meeting his obligations. She also thought they needed to continue the relationship with Ausley regarding the Hospital and felt they should bring back that option to keep legal services they currently have regarding the negotiating of the Hospital contract.

Commissioner Holt said she did not feel they had gotten everything they should have gotten out of the contract because things were not settled with the hospital and need another law firm for that. She said three law firms were applying and wanted to make sure that the same was offered to Williams Law Firm and see if they were interested, they worked the hospital issue before also.

Chair Viegbesie said he felt Ausley's fees they were charging for the hospital were pretty exorbitant.

Commissioner Taylor said this Board knew they were in the ninth hour of the contract agreement and there was not a lot of time to bring another firm up to speed.

Chair Viegbesie said with regards to the continuation of the hospital services, he suggested it be agendaed as soon as possible.

20. Discussion for Approval of the Allocation of funds for the Boys and Girls Club of Big Bend

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was to approve funding of the BGC in the FY 19/20 budget.

Chair Viegbesie said there were three options that would allow them to continue to provide services in Gadsden County and read them aloud.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was advertised in the paper and Mr. Hall said it was. He said he did not see it.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not remember when they asked Commissioner Holt to meet with them.

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

She added they tapped the attorney to draw up language that stated the dollars that were funded could only be used if all three sites were opened and fully functioning. She said that was a stipulation the Board voted on and they gave the Attorney directions to draw up language likewise.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 7:01 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said his recollection was the request by the Board was to meet with the Boys and Girls Club with the various options and asked the Deputy Clerk to check. She explained she did not have access to those minutes on the computer she was using.

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to recognize the benefit of the Boys and Girls Club to the children of the County and the Board had continuously and generously supported the Organization for many years. He said the situation was they have chosen to fund the organization for the upcoming fiscal year at a specific amount. He said his recommendation was they should not allow the organization to put them in a position to dictate they run their day-to-day operations. He added he did not think they were trying to do that but to show how

their costs of doing business had gone up and probably with receiving limited funding, they have a different model for doing business. He added he had “no comment on how they run their day to day operations, this is the amount of money we can afford to give on this. We’re obviously in a situation financially that we can’t afford to fund any additionally and it is what it is.”

Commissioner Hinson said he heard Commissioner Morgan say it was OK for them to fund Quincy and Havana if they chose to do so as long as it did not affect Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Holt said she was for funding them and reason was, they have 21st Century at all the schools and they have to pick them up and if it was reduced at one place, they could still go to 21st Century. She said she met with them and felt all of the Commissioners should meet with them, but she was not the one that would be working at those sites. She said if they could keep 1or2 clubs, she was happy.

Commissioner Morgan said he had all the confidence in the world in Mr. Maddox.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD TAKE NO ACTION ON THIS ITEM AND TO REITERATE THAT THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS WAS THAT OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson said personally he was pro-kids. Chair Viegbesie interrupted and said he had a Speaker Request form.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not like being dogmatic, wanted to look at all the facts, did not want to get rid of it and wanted to support it this year if they would support all three sites.

Commission Morgan wanted to clarify his motion, he said he approved the funding but for them to stay out of the day to day operations. He said he withdrew his previous motion and wanted to restate to make it clear. Commissioner Holt made the second.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Morgan changed his position and Chair Viegbesie stated he simply amended his motion and Commissioner Holt made the second.

Nick Maddox appeared before the Board. He wanted to make it clear this was more than a business because he used to be one of those kids. He said he had been running the organization since October with no contract. He said they wanted to be in Gadsden County and want to service the children and want to make his Club directors full time but did not have the funds to do that. He wanted to get to a place where they provide for a long time; he said he was not just saying this to the Board but to the citizens that they needed their help. He asked for the opportunity to build

Commissioner Taylor asked if they were asked to pay rent and utilities at the three sites.

Mr. Maddox responded by saying he believed with Havana and Quincy they pay \$6,000 in rent as well as utilities at both sites but not in Chattahoochee. She asked where they were located in Quincy because she thought they were at one of the schools. He said they left prior to him

and went to the Community Center and now were in conversation about going back to Crossroads.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Havana Northside High School, they paid \$6,000. Mr. Maddox said before him, he saw a check go out and they paid them \$6,000. Commissioner Hinson asked if they had met all their obligations and Mr. Maddox responded as far as he knew they had.

Commissioner Taylor said she did her research and she wanted to know how many students were coming. She looked and the numbers have been low for years; 21st Century was getting the bulk of the students. She said for almost 5-6 years the Board had given them \$225,000 from the Board with that small number of enrollments. She said it was important they had a good ratio of students but there was no mandate on the ratio set by the Board. She further stated they gave them \$96,000 this past year; and went into the Reserves to do so. She said she could appreciate where he was when it came to after-school programs, she ran one herself, and knew it was important for them to keep their doors open as well as quality services. She said the Board said that the three sites were to receive the funding equally. She said tonight he was given carte blanc to do what he wanted to do with it and that was asinine; Government should not be ran that way and hoped the Board rethought the motion that was on the floor. Taxpayer dollars should not be spent in such a way and it reeked of wrongness in all kinds of ways. She added that the attendance was low and they did not need as much staff because of such. She did say she thought they were located in areas that were not charging them overhead and was surprised. She asked for the three sites to be kept open.

Commissioner Hinson said as he knew, his heart was with the BGC and wanted them to be fair. He said his word was all he had and wanted them to move forward and do what was right for the kids.

Chair Viegbesie said he hoped Mr. Maddox heard the pleas of the Commission.

Chair Viegbesie called for the vote. Commissioner Hinson interrupted and said they were funding two sites, Havana and Quincy and then added Chattahoochee. Commissioner Holt said she was ready to vote but they failed to mention they had to get bussing through the School system to those off sites.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a motion and second to call the question and they had to carry that. The Board voted 5-0 by voice vote.

**CHAIR VEIGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE.
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

21. Approval of Funding for the Summer Youth Program in the FY19/20 Budget

Chair Viegbesie asked for moment to let people clear the room.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:46 p.m.

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to approve the budget amendment for funding the Summer Youth Program in the FY 19/20 budget. He said

the Board decreased the funding down to zero by passing the budget. Staff was charged with getting in contacted all Constitutional Officers and they were waiting to hear back from four, one was doing some research and two told them no.

Commissioner Hinson said if that was the direction he went with; he would live with that direction. Staff had said at the last meeting they found money; staff said in a meeting they increased budget by \$3-4 Million and now saying those kids will be out of jobs.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:49 p.m.

Mr. Hall said if they looked at the Analysis portion of the Agenda item, Staff reviewed the budget and has prepared a budget amendment that will fund the Summer Youth Program in amount of \$50,000 by reallocating funds from the General Fund account; Medicaid at \$50,000. That would employ 45 youth.

Shelanda Shaw, 1356 St. Hebron Rd, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and spoke in support of this item and wanted to volunteer to teach the kids professionalism and offer her support.

Commissioner Taylor said seems every County Administrator and Chairman succumbs to fear. It was clearly stated at the last meeting for them to find funding for 125 students, but there is "always the meeting after the meeting plus the meeting kind of meeting and when it comes back, there is the aftermath that we see in writing". She said first there was none and now there are 45 students and that was not what the Board collectively said at the last meeting. She said she understood the browbeating and the integrity of this board was being compromised and not being respected; which was why she "gladly relinquishes this seat in November". She said they agreed on 125 and heard the Chair echoing the sentiments for them to find the funding and then to come back with this. She said she knew there was more available, they just gave \$96,000 to a man and told him to spend it how he wanted and did not know if 15-20 students will be served. She said their only job was to help people, they were a service-oriented business and was not going to agree to this tonight and her vote would not go very high but would vote for 125 summer jobs for the children and direct staff to find that money.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT STAFF TO FIND FUNDING FOR 125 SUMMER JOBS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE HAD A QUESTION.

Chair Viegbesie said in rebuttal to Commissioner Taylor's comment, the instruction at the last meeting was to instruct staff to find monies so they could provide summer jobs. The goal was 125 jobs and what they established was an amount that was less harsh on County. They were the ones that came up with \$50,000. He said if they did more, it would cause a hardship on the County. Chair Viegbesie asked if Mr. Hall followed up with the Constitutionals on what they could do and he said yes.

Vice Chair Holt said the Interim Administrator was not browbeaten by her but she did meet with him and they were supposed to meet with him and meet with Staff and do their research and Staff did more than the Board members did.

Commissioner Morgan said citizens needed to be reminded from a financial standpoint this year based on what the County had been through this budget season, they simply did not have the money to prioritize a summer youth program that could perhaps be funded through the private community. He said there were too many needs that needed to be funded ahead of a Summer Youth program and he could not support any funding on this this year.

Vice Chair Holt said she was ready to vote on the amount set aside at least so there would be that many.

She called for the vote and they voted. Commissioner Hinson asked for a roll call vote as he was unsure who voted for what. She stated they had already voted. The Deputy Clerk said she was unclear who voted for what. Vice Chair Holt then called for a roll-call vote.

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

MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 2; MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION BY STAFF TO APPROVE \$50,000 FOR 45 STUDENTS AND OTHER SEARCHES THEY COULD FIND FROM CONSTITUTIONALS THAT HAD BEEN PROMISED AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED IF THEY WERE APPROVING OPTION 1 AND HE SAID YES.

Commissioner Taylor asked to not limit to Constitutional officers but private sectors and what was well within the budget because they just took \$50,000 from Medicaid and certainly there was more, they just gave \$1 Million to EMS for raises and raises only. She agreed with the motion if they could add on to not limit them to Constitutional Officers but to search for additional funding.

Commissioner Holt said if she could, she would not include that in the motion, to get the \$50,000 and then go with something else. Commissioner Taylor said it was already a part of his motion and Commissioner Holt disagreed. Chair Viegbesie said his motion was to approve option 1 as presented with a continuous search for other funding as to the Constitutionals but would not mitigate a continuous search for the \$50,000 for 45 students was what they could rely on based on his motion.

Commissioner Hinson said to be true, it was said in September they would pass the budget because they could come back and amend it. This was the first thing they tried to amend and now they were trying to tell him they were not going to amend anything the rest of the year.

Vice Chair Holt said they were not saying not to amend, this was an amendment to the budget coming from Medicaid into Summer Youth so that was an amendment. She added that what she was saying was take that to another item. Commissioner Hinson said the budget was increased,

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at 8:06 p.m.

...by \$3-4 Million and now they were trying to tell him out of that, they could not carve out money for this program and was far-fetched.

Commissioner Morgan returned at 8:07 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said he promised them he will have over 100-200 kids by the end of the January meeting or the February meeting that will be lined up in "this place" from 14 – 18 years of age and if no-one could gather people, that was his strength and they will sit there and talk.

Commissioner Holt called the question.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were moving to approve option 1 and Commissioner Holt said yes.

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

MOTION CARRIED 4-1.

22. Discussion of the Plan of Action on the Implementation of the Existing Funding for Emergency Housing Repair

Mr. Hall introduced the above item and said it was presented for discussion of the plan of action on the implementation of the existing funding for Emergency Housing Repair.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE \$100,000 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked how much money was in the budget for SHIP Housing.

Mr. Hall called Sonya Burns, Housing Program Coordinator, up.

Ms. Burns appeared before the Board and asked them to look at the second page of the report for FY 18/19 and it gave a balance of at least \$325,000 and currently they had 11 units awaiting procurement policy completion and will cost approximately \$550,300.00. Commissioner Holt said that was the amount they had that they were currently working with now and Ms. Burns replied yes, \$325,000 but did have partnerships established with USDA for any applicant that

was the age of 62 years or older that could receive funding from that and was still working with United Way.

Commissioner Holt said she was about to ask about that because she had a request for that and asked if they were still doing any disaster and Ms. Burns replied yes. Commissioner Holt said there was request on (Highway) 267 in District 5 and she sent them to Ms. Burns' office. Commissioner Holt said there was money but they were going to need more people in the Housing Department in order to work this. She said you could not have one or two because that would not help facilitate the funding from USDA that would be coming in.

Commissioner Taylor asked how long had funding had been available. Ms. Burns replied July 1st was the start of the State fiscal year, that was when the FY 18/19 funding became available. Commissioner Taylor said "My understanding from the Manager the past week, and, of course, facts change (looking at the Deputy Clerk) you might as well quit typing over there. Facts change based on people. But my understanding was \$500,000 has been sitting over there and not been tapped, not been touched."

Ms. Burns said to look at the first page and it explained \$500,000 they were talking about and the second page explained the \$551,000.

Commissioner Taylor asked her to explain that in her language.

Ms. Burns said \$35,000 covered Administrative costs; \$25,000 funded Homebuyer education costs; approximately \$50,000 went to first time homebuyer program and remaining \$325,000 was what she was talking about with 11 homes in procurement.

Commissioner Taylor asked her to follow her math: Ms. Burns said they received \$350,000 plus \$201,500 for hurricane totaling \$551,000. Commissioner Taylor said she mentioned educational classes and Ms. Burns said yes. Commissioner Taylor said she mentioned first time homebuyers and Ms. Burns said yes. Commissioner Taylor said she mentioned salary and that all totaled...Ms. Burns said the administrative costs totaled \$35,500 and that all totaled \$105,500. Commissioner Taylor said that was \$105,500 off the \$551,000 and Ms. Burns agreed. Ms. Burns said they also had four homebuyers that were approved at \$10,000 each so that would be minus \$40,000. Commissioner Taylor asked how long the money had been sitting there and Ms. Burns said it had not just been sitting there, they had been spending the money and Commissioner Taylor said on things other than homes because... Ms. Burns said they could only spend money on homes, it could be spent on housing rehabilitation, special needs and emergency repairs. Commissioner Taylor said she mentioned classes, salaries and something that totaled \$105,500 that did not have anything to do with not one person's home getting refurbished; that she mentioned overhead and administrative costs, not saying anything was wrong with that but based on what was just said, four houses with a minimum of \$10,000 was all that had been done out of the money and that money had been there. She said that had been an issue and they mentioned it to the Administrator and she knew there were applications that have been there. She said she was looking for another way of going through the stacks so they could help people with that money. Ms. Burns explained SHIP was broken down into three categories: 10% for Administration; 20% for special needs and handicapped and that per Florida Statutes, and there was Administration funding and Homebuyer. All applications are reviewed and there was a process they have to go through

with the applications, they have to make sure they actually own the property, and that was one problem in Gadsden County was heir property. She added she had been working with the homeowners and referred them to Legal Services and had talked with the County Attorney on a couple of issues and they had to income qualify. Commissioner Taylor said she had a history with the program and it was pre-Sonya and there was not enough oversight and, in her opinion, to be done fairly; she needs help. She said there needed to be an independent committee that goes through the applications and the process be done fairly, not saying it was not done now, but saying only four houses with \$10,000 each seemed a lack of service somehow. She added she was concerned and what she was getting now, she did not think the remedy was coming now to help the citizens. She said she did not call Ms. Burns often for anything. She said she just heard Commissioner Holt say she was referring people and was surprised of that because she always made it a point to not refer anyone, that people should just walk into the door blindly. Commissioner Holt said that was not true. Commissioner Taylor said her position was, and stated it clearly and hoped it made it into the Minutes, there needed to be another Board over there that was looking at the applications and some assistance given with regards to identifying people across the County fairly. To her, they were not doing their due diligence if they have only bid four houses, something was slacking there and knew there were several homes that needed services that were actual homeowners. Ms. Burns started to speak and Commissioner Taylor said she was basing her information on what Ms. Burns just said and she mentioned four houses at \$10,000 and a lot of administrative things that was done and she was looking at that. If there were more, she was glad. She added from her understanding, there was still a lot of money left over there and that was where her concern was. She asked the Administrator that she was hoping they could look at some type of process where they could help Ms. Burns with regards to some of the "quagmires" she was running into so more people could be reached and get more services out there.

Mr. Hall said he could continue to look into it and see what they could come up with.

Commissioner Taylor said it was recommended at one point an independent board should be able to help look at the applications and get her some assistance so they could get some of the houses done because some people were living in very bad situations when there was finding to help but was still stuck in processes. She wished Ms. Burns well.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Burns to explain herself.

(Commissioner Taylor started to leave and was told there was a motion on the floor.)

Ms. Burns said to correct Commissioner Taylor, the four people she was talking about was for first-time homebuyers; they did approximately 8-9 applicants ranging from \$34,800 - \$69,700.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to clarify two things: 1) she tells no-one whose house to fix, she sends them to Ms. Burns' office so that was stated incorrectly by her co-worker. What she would like to say is; she spoke to a couple of people who were at the Courthouse taking care of other business and she informed them she thought \$57,000 was too much to spend on a house and have heard that from her before. She said she did not believe on spending that much money on houses; she believed there should be a certain amount and that should be it. She said she also believed when you spent taxpayer's money on people's houses, at least they

should pay back something, she did not care if it were \$100 a month so money could go back into an account to do more houses.

Commissioner Hinson said the motion on the floor for refurbishing homes; they need to have a conversation about some other things. He had a phone call the other day and was told the deadline passed and they did not know anything about the deadline but he will have a conversation with the Administrator about that. He said a lot of Seniors worked from sun-up to sun-down for free labor for other people and if the government say they meet the qualifications and can do it for free, he was for that because they earned that. He said he was talking about the original money they created before he got there, the \$10,000 per district and then it went to \$20,000 per district for the seniors that had holes in their roofs, needed emergency repairs, a veteran or old person needed a ramp, or their door needed fixing, they had a good thing going before Hurricane Michael. But they had a Hurricane Michael a month before Hurricane Michael because the Board voted to cut out the \$100,000. You can look at the Minutes and he said that just before the Hurricane.

Commissioner Holt wanted to clarify two things; when she was talking about paying back money when they inherit the property and had not worked for anything on that property and do not pay back anything; the other was two reasons why they had a problem with the Housing and the Summer Youth Program; they had Commissioners telling Staff which houses to fix and was true because one employee quit because of that and who to hire for the Summer Youth Program.

Chair Viegbesie wanted on record that the motion was for \$100,000 whereas they have \$325,000 yet to be spent on repairing home for eligible applicants. So, the motion was to provide \$100,000 for home repairs and there was a second. He asked to carry the vote by roll call.

COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR	YES AND FOR CLARITY THE \$100,000 WAS TO HELP ADDITIONAL PEOPLE
COMMISSIONER HOLT	NO
COMMISSIONER MORGAN	NO
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	NO UNTIL FINSH SPENDING THE \$325,000

MOTION FAILED.

Commissioner Taylor said "With regards to the students, for clarity, because a lot of times people get information incorrectly from Commissioners. There was a provision placed with regards to the Summer Program that Commissioners were given to choose five students and recommend those names to the County Administrator; that was a provision that was provided through this Board and was carried out by the Commissioners. With regards to the Emergency Repair Program, each district was given so many dollars to get houses repaired per their district. We gave directions to those in our district on whom to call. Even in giving those directions, it was not an automatic approval because there was still an application that needed to be taken and an applicant needed to qualify for the money so there was no mandate being placed; there was still a process that had to be performed before anyone got or received services so Commissioners mandating did not, is not a true statement, Commissioners followed

what this Board directions were. Again, we were given authorization to recommend students for hire and we were given so many dollars to recommend people from our areas for services. Did not indicate at all if those students were going to be hired or if those applicants were going to receive services. All we could do was follow the provision that was given by this Board and that was what we did. Anything else that has been said to you or said to you incorrectly and the Deputy Clerk can pull up any and all of these Minutes to verify what I just said. Thank you and I'm going home."

Commissioner Taylor left the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

CLERK OF COURT

23. Updates

Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

24. Updates

Mr. Hall stated he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Morgan said they discussed at length on a conference call the Health Department building in Chattahoochee and asked if it was scheduled for the second meeting in January and Mr. Hall stated yes.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

25. Updates

Mr. Weiss congratulated the Pittman Law Firm, it had been a pleasure representing the Board and will work with them over next few months and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

26. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson wanted to recognize Miss Ora Green, she turned 100 years old and asked for a Resolution.

He asked for a Resolution for Coach Ross, he was retiring from the Town Council of Havana.

He asked to do a Resolution for Mr. Howard McKinnon who was also retiring from the Town of Havana.

He also wanted to recognize someone but did not have the name who was in the military years ago, was about 103 years ago, in Arizona, and received the Purple Heart, Chair Viegbesie asked if this was posthumously and Commissioner Hinson stated yes.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the services from the Ausley Law firm and thanked David and welcomed the Pittman Law Group. He said he spoke with Howard today and wished him and Vernell Ross well. Lastly, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked when they would have another Building Inspection workshop. Mr. Hall said he would get the date and it would be scheduled for January.

Commissioner Morgan left the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

She said she called him regarding Mrs. Johnson and could mark that off her list.

She said she received five requests from Rev. Colston. She said they want an Economic Development meeting with the BOCC, School Board and the Cities to sit down to see what was being done to get jobs here. She also directed him to DOE.

She said they were in need of two members on TDC, they had to wait to get their meeting started because of lack of quorum because they were short two members. Chair Viegbesie suggested to the Administrator on next Agenda to have that on there and not hold it hostage. Commissioner Holt said they may be able to get another from people that applied through staff because they held up payment of one vendor.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

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

Last meeting Commissioner Taylor questioned how to generate soft money for the Veterans and one thing he thought of was to put in brick pavers around the Veterans' Monument to generate revenue and thought that was one way that could help generate revenue.

He said other thing, he asked for a Letter of Support for his intent to run for Second Vice President of Florida Association of Counties. Commissioner Hinson said he intended to run also.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVE FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CHAIR VIEGBESIE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BE VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Hall thanked Staff for hanging in and supporting him and said he appreciated them and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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 8:51 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk