

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-arrived late  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Brenda Holt, District 4  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to mute their phones, stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson asked to pull Items 5, 6, 20 and said there was an Amended Contract for Item 15.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie took a moment to recognize some people in the audience.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was not present and there was nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD  
VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- 1. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. August 1, 2017-Regular Meeting**
  - b. August 15, 2017-Regular Meeting**
- 2. Ratification Memo**
- 3. Approval of the 2018 Holiday Schedule**
- 4. Approval to Accept the FY 2018-2019 Budget Calendar**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Linda Hinson, 78 Bell Road, Havana, FL** - problem with neighbors' dog. Ms. Hinson appeared before the Board and said this problem has been ongoing for twelve months. She has worked with Clyde Collins, Anthony Powell, Wade with Animal Control, and she said she had a problem with a neighbor's dog that was peeing on her door, her car; the dog comes and pees in the workers' tool boxes. She said they have gone to the neighbor's house numerous times, the Sheriff's Department had been there several times and 2-3 weeks ago she trapped the dog with a County-owned trap that was brought to her by Wade. She was told once the dog was trapped; he would become County property and would be the end of it. Mr. Powell told her he would recommend the dog not be returned to its owners and was. She was very upset after going through this for the past year and asked that the Commission look into it to see why the County rules were not followed.

***Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of meeting***

Chair Taylor advised her since this was not an agendaed item, it could not be discussed tonight. She asked her to leave her phone number and the Interim Administrator would be in touch with her regarding this.

Dorothy Smith, 814 Dodger Ball Park Road, -Item 7

Betty Atkins, 8440 Salem Road, Item 7

**Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, Trunks of Treats**

Pastor Morris thanked the BOCC for participating in the Trunk of Treat affair.

Patricia Kenon, 1160 Dodger Ball Park Road, Item 7

Marionette Bryant, 207 Charlie Harris Loop, Quincy, paved road – have 10 acre plot-St. John's Church beside Hutchinson Ferry-individuals paid for land but County won't let but 4 people move onto land until paved-asked if something could be worked out with County so could get into own homes

Holt said she needed to talk with Manager and Road and Bridge to see what could be done-start process

Barbara Pople, 506 N. Jackson Street, GCDC Funding and contract-item 21

**\*\* Develin Brown, 540 Crayfish Road, Chattahoochee, FL** – attends senior citizens programs in Chattahoochee and Quincy. Ms. Brown appeared before the Board and said she was a member of the Senior Citizens of Gadsden County. She said she attends the Chattahoochee and the Quincy Senior Citizens and there was not enough there to stimulate their minds, bodies and their spirit. She said the County allocates \$102,000 annually for the programs but they needed the County to think about upping the money so they could bring in programs that would give them benefits to so that. She asked at the next budget season, they consider adding more funds to be able to do more to stimulate their minds.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**5. PUBLIC HEARING-(Legislative) Miller Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment (LPSA 2017-02) Consideration to Transmit a text amendment to Policy 1.1.1.k of the Future Land Use Element**

Pulled

**6. PUBLIC HEARING-(Legislative) Miller Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (LPSA 2017-03) Consideration of the transmittal of a Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment**

Pulled

**7. PUBLIC HEARING- Adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-008, An Ordinance of the BOCC of Gadsden County, FL amending Section 74-1 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, to include parks and recreational facilities maintenance and improvements as an authorized use of the discretionary sales surtax proceeds levied pursuant to Section 212.055(3), Florida Statutes, providing for repeal; severability, inclusion in the correction of scrivener's errors; and providing for an effective date.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above Public Hearing and said it did require a super majority vote.

Chair Taylor said there would be a short discussion around the Board and then she would recognize people from the audience that wished to speak.

There were several members of the audience that waved in support of the passing of the Ordinance.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was good for the entire County and would provide access to new funding for parks and recreation across the entire County.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED ORDINANCE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN ASKED IF THEY WERE GOING TO ENTERTAIN COMMENTS FROM THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS AND CHAIR TAYLOR SAID YES.**

Commissioner Morgan said anytime they talk about changing existing ordinances, especially as important as this one was, they needed to have a serious discussion. He said he did not think there were any of them there that did not support or desire the support for parks in their communities but it was a matter of prioritizing whether parks were more important than things such as water and sewer systems, road improvements, fire protection services, maintaining their bridges and other infrastructure needs that they all would benefit from. He asked if the Administrator could call the Public Works Director up for some questions.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director**, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were all caught up or if there were items they were still working on that were not finished yet. Mr. Young said they were still working on a few things but most of the items they were working on were grant related. Commissioner Morgan asked about road improvements and Mr. Young said there were still a few roads that needed improvements. Commissioner Morgan suggested they look at another way to fund parks and needed to make sure

they prioritized what was important and these proceeds were originally to be used for fire, water and sewer. He strongly recommended they do not change the Ordinance.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this Ordinance before them; the fund would have nothing to do with budget money from the County. He explained this was money came from grants and the State and the funds would not be competing with existing funds for any other project in the County. He said this was a result of a \$200,000 grant that had already been given to the County to build a walking trail with lights for citizens to use.

Commissioner Morgan made it very clear he was not insinuating that, he said it was a fact they would be taking dollars that were originally intended for infrastructure items that were clearly listed in the existing Ordinance. He pointed out this was not a minor change, it was a major change and would have a direct impact on future dollars as to how they were directed when it came to prioritizing needs within the County. He said he had an opinion that roads, bridges, fire services and things of that nature were much more important than funding parks. He added he had no problem with funding parks, just felt they should prioritize.

Chair Taylor asked Mrs. Jackson for clarity based on the information she just heard from the Commissioners.

**Herb Chancy, Parks and Recreation Director**, appeared before the Board and said he just learned of this item this afternoon.

Chair Taylor asked Mr. Weiss if he could give some clarity regarding this and he said at the last meeting, the Board approved the award of the grant Commissioner Viegbesie referred to. He added that in order to receive the grant, County had to match \$200,000 and the County was able to do an in-kind match. He said the approval at the last meeting of the grant award was contingent upon the approval of the amendment to this ordinance regarding the discretionary sales tax. He added the currently a portion of the Public Works funds come from this discretionary sales surtax. He explained that the statutory authorization for discretionary sales surtax allowed the County to decide how to use the funds. He said currently the County Ordinance had the use of funds limited to maintenance of the existing jail facility, construction and maintenance of pod or pods at the jail; for Public Works infrastructure projects such as road improvements and water and sewer systems, fire protection, suppression, repair and maintenance of bridges. He said the proposed amendment was to add parks and recreational facility, maintenance and improvements as authorized use of the revenue generated from the discretionary sales surtax, which would allow Public Works to use the money to match for the in-kind match. He said that was why the amendment was necessary for the grant.

Commissioner Morgan said what they were talking about doing was making historic changes to this ordinance in order to fund one park from the grant. He said he did not have a problem with them finding and accepting a grant when it was the right thing to do and made sense for the park. He said they were basically looking at a bike path and walking trail. He added there might be other grants in the future that would not require match money. He added that \$60,000 of that money would be coming out and would not be going to benefit the park. He added there was a much smarter way to get this done and this was not it. He said this was not a minor change to the Ordinance.

Chair Taylor asked the Administrator, said she heard the Commissioner say there may be some alternatives to get the same thing done without changing the Ordinance and asked what other ways were available without adopting the changes. Mrs. Jackson said there were other grants out there that and they had applied for several. She said there was also a possibility that the Board could provide cash match versus in-kind services.

Commissioner Hinson said he supported this because Gadsden County had an aging community and they needed to support their health and the seniors had nowhere to go.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Morgan's point was the ordinance was originally for the jail, and then they opened it up for Road and Bridge. She said after that date ran out, the Board had the option of including other things and they included Road and Bridge and EMS. She said this did require a super-majority vote. She said she heard Commissioner Morgan's concerns and thought one remedy might be to place a cap on the funds. She asked if the grant had an in-kind that was not a monetary match instead of money. Mrs. Jackson said they were looking to get an in-kind Services grant.

Commissioner Hinson said he appreciated Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Holt's concerns. He said there were not enough parks and recreation areas in the community. He added that Parks did not cost that much money and could keep people living.

Commissioner Holt said she was not debating, just trying to give options because they needed four votes. She said they needed to make a decision. She said she wanted to make sure the project moved forward and they did not lose the \$200,000.

Commissioner Morgan said one way to be innovative was rather than needing more money; prioritize what money they had. He said that way they could ensure that they would always been in good shape financially. He added they had always put lot of money into Eugene Lamb Park, Pat Thomas Park, Rosedale, etc. and wanted to make sure they maintained them. He said if someone's house caught fire or someone fell from a bridge what was rotten, they could care less if they got to a park.

Commissioner Hinson said they were both right, and said they needed more than one park in a district. He said parks were not that much; they were acting like it was a lot but really was not. He said they wanted to make sure it was spread out; people would donate land so they could have a place to call their own and that was how to build a community. He said he could find 4-5 places in Havana that could be used for parks and rec.

Commissioner Viegbesie called the question.

Commissioner Hinson said he knew of a place Chair Taylor wanted to have a park and if they kill this, it meant they had to pay others to cut down trees but they had staff that could do it (Public Works) that could do the work already.

**Fred Harris, 1050 Solomon Dairy Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said he had been listening and had been a great discussion and appreciated everyone's perspective. He said the way he saw it breaking down was, there was a need for the \$200,000 but there was also a concern with the sales tax proceeds. He said he hated to see the County lose the \$200,000 and

suggested to make the Ordinance change but have it sunset after the \$200,000 has been matched unless the BOCC comes back by super majority and put it back in for good.

Chair Taylor said she was one of the two that did not see this moving forward because she had to look at the County as a whole. She said when she took office and took the oath, the first thing they swore to was public safety and if there was an emergency on a road, she wanted to make sure that vehicles could get down it without any infringements.

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney if they were able to approve and put a sunset in place.

Chair Taylor said she was trying to think ahead, they could put a sunset in place but there was a motion on the floor that needed to be amended.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE A SUNSET AND COMMISSIONER HINSON AMENDED HIS SECOND.**

Commissioner Morgan said if they do what they were talking about, what would prevent others from wanting to do the very same thing to certain parks and they will be told no. Commissioner Holt said yes, they would have to because it sunset. He asked that they think about what they were talking about getting into and the precedence they were starting to set.

Chair Taylor asked if it sunset for a period of time before the project was completed those wishing to have a project not have an opportunity to come and Mr. Weiss said it would depend on what they put in the sunset provision; if make specific to a date, she would be correct. Chair Taylor said tonight she was probably voting no and the reason was they needed to craft some language based on the conversation tonight.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND CHAIR TAYLOR VOTED NO. MOTION FAILED.**

Chair Taylor told Ms. Jackson at the next meeting to have the language clear and the legal terminology down and asked this be brought back with clarity.

**\*\*Commissioner Morgan had a Speaker Request Form from Ms. Brown and she asked to speak\*\***

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8. Advanced Training for SWAT Operation**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund to pay for training, boarding and per diem costs for one Deputy Investigator to attend the TYPE 3 SWAT Operator's at Government Training Institute's Joint Operations Center in Barnwell, SC.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**9. Approval of Local Agency Program (LAP) Supplemental Agreement for Design of the Adams Street Sidewalk**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and execution of the Local Agency Program agreement for acceptance of the State of Florida funding for the Design of Adams Street sidewalk Phase 1 and approval of Resolution 2017-035.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR ADOPTION OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**10. Approval of Change Order #1 to Increase Funding for the Atlanta Street Sidewalk Project**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for Change Order #1 to increase funding for South Atlanta Sidewalk Project.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. CHAIR TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**11. Approval of Mosquito Control Agreement with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said annually the Public Works Department must apply to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for matching funds according to Florida Statutes, Chapter 388 and this was for Board approval of the agreement.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**12. Approval to Bid (17-26) to Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the County contract for the purchase of a Mosquito Sprayer to Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

*Commissioner Holt returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**13. Approval of the Security Force Southeast LLC Contract**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the above-referenced contract for the Probation Office.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of Translator/Interpreter Contract for the Probation Department**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval for the translator/interpreter contract for the Probation division.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked why this item was before the Board when it was under \$5,000 threshold and Mrs. Jackson said because it was a contract and all contracts had to come before the Board for approval.

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

**15. Approval to Renew the Contract for State Lobbying Services (Chris Doolin and Associates) for Fiscal Year 2017/2018**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said there was an Amended contract before them and instead of the \$10,000 fee; it was being amended to \$20,000.

Commissioner Holt said she was in favor of the services and suggested \$50,000 and to be split between the two firms (next agenda item). She also mentioned the need to bid this out but said this was not the time to do it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would support the amendment to the contract-\$15,000 for Lawson would give a total of \$35,000 for legislative lobbying services and during budget time next year address they needed to make the lobbying services very lucrative and may could increase to \$50,000.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the importance of quality lobbyists for the County and felt they had been fortunate with the services that had been provided and also have representation with the Small County as well as FAC. He said he was not going to say yes to increase the lobbying fee when he said no to folks here in the County. He recommended between the two firms he had no problem with dividing up that was budgeted for them.

Commissioner Holt said did not think it was necessarily access that they had a concern about. She said if they wanted to bring more money home to the County as they had been doing and said they had been fortunate because they had been doing this but there were specific problems and need people that will go after the money.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they had just heard from a member of the Senior Citizen community of the importance of funding for seniors.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the value of lobbying services and if they were not interested, they would not present the County with a contract. He said he was trying to get the best bang with taxpayers' money.

Commissioner Holt said as Commissioner Viegbesie said, subcommittees were meeting now and they needed to approve the increase in funding.

Chair Taylor said they had gone through the budgeting process and \$10,000 was ear-marked for this, not \$20,000. She said the lobbyist should have had respect to come over and address this need for additional funding. She explained the County belonged to Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and they give the Association \$5,000 every year to be a part of it and one of the services was for lobbying. She said he received money from FAC to lobby for the county and it concerned her

when they were asked for additional money after the budget was set.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED CONTRACT AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR TAYLOR, COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN VOTED NO. MOTION FAILED.**

**16. Approval to Renew the Contract for State Lobbying Services (Lawson and Associates) for Fiscal Year 2017/2018**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval to renew the contract for State Lobbying Services with Lawson and Associates for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MAD A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson started to speak and Commissioner Viegbesie said he had a motion to approve and there was a lack of a second and the item was gone and asked to move to the next item.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE THE AGREEMENT TO \$20,000 FOR THE FIRM AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt said she spoke with Mr. Lawson and asked what his firm offered specifically that Mr. Doolin's firm did not and he said Mr. Doolin's firm was good at putting in receivers and his firm was good at getting in and out of legislatures offices and they both had different strengths.

Commissioner Morgan said legislative session had not formally started, the committees had and they needed to maintain continuity through this session and as was commented earlier, their budget was already set for this year. He said one of the lobbying services was resubmitting their contract for the same amount and felt they should honor it and the item should be carried as presented. He felt they should have the Interim Administrator contact Mr. Doolin and let him know it did not fly with the \$20,000. Chair Taylor asked that they stay on focus with what was before them. Commissioner Morgan asked they have the Interim contact Mr. Doolin and tell him the budget was set and as far as this item, carry it as presented.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID THIS WAS SAME MOTION MADE BY HIM THAT DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND AND WHY COULD SAME MOTION BE MADE. CHAIR TAYLOR SAID IT WENT THROUGH THE PROCESS AND SECOND WAS MADE. THERE WAS DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the attorney when the motion died, should the same motion be revised. Mr. Weiss said he did not thing there was any prohibition with someone else making the same motion.

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

Commissioner Holt said the Doolin Contract was still pending and she would like to put in a motion

for the contract to be serviced at the same amount. Commissioner Morgan said that would be under her Commission Comments.

**17. Consideration to Amend the Gadsden County Sublease with QPD for WA Woodham Justice Center**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was to consider amending the existing Gadsden County Sublease with the Quincy Police Department.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if this was an action item or to give Staff direction to go into discussion with the possibility of amending the sublease with QPD and the Gadsden County BOCC for the use of the W. A. Woodham Justice Center.

Commissioner Morgan said this originated at his request and when this was first drawn up it was to be a temporary move. He said it had extended into a more long-term agreement and had no issue but there had been costs and the County was the only one participating in the costs of repairs and some has been very expensive.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

Commissioner Morgan asked this be brought back with recommendations by Staff after speaking with the City of Quincy and when reviewed the item, there were no amendments on this agenda request and may have been some miscommunication.

**Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator**, appeared before the Board. He said as this was described to him after the last meeting it was asked to be brought back the same to discuss the cost share mechanism was.

Chair Taylor said she heard staff needed direction as to what they wanted added or discussed.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor suggested a workshop discussion with the City regarding this matter.

**18. Approval to accept the 2017-2018 Mutual Aid Operations Plan between Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service and Gadsden County Fire Departments and the 2016-2017 Annual Forestry Report and Operating Plan**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was an annual Mutual Aid Operations Plan between Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service and the Gadsden County Fire Departments and the 2016-2017 Annual Forestry Report and Operating Plan.

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

**19. Approval to Award Bid No. 17-22 for Pest Control to Rudd's Pest Control**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and was to award Bid No. 2017-22 to Rudd's Pest Control for the County pest control services.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE HAD A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not see a bid from Pauls' Pest Control.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Clyde Collins, County Building Official**, appeared before the Board and said an invitation was sent to Paul's Pest Control but a bid was not received.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

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

**20. Approve the Usage of up to \$150,000 from County Paving Funds to the City of Gretna for Paving**  
Pulled

**21. Economic Development Professional Services Contract**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to approve the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between the Gadsden County Development Council and the Gadsden County BOCC. Mrs. Jackson pointed out one change was this was for a two year agreement with a one year renewable option.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was an item that should be approved but his only question was it was imperative that they have a location for this business to operate but did not think it was appropriate to make it a part of the contract.

Commissioner Morgan said he was taking a different approach and said regarding the overall economic development game-plan, they just had a four hour retreat. He said he hoped the Board would have an opportunity to present what they felt the model should look like. He said he had no problem with a two year or three year contract; it helped in moving forward. He also said he had no problem with County having an office of Economic Development. He said they currently had space they could work out of. He also said he did not think they should move too quickly, they needed to workshop this and discuss how it should be done.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his take was there were businesses that were currently talking and this was a train that was in motion and don't have time to stop before they started again. He said he saw no reason not to vote on the contract, they needed to vote it up or down and let other stakeholders know it was viable.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.**

The Deputy Clerk pointed out there were Speaker Request forms that were turned in. Chair Taylor said she agreed with Commissioner Morgan that they needed to come up with a plan or something specific they wanted to see with economic development.

Commissioner Holt said reason they were doing that now, Gulf County was coming up to Gadsden

with a project, the Deep Water Port Project and asked if someone could speak on behalf of that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he wanted to make clear with his position; he was not opposing a workshop but would not support holding the contract at bay waiting for a workshop.

**Antonio Jefferson, Chair of GCDC**, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Holt asked what projects they were working on and if he could give a short synopsis. Mr. Jefferson said they were working on the freights logistic zone package; Project Azalea-a project in the Havana area and another that is on the outside of Havana that was relocating from another area that was in the portal. He said also in working with a third party they submitted Gadsden County's data on the Amazon project as well. He told the Commissioners he understood their concern but they were being hurt and they have had to stop the forward movement because of the uncertainty. He said they were at a point that they had to consider if they needed to close shop.

**Barbara Pople, 506 N. Jackson Street, Quincy**, appeared before the Board and said they had just heard about the positive momentum that was going on in the County and asked this be approved and not to interrupt the businesses.

**Jim McShane** appeared before the Board. He said he had been before the Board on multiple occasions and said this needed to be passed. He said they could not wait another month and would have to stop what they were doing if it was not and said they were attracting jobs to the County.

**Fred Harris, 1050 Solomon Dairy Road, Quincy, FL**. Mr. Harris said he was relatively new to community, has an organic farm and has opened Damfinos Restaurant on the square because they wanted to see the community rejuvenated. He said he was a member of an international law firm, Greenberg, Trurig. He said he had a lot of clients they could reach out to bring them to the County because he felt they had a lot reasons for people to come. He said he had worked with this group and had worked with David Gardner and the Chamber and felt they were both needed. He said they needed to put out their best foot and two things people looked for was workforce and location. He said they had the locations and was a good price for land. He said the biggest negative was education was poor here but felt they should do everything possible to put their best foot forward and provide the information people would be looking for.

Commissioner Hinson said he was on the School Board years ago and was the Planning and Zoning Commissioner. He said he was in Wal-Mart one night and was asked why you have to get your education you had to go to Tallahassee and said their mindset had to be changed first because people that were "dishing this stuff out" was people they gave money to and they are selling a story to someone else that this was one of the worst places in America. He said they had to start dishing out positive stuff for the County. He said not everybody was slow in Gadsden County, there were a bunch of geniuses and had to throw that out there.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Antonio Jefferson for bringing this up and said they were working on the interstate exchanges and felt that should be a priority. He said last year they gave GCDC \$160,000 and \$40,000 to the Small Business Service Center and said it left GCDC \$120,000.

**Jeff Price, Management and Budget Analyst**, appeared before the Board. He said that GCDC had received \$160,000 and the Chamber received \$80,000. Commissioner Hinson asked about the

\$40,000 that was to go to Small Business and Mr. Price said that was part of the Chamber. Commissioner Morgan said he thought Commissioner Hinson may be thinking of the prior year and there was \$40,000 that was unused.

**Rob Nixon, Small Business Service Center**, appeared before the Board. He said he did contract with GCDC to coordinate business retention and expansion service at \$40,000 and was part of their budget. He said separately the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce had the Small Business Service Center contract for \$80,000.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. CHAIR TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**22. Proposal Submission from the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the proposal between the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center and the Gadsden County BOCC.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the \$80,000 was in the budget and was told yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked, in order to move forward and was his humble opinion, if they did not give money to anyone, if they did not give the money to the Chamber, they had to be 100% in the game working with GCDC and GCDC had to give the Chamber respect as well.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN AMENDED HIS MOTION TO A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS TO MATCH THE GCDC AGREEMENT**

Commissioner Holt asked GCDC representative what their membership was as far as the group they meet with and was told 24. She asked David Gardner how many they had and Rob Nixon appeared before the Board and said there were two staffers dedicated to technical assistance and counseling and administrative support that worked with everyone that came in.

Mr. Weiss said the proposal looked to him to be for \$120,000 and asked if that was correct and was told no, it was for \$80,000.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE AT \$80,000. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**23. Board Direction on County Auditing Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for direction regarding the County auditing services.

Commissioner Holt said this company was contracted in 2014 for the years '14, '15 & '16 and she wanted the contract bid.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO BID THIS CONTRACT. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.**

Commissioner Morgan said regarding the auditing services it was something that touched on all the different Constitutional Officers and was extremely important to the County. He said because of some of the changes that had taken place, one way to ensure some type of continuity as they moved forward, thought through the next year with new leadership positions and a New Administrator coming on board, felt they should stay with the current auditing firm.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN FOR OPTION ONE TO EXTEND BY ONE YEAR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

**24. Board Direction on County Legal Services**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for Board direction regarding the legal services for the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when he read this Agenda item, with the transition they were currently having in the County they needed continuity because they have a new Interim County Administrator that was not very grounded in what has been going on with regard to the items and issues they have been dealing with.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT OF THE PRESENT LAW FIRM BY ONE YEAR AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Holt said if not for the Interim Manager, she would request that this contract be bid-she's asked several times for legal opinions with attachments that apply to State Statute, and when contracts were presented and placed on the Agenda they needed to be thoroughly reviewed before getting to the Commissioners. She said if this was granted to the present law firm for another year she requested this be remedied.

**CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**25. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson thanked all Directors for being present at the meeting this evening.

She said she met with DEO yesterday and they have been chosen to participate in a twelve County initiative and they will be able to assist with Economic Development and anything that prohibits the County from creating jobs and getting new businesses here.

She said Staff would be observing Thanksgiving this Thursday and invited all Commissioners to come.

She said she was working on a date to follow-up the Economic Development retreat.

She thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to serve the community.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

#### **26. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss thanked the Commission for the extension of the contract and said he would work on the issues identified.

Commissioner Holt thanked him for that comment.

Commissioner Hinson said they talked today about the City of Midway and annexations and contractions. He said a news reporter asked his input on what he could do and if he could talk to them or get back with them.

Mr. Weiss said this was a City matter and the County did not have any input and could not make a determination regarding that.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the City was created by referendum, could the municipality be dissolved by referendum as well and that may take research before he could answer.

Mr. Weiss said he would be happy to look into it.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

#### **27. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

##### **Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she was sure they had all received an email from the Clerk and provided copies in case they had not seen it.

*Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

She said she was not going to discuss this in this meeting but she addressed comments in the email. She said the item was pulled from tonight's agenda (Road Paving) and would be brought back. She felt it was necessary to address those items since they were so opinionated and due to the way the Agenda item was written, it was written very simply and without supported evidence and made it appear as if they were doing work inside of the City and they were not.

*Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Taylor said she read the email from the Finance Director regarding using County funds for City projects and heard her Commissioner Holt say the particular project she was interested in was outside the City of Gretna and Commissioner Holt said yes. Chair Taylor asked if it were because those dollars were going into the coffers of the City of Gretna and she said no. She asked the Attorney if he were familiar with this matter.

Mr. Weiss said his understanding was the way the funds were to be used was the City of Gretna

applied for a CDGC grant and as part of that grant there was a requirement for \$150,000 cash match. He said Commissioner Holt proposed to use \$150,000 of the road bond money as the cash match. He said there were a handful of roads within the city limit and some were outside. He said they could not use County funds to pave roads inside a municipality and Commissioner Holt said that was not her intent. He said the other issue he had, they would not be following their procurement policy by using the funds in this manner. He said they were choosing roads within their district and if there was one in District 4 she would like to use it for, that could be paved with these funds. He said one way was to talk with DEO and ask if they would accept the County's cash match by the County paving the roads that were part of the grant.

Commissioner Holt said when they look at the roads they were talking about they were County roads and never annexed into the City. She said when approached former manager he said the roads could be paved and Mr. Jefferson applied for the grant. She added this could have been cleared up with a phone call.

Chair Taylor said she felt this particular item was "dicey", was State funding and they had to be very careful in following the Statute on how they should spend it. She said she supported the Finance Department in saying this should not be used in this instant because it was a situation where they should now overstep the boundaries.

Commissioner Holt said there was no request from her to use those funds for a match, only to use the funds for paying County roads in that area.

Commissioner Holt said her other item was she has been asking the Board to look at following the State procurement process for travel policy for travel for County employees when it comes to the gas funding. She said the reason she came up with this, if you were in town looking for a Shell or Gulf station in the dark, the Board in a position where it was inconvenient to use when having to look for a particular station when now all they had to do was pull up GPS and could be computed and could be paid for and taken care of before leaving the County. She said she wanted this remedied. She said there was already something in their policy where it said employees traveling on County business had the option of traveling per diem rates and was not to exceed \$100/day and would like this addressed.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE MOTION THEY RECEIVE THE GAS PER DIEM AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious, when they use their personal car they use the mileage and was she saying when they rent a car without the County Paying for the rental. Commissioner Holt said when they rent the car, they were not getting mileage as they would with their personal car, and the per diem only covered the gas.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he now understood what she was saying. The County would rent the car and gas was paid for by the County but sometimes the cards used did not have money in it, Commissioner Hinson concurred what Commissioner Viegbesie said and added every time he would try to use the card, it never worked.

Commissioner Morgan said he's never had a problem, there was there was a County-issued credit card and said he had always purchased gas and had got reimbursed.

Commissioner Holt said if they took care of the process and made it one option and all she was asking was for the State per diem for gas for the mileage.

Chair Taylor said their decision was the ultimate decision and they could hear from the Clerk as to why there were only two credit cards they had chosen and why there was no money on it when needed and they could state their concerns to him and if the Board agreed, had to rectify or put some stipulation in place to meet what the Board said. She continued and said until he was there and they could have that conversation, in her opinion, she wanted to help the Commissioners to be able to go on their excursions and not run out of gas and not have to use their vehicle but they had to have a dialogue for any of it to happen.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney where it said with the information being turned in prior to a trip, (inaudible) and she had spoken with Mr. Johnson earlier.

**Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator**, appeared before the Board. Commissioner Holt said in the travel policy if turned in before the trip, the per diem could be met. Mr. Johnson said in Section H was where she was talking about. Commissioner Holt said it read "Receipts are not required to be submitted when an employee or authorized person claims travel reimbursement on per diem. However, in advance of the travel the employee must submit a travel request that contains the information required under section (2) of this policy". Chair Holt said that was for reimbursement and she was talking about prior to travel. Commissioner Morgan pointed out that was to let them know where they were traveling to, the miles, etc., not that they were going to pay ahead of time. Commissioner Holt said whether they did or not, you turn in the information and once they miles were in there, if you wanted to be paid per diem, why could you not? Commissioner Morgan started to say something and Commissioner Holt said he could not make excuses for it. He said it was not excuses. Commissioner Holt said they had been at this since 2004. She said this was something that when the State did it, it worked and was no reason they could not apply the State policy to this item also.

Commissioner Hinson said the State had a policy and he would like to look into it.

Chair Taylor said unless they wanted to vote on this, she felt they needed to get the Clerk over to get some direction.

Commissioner Holt said the Manager and the Attorney could look into it and she wanted to see what the State said. She said her other item was she would like them to allow the Manager to look into adding the Stevens school project to the Legislative Agenda for the State to see if there were any funding available for that project. Chair Taylor concurred but asked Mrs. Jackson to be mindful of what the committee was asking for, not the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt said they offered Joel Sampson a Continuing Services Contract and asked to offer that to other vendors.

*Commissioner Hinson stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

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

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office and the neighboring

counties for the search for the missing boy in Lake Talquin.

*Commissioner Hinson returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for everything they had done.

Chair Taylor said she reached out to the Public Defender's Office because they have people in the Jail that have been there for a long time and was hoping to get them on the Agenda. She said she went to the Lake and it was horrific and had been keeping in contact with Captain Collins.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said earlier they dealt with the lobbying contract and they did not agree to the increase with Mr. Doolin's contract and technically they have no contract. He asked they reach out to him to see if he agreed to remain as one of their lobbyists at the current amount and if so to re-agenda that item for action.

He said they needed to figure out a way to tighten up their meetings time-wise.

Chair Taylor concurred they could reach out to him.

Commissioner Holt said they need to know by Friday.

**Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5**

**Receipt and File**

**28. Death Resolutions**

**Letter from City of Quincy**

**Florida Department of Health-Gadsden Quarterly Progress Report for ½ Cent Sale Tax Prevention**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**November 21, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
November 21, 2017-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR TAYLOR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:57 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**BRENDA HOLT, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**