

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 21, 2017 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:**       **Sherrie Taylor, Chair, District 5**  
                   **Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1**  
                   **Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2**  
                   **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                   **Brenda Holt, District 4**  
                   **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                   **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                   **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                   **Beryl Wood, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Taylor asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

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

Mr. Weiss said the Administrator wanted to pull a couple of items from the Agenda. Mrs. Jackson said she needed to pull Agenda Items 5, 6, and 7 from the Agenda. There was discussion among the Board concerning this matter and they concluded they would pull the items at the Consent Agenda.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

Chair Taylor handed the gravel to the Attorney for the reorganization of the Board portion of this meeting.

**1. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO KEEP COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AS CHAIR AND HIMSELF AS VICE-CHAIR. CHAIR TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND TO THIS MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS CHAIR. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND TO THIS MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON, COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HOLT AS CHAIR.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND TO THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A COMMENT.**

Commissioner Hinson said this was a great day and felt Commissioner Holt would be a great Chair.

**MR. WEISS CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

*Commissioner Holt was voted Chair and she proceeded with nominations for Vice – Chair.*

#### Vice – Chair

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS VICE-CHAIR AND SECOND MADE BY CHAIR HOLT.**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS VICE-CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN’S MOTION WAS FIRST ON THE FLOOR. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AS VICE CHAIR.**

There was discussion concerning rotation of Chair and Vice among the Board. Chair Holt said in the near future that was something they may look at with policy.

### AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

#### CLERK OF COURT

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

#### CONSENT

Mrs. Jackson said she would like to remove Items 5, 6, and 7.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE AGENDA ITEMS 5, 6, AND 7 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

2. Ratification Memo
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. October 26, 2017-Special Meeting
  - b. September 5, 2017-Regular Meeting
4. Approval of the Library Annual Plan of Service for 2017-2018

Chair Hinson said he had made requests in the past that Department Heads appear before the Board to answer questions and was told this would be handled.

~~5. Approval of the Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien for Parcel ID#3262N5W11910000A0010~~  
This agenda item was tabled.

~~6. Approval of the Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien for Parcel ID#3262N5W11910000B0020~~  
This agenda item was tabled.

~~7. Approval of the Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien for Parcel ID# 3262N5W11910000B0030~~  
This Agenda item was tabled.

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

##### **Tanesha Miller, 667 Charlie Harris Loop, Quincy, FL (Scottown Community)**

Ms. Miller addressed the Board with her concerns about animals running wild in a residential area. She said it was not just dogs, but goats and pigs as well. She said she had visited Code Enforcement and was told the gentleman once lived in town and was fined and now has moved everything to Scottown. She said there were elderly and sick people that lived there and they were concerned with the smell. She said the Park was a big issue as there were not enough swings and the kids had to wait in line to swing and slide on the slide.

Chair Holt directed her to get with the Administrator for a resolution of her concerns.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was a serious concern of animals in a residential area. He said she was speaking of hogs and goats, etc. and the smell was not a pleasant one. He said the person that had the animals was not the owner of the property. He said he Code Enforcement needed to get the animals out of the residential area and this situation had been addressed with them.

Chair Holt asked Ms. Miller to get with Administrator and Commissioner Viegbesie to discuss these items.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

##### **8. PUBLIC HEARING-Approval of Resolution 2017-034 Budget Amendments for FY 2017**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and authorization for the County Administrator, Finance Director and Senior Management and Budget Analyst to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2017 BOCC budget.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and said she would like to hear from the board first and would then take public comment.

Commissioner Morgan said he thought it would be a great idea for the public to discuss the need for the budget amendments.

**Jeff Price, Senior Management and Budget Analyst**, appeared before the Board. He commented that at the end of each year, according to the Florida Statutes, they had to have a balanced budget.

He said during the year, various expenditures happen that were more than budgeted and adjustments have to be made to balance the budget. He said each amendment took from the General Fund to the individual funds and balanced them out to zero. He asked if there was a particular one they wished to discuss.

Commissioner Morgan said they were running on a zero based budget, meaning they did not necessarily spend all the budgeted dollars but may have been areas they spent more in than others and there were transfers to be able to balance.

Mr. Price said the Indigent Tax was a prime example and in one of the amendments, they received more money and had to increase the revenue side of that.

Commissioner Hinson said this was one of the reasons he wanted to have more dialogue during the budget session to see how they could better address the issue. He said he was told that the problem came from citizens not paying their bills and he found it hard to believe that all the citizens were not paying and then found out the problem came from the overtime with EMS (\$813,877) and was a concern that needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Hinson and as he had mentioned several times during the budget process, this particular item with EMS would require a change in the model, how they had it set up. He said it was not necessarily citizens not paying their bills but the matter that the County was providing services for which they were not being reimbursed. He said if they looked at the past several years, it was on the incline and was increasing and will be over \$1 Million very soon. He said there was a way to make it work and other Counties were doing it and it required them to change their model.

Chair Holt asked for public comment and there was none.

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

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **9. Approval and adoption of Resolution No. 2017-036 and the Purchase and Financing Agreements for Purchase of New County-Wide Radio Communication System from Motorola Solutions, Inc.**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval and adoption of Resolution No, 2017-036 and the purchase and financing agreements for the purchase of a New County-Wide Radio Communication System from Motorola Solutions, Inc. and authorization for the Chair to sign the agreements and all related documents.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. MR. WEISS HAD A COMMENT.**

Attorney Weiss said the purchase Agreement was slightly abbreviated from what was being approved because it was approximately 600 pages total with the exhibits. He said the equipment was identified and the general contract was identified but the attachments were abbreviated.

Chair Holt called representatives from Motorola up in case there were questions.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the Attorney if he had reviewed the Contract carefully and he answered yes. He said they were paying 3% and using their financial agent. Mr. Weiss explained it was a separate financing company through Motorola but was a separate legal entity.

Mr. Weiss said his understanding was he had not gone to Banks personally. Commissioner Hinson said this was a \$2 Million project and no other Agency had been contacted. Mr. Weiss said he had not contacted banks but the Assistant Manager contacted different banks and potential financing institutions.

Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator, appeared before the Board. He said if they would look at the bottom of the package or last page, it showed a Sole Source Provider Certificate. He explained while they were in the early acquisition stages, one thing they wanted to do to ensure prudence of the County's dollars, they went out based on their procurement policy. He said in the process of doing so, they began to receive: 1) Interest rates that were 1 or 2 points off; but across the Board they found that individuals were assessing them much like they would do any individual or institution by looks at auditing multiple years of their budgets, debt services and more importantly, requesting a security interest.

Commissioner Hinson said the Attorney said he had no idea about the banking at all and how could he comment on what he had not seen.

Mrs. Jackson commented the County Attorney had seen this and what Mr. Johnson was trying to say was, financial institutions knew what their financials were and they were asking the County to put collateral up, for instance the half-cent sales tax and by law they could not do that.

Commissioner Hinson said he was going by what the Attorney said and no-one else because no-one else could speak for the Attorney. He said until they had a comparison of the two projects that was the only way they could make the deal, they had to have a check and balance system before making a decision.

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

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated the discussion and he had had at-length discussions with the Attorney regarding this issue and the interest rates in the recent months and weeks were on the incline. He said a 3% interest was nothing compared to lives that could be saved and this was a solution to a problem that had existed for 20+ years and he was not going to argue on 3% or 2% at this point. He said the Attorney had looked at this and felt good about it and there was a motion and second on the floor and he called the question.

Chair Holt said she had not heard from Commissioner Viegbesie.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had no problem with calling the question but commented he felt the reason the interest rate was a low as they were was because there was a guaranteed revenue that was being used to secure the loans and with the revenue debt ratio, getting the 3% interest rate was a good rate.

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

Commissioner Morgan called the question.

Taylor asked why this was back again; it had been on the Agenda several times and thought it had previously been approved.

Mr. Weiss said what was approved at the last meeting was the purchase of specific equipment. He said the only option that we had for a long term fixed rate unsecured loan was through Motorola's credit company and all others wanted some type of security. He said the determination was made that this was the only financing option and the reason it was back before them was the way the action was taken at the previous meeting was the financing had to be approved by the Board and ultimately the Sale Agreement were separate agreements.

Commissioner Taylor asked the last time they approved the agreement fell through.

Attorney Weiss said when the board approved the vendor, there was no contract approved and it had to come back. She said the reason it did not go through as normal was because they were to go through the State and purchase the equipment using their purchasing policies and was why it did not go through their regular RFP process.

Mr. Weiss said it was not purchased through the State, it was a cooperative piggy-back type of purchase and this was for the final approval.

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

**10. Review and Approval of the Amended 2018 Legislative Priorities**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the County's 2018 Legislative Priorities. She added that the Stevens School would be added to this list, asking for \$1.2 Million for renovation and to build two additional buildings.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would like to add to the list under Transportation and Infrastructure the Resurfacing and Widening of Attapulugus Highway.

Chair Holt asked if that could be been done under SCRAP or SCOP.

He replied that it could but if it were on the Legislative Agenda, they were attacking it from every possible angle.

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

Commissioner Hinson said the Senator and State Representative said they needed to focus on what they wanted to get and if they put too much out there they could end up getting nothing. He recalled a discussion with the Legislative Aide from Broward County and was told anything put on now was too late. He said they have moved everything up and this would just make the

constituents feel good.

Commissioner Morgan and Commissioner Taylor had no comment.

Chair Holt said they may be able to go through FDOT. She also said she felt the Shelter would go on a matching bill. She said the House had already closed up and there would be no matching bill, but they could go after study money.

**Ulysses Jenkins , Projects Coordinator**, said they had were able to get information regarding the Shelter in on time but the issue they had with Stevens School they will work with them on it. He said the Engineer got back with him regarding numbers on the Five Year Work plan and they received an increase of little over \$1 Million on the work plan. Chair Holt asked about the 5 year work plan and Mr. Jenkins said that was the roads that FDOT were planning to do. Chair Holt said regarding the Shelter issue, if it was built out at the facility they already had, if looking for build-out money and it was on the hospital grounds, it would have to be so that it was built out to the standards of a hospital. She added that it would be good when they went to the Capitol to have palm cards so they could speak off the cuff on any of the items.

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with Emergency Management regarding the food stamps assistance after the hurricane and was told they told FEMA they needed assistance with Food Stamps. He also said since he was on the Board of Directors with the Association of Counties, they said initially they were going after a lot of storm water projects but asked if it would be an adverse effect to the County if they told them they did not need any help. He said they said in the Board of Directors meeting to tell they needed everything because when you told them you needed nothing it was hard to go back and say yes, it was needed.

Chair Holt said to workshop the issue.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED GADSDEN COUNTY 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIOROTIES AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**11. Approval to Extend the Lease for Dental Equipment to the Gadsden County School Board for Fiscal Year 2018**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to extend the leased dental equipment that was currently located at Havana Magnet School to the Gadsden County School Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTIONFOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON INTERRUPTED. CHAIR HOLT SAID THERE WAS A MOTION AND ASKED FOR A SECOND. CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was for this but asked where the dental chair was. Mrs. Jackson said it was at the Havana Magnet School. He asked if there were services there and Mrs. Jackson said it was her understanding they were providing services at the Magnet School now but she would check on that. Commissioner Hinson said the chair was \$130,000 and wanted to make sure the kids benefited from it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if he remembered correctly, the chair was leased to the Neighborhood Medical Service Center.

Commissioner Hinson interrupted and said he did not remember correctly and Chair Holt asked him to wait because the Commissioner was in the middle of a sentence and he would have a chance to comment. Commissioner Viegbesie yielded to Commissioner Hinson and he said there were two; one was at Havana Magnet and the other was at Havana Neighborhood Health. Commissioner Hinson said he just wanted to make sure they were using the chair.

Commissioner Morgan said he agreed with Commissioner Hinson and furthermore, the lease called for whoever was using the chair, to have it moved and recalibrated at their expense. He asked how is the lease renewal was different from the prior lease.

Mr. Weiss said there were no changes to the lease; it was an extension of the existing lease.

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

**12. Approval of the 2017 State Grant Application for Upgrade of E911 Primary PSAP**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for Board approval of the 2017 E911 State Grant Application for Upgrade of E911 Primary PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) and authorization for the Chair to sign all related documents.

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**13. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson SAID SHE WANTED Board recommendation whether she could have a workshop regarding Land use and Growth Development that was requested by the Consultant. Chair Holt said she was in favor of that. Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated her mentioning that and this needed to be a series of progressive land use workshops and should be a building exercise; what the primary role was; what impact it had, etc. and be a building exercise. He said they could bring along the public and help them understand the process. He also felt they should be held prior to the regular Board meeting and be no longer than hour to hour 1/2.

Chair Holt said they have not workshopped with the Planning and Zoning Board and she suggested inviting them along as well so they would be on the same page.

Mrs. Jackson said the BOCC would have a Christmas Float in the Christmas Parade on Friday, December 8, 2017 at 5:30 and asked that all Commissioners be there and ride on the float and staff would walk along side.

She informed them the Economic Development retreat has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at Tri-Eagle from 4:00 -7:00 pm. Commissioner Hinson asked they start voting

on times to meet because there were days it was very inconvenient.

She told them the office would be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving and wished them all a Happy Thanksgiving.

She said last week she attended the Legislative Conference and while she was there they started talking roads and she asked they keep in mind there were 50-60 people representing counties all over the State and the Speaker asked if anyone was there from Gadsden County and she raised her hand. He said he wanted to tell her that some of the best roads he had seen were in Gadsden County and said Curtis Young and his guys were amazing. She said it made her proud and thanked Mr. Young. She also said two weeks ago after the Board meeting, FEMA came by and brought Jeff Price with her and told Mrs. Jackson that he had the best records they had seen and she thanked them publically.

She said the County Office will have a Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 12:00p.m. at Public Works.

### **Facebook Live**

She said there were some Commissioners that wanted Facebook Live and some that did not and asked for permission to agenda it for discussion and a vote. Commissioner Hinson said he did not think they needed to agenda it because the Board never decided to put it there and did not think it should be brought to their attention and did not think it was appropriate for her to bring up. Chair Holt said they could decide now. Commissioner Hinson said they were already paying for services now and if they wanted to do Facebook Live, like Mr. Southerland said, he could control all of that, edit it and make it real nice, but they did not need to have free-style anything because two things with Facebook Live, the comments on Facebook Live could be detrimental. He said someone could be from New Mexico looking at it and making comments about Gadsden County. Chair Holt said an option would be to have Mr. Southerland stream his on FB Live and be done with it. Commissioner Hinson said they needed to do the same thing he had, go in their communities and meet the people and talk with them.

Mrs. Jackson said for the record it was not streamed tonight.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the meetings were being televised and the Clerk also was streaming it. He said it was good for them to have publicity and the ability for the rest of the world but the image the world saw was the image they as Commissioner portray during their policy making process. He said if they wanted a positive image they should carry themselves and conduct themselves with decorum so that the rest of the world did not see them as a dysfunctional body. He said the other thing was, he understood the concerns of Commissioner Hinson because if that Facebook media was to be used, it should have been mentioned before its use. He said he also saw comments that were made on Facebook that were derogatory to some of the Commissioners. He said he felt the Interim County Administrator was being as administratively neutral as she could and he felt it should be an agenda item.

Commissioner Morgan thanked the Administrator for bringing it up and said it was something they needed to address and whatever the Board wanted to do he was good with. He said they had the responsibility to recognize any effort to shine the light on their public meetings and make it as

accessible as they could, particularly when there was no costs involved. He said they could have Facebook Live and we could “control” it or someone from the general public could come in and set up shop and stream the meeting live. He said it was a matter of deciding if they wanted to do it or have someone else do it and was worth discussing.

Commissioner Taylor said she had no comment.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if it would be appropriate or did they need to motion for it to be placed on the agenda so they could discuss the pros and cons and let them vote on it.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to have Facebook Live and Chair Holt asked him to hold on a second.

Chair Holt said to take it out until they decide and they could bring it back on the Agenda. She said if they really wanted to do this, it could be attached to a workshop. She said they needed a marketing department that they did not have and if a company was thinking about coming to Gadsden County, they watched Facebook. She added it was the image of the County that they were trying to attract companies.

Commissioner Morgan said this was not a cost to the County and there was no reason to have a marketing department, just stream it live. The only other reason they might not want to do it was the image of the County. He said they should understand that moving forward, there could be someone from the public coming in and doing it and they would have no control over it. He pointed out they were taking away a service that they were providing and there would be talk about it.

#### **Clerk’s Memo**

Commissioner Morgan recalled the Clerk’s memo where he alerted them to the two grant- funded items that were major and was making them aware of the line of progression and getting the project completed and he was concerned about it. He asked the Interim County Administrator for an update and her comments regarding the completion of the Courthouse renovation and the Ag Center because they have had extensions.

Mrs. Jackson said they were working diligently on both of them and both have been awarded and she would find out the next day the actual start date was for the Courthouse and it was awarded to CRA and they were responsible for everything regarding the Courthouse. She yielded to Clyde Collins for the Ag Center.

Mr. Collings said the Ag Center was on track and they were just about through with the engineering for the drawings and the architect in Gainesville was still reviewing some of the drawings and they were moving forward with the mechanical. He said he hoped to go out to bid in January. He said it had been a process and that USDA in Marianna had helped out a lot.

Commissioner Morgan asked what happened if the deadline was missed.

Mrs. Jackson said they would have to finish the project.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked why they received a letter from the Clerk; if it was not timely done, would they lose the funds and they should have started much earlier.

Mr. Weiss said there were a lot of different players, more so in the Ag Center because they were involved with the USDA. He said he did not know that it was due to the County dragging their feet, he could only speak to documents that he was asked to review. He said there was extended times going back and forth trying to work out the contracts, different levels of review between the Contractors, the State and trying to coordinate.

Chair Holt said they were trying to get additional monies to get all the work done on the Ag Center. Commissioner Morgan said they received the extensions from the Legislature and they would not keep receiving them and they needed to prioritize. He said they needed to focus in the next 8 months and stay on top moving forward.

Mrs. Jackson said regarding the Courthouse grant, she did know that anything with the Historic Preservation that was not billed, they did not charge and they did not receive funds for work that was not done.

#### **Satellite Social Security Offices**

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested that they look at the probability of establishing a satellite Social Security office at the Havana Library and it would provide quick access to the east side of the County.

Chair Holt said they needed to show a need.

Commissioner Morgan said anytime services were offered they should make it available everywhere and he would like one for Chattahoochee.

#### **Board Meetings airing in Chattahoochee**

Commissioner Morgan said he knew the Interim County Administrator was aware of the BOCC meetings were not being aired in Chattahoochee and it was an ongoing issue that had to be fixed ASAP.

Mrs. Jackson said they were working on it and Mr. Southerland was aware and working on it and she would follow-up with him.

Mr. Southerland appeared before the Board. He said the situation in Chattahoochee had always been a problem and said in this County were four cable systems and were supposed to have government access. He said he had access to Quincy, Havana, and Gretna and had never had access to Chattahoochee. He said the company changed hands and was no longer Brighthouse, it was now Spectrum. He said his contact was promoted and moved to another position and he visited Mr. Garner and he has also tried to make contact to no avail. He said it is aired the next day at Noon and 8:00 p.m. and streamed on the world wide web.

Commissioner Morgan said he was putting this on the City of Chattahoochee and the County because they were required, if not mistaken by the contract, to provide them with a governmental

channel and they should insist that it be done. He said they had to press the issue and was a process between the County and the City of Chattahoochee and they were required to provide a governmental channel. Commissioner Morgan continued to say that made the value of Facebook Live all that more important.

Mr. Southerland said he had a conversation with Mr. Collins earlier and there was no reason that the signal he recorded that could not be streamed to Facebook Live. He said it should be on the air, since everyone did not have a smart phone or a computer.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Mr. Weiss said he had no comments and was available for questions and said Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked about the existing public records request that was on the table and asked for feedback on how they had responded and what the legal ramifications were for not complying.

Mr. Weiss said Staff had assembled all documents that could be assembled. He said they had asked for documents from all commissioners as well and there had been some responses. Some commissioners had responded to some degree by way of letting them know what they may or may not have. Commissioner Morgan asked what the legal ramifications or responsibilities were. Mr. Weiss said there was an obligation to respond fully to public records requests and to provide all public records that existed and it was very broadly defined. He said a party that made a public records request and did not receive all records could bring a civil action to enforce compliance and there could be criminal and non-criminal penalties. He also stated that Martin County just got in trouble for failing to appropriately respond to a public records request.

#### **Redistricting & Public Records Request Discussion**

##### **Redistricting in the County**

Commissioner Morgan asked about the redistricting in the County and the importance and legal responsibility of the governing body. He said the reason he asked was he just reviewed numbers county-wide of each of the districts, the number of registered voters, etc. and there was a great disparity among the districts.

Mr. Weiss asked that they let him do research before he spoke on it and there was a legal obligation. He said he could report on it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Taylor commented that the redistricting was based on the census and the last one was in 2010. She said the percentage needed was not there to redistrict and that was why it was not done and they had the Supervisor of Elections to come in and validate that their numbers did not require it and they were in compliance. She said in 2020 if the numbers were at a level they needed to look at, they could look at it then and they were still governed by the numbers of 2010. She said with regard to the Public Records request, she was concerned; that Mr. Jenkins had reviewed her phone and if he said that only one commissioner had complied, she wanted to meet with him or advise she who to meet with so she could be in compliance.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it would be picked up off their emails.

Mr. Weiss said it was broader than the emails and involved phone records, text messages, there were several different items. He said he would be happy, at everyone's convenience, to let him know. Commissioner Hinson said if no-one called him and he sent all emails to his email. Mr. Weiss said if there were no phone records that existed that were to or from the numbers he provided, no voice mails, no text messages or emails, just let him know. He added that he had sent a few emails and had not received responses. Commissioner Hinson said he thought they took it from their computers and Mr. Weiss said that was true of if it went to a Gadsden County email and if that was all that existed, they had produced all that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said with regard to this issue, when the public records request came in, he specifically responded that there was no email contact between him, either private or county, and there were no phone calls and he had nothing so he did not respond.

Chair Holt said she needed help pulling up. Mr. Weiss said he could try to help them to try to retrieve their emails. Chair Holt said she would go through and delete all "kinds of stuff" because she would not know who they were and she would "clear out junk". Mr. Weiss said they needed to be real careful about deleting things because they could not delete anything that would be considered public records.

Commissioner Morgan said he brought both this items up and it was to highlight this matter as a priority because he knew they as a board wanted to respond appropriately and comply with the request. He said specifically back to the redistricting; Commissioner Taylor had mentioned about the 2010 census, things had changed drastically and in more than one district and they wanted to make sure the citizens were represented appropriately and fairly. He said every ten years they were required to do that and if there were any changes, anyone could challenge and bring before the Board to make sure they were complying.

Chair Holt asked regarding the other item, that he resend the email back out to all of them on the Public Records request.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said his understanding was there was a grace period that redistricting was allowed after the census, could it be visited any time before the next census or was there a period for it to be done.

Mr. Weiss said it had to be done in odd years.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was happy to represent Gadsden County at the CRTPA and was elected as Vice-Chair and meant he would be the upcoming Chair. He said he was happy to be the voice for the County and they were soliciting for membership for the Citizens Multimortal Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.

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

Chair Holt asked that it be added to the County website for nominations for the committees.

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

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair for their positions as Chair and Vice. He said his hope was to move Gadsden County forward. He asked if the GCDC had a two year contract and what the stipulations were and said he was told they had a three year contract. Mr. Weiss said it was a two year contract with an optional one year extension and believed there was a mutual option to terminate the contract. He said he was also told they receive \$160,000 and give them 80,000 in one lump sum and Mr. Weiss said he thought that was accurate. Commissioner Hinson said the personally thought it should be divided up in 12 payments in case they parted ways with them.

Chair Holt said any contract had to be tied to deliverables and it had to be done in the contract.

Commissioner Hinson stated he recommended monthly or 3 month payments and he would like to protect the County.

Chair Holt said they had not put anything or any procedure in place that said they would like for companies to hire within the County.

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

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

Commissioner Morgan said in all fairness to the party involved, they should have this discussion with them present at the meeting and should be placed on the agenda.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO PLACE THIS ON THE AGENDA (SINCE HE WAS ON THE WINNING SIDE OF THE VOTE). CHAIR HOLT ASKED WHEN THE NEXT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WOULD BE HELD.**

Mrs. Jackson said that would be December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION THAT THEY BRING GCDC IN FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR BOTH GROUPS TO BE PRESENT. THERE WAS DISCUSSION.**

Commissioner Hinson stated his motion was only for GCDC and Chair Holt said she withdrew her motion and Commissioner Taylor made the second.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE BOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Taylor asked for a point of clarity, if that item would be for discussion only or a vote as well and Commissioner Hinson said both.

### Procurement Process

Commissioner Hinson asked how the contractors were selected for the Courthouse.

Mrs. Jackson said groups were brought before the Board and they selected them.

He then asked how they could select additional architects. Mrs. Jackson said there were currently two architects under contract and they went out for bid; one contract would be up next year and the other was just renewed for a two year contract. Mrs. Jackson further explained one was from Quincy and the other from Tallahassee and a request was sent to both. She also stated the way the Procurement policy was it had to be bid.

Chair Holt said she would like to see it out there to see if any other local people were interested.

Mrs. Jackson said when a bid was put out, anyone could bid, local or not. She asked if they would like her to create a Local Preference Policy.

Mr. Weiss said until they adopted a Local Preference Policy as a part of their Procurement Policy, they could not put any weight on selection.

Chair Holt said for them to bring back the Procurement Policy itself as a discussion item.

Commissioner Morgan said it needed to be talked about among the Board. He said they went over this a short time ago and asked what the issue was.

Commissioner Hinson said they may not want to be a part of the process. He also said Dr. Henry Grant was very instrumental and felt it would be a good idea to discuss the Ag building with him and he could be used as a consultant.

### Outreach

He also mentioned that Major Barkley's brother passed away yesterday. He asked for continued prayers for the family. He also mentioned some tragic situations that dealt with kids: Angela Bush died last year and asked for donations for the family: Freda Houston, has 4 children as well and they worked together at the School Board years ago and would like to help those children as well. He asked for the Board to support on a personal level. He said AKAs and Alphas would also be helping. He asked for prayers for the young man killed at the Lake and thanked the First Responders and Former Chair Taylor.

Hinson said at a lot of meetings, the Staff sat up front and felt they should have their Staff upfront as well for quick responses and to make things run smoother.

### Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan wanted to make sure Staff understood that it was Commissioner Hinson's idea that wanted them up front. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said there was so much to be thankful for.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MOTIONED THAT REDISTRICTING BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION REGARDING WHAT CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE 2010. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

He asked for an update on the County Administrator position and said he knew it was a pressing matter at one time and did not know if they wanted to discuss it.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO HAVE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood Commissioner Morgan’s point of view and was one that expedited the transition plan be put in place. He said currently they had an Interim Administrator that was still very “wet behind the ears” and needed a better understanding so when someone came in they had something to transition to the new person. He said it was too soon to know.

Commissioner Morgan said that was what he was trying to do.

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

Commissioner Taylor congratulated Commissioner Viegbesie for being voted Vice–Chair twice in one day. She thanked Chair Holt as well on becoming Chair. She also thanked Commissioner Morgan for her one year of service as Chair.

**Stevens School**

She said this process was moving extremely well. She said they were moving in the right direction and thanked the former Administrator and the new administrator for all their work.

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

Chair Holt said she would like to bring the travel policy back before the Board for discussion and action.

She said she also had on her list Economic Development and deliverables.

She said the other thing was Gadsden Day at the Capitol and the costs. Mrs. Jackson said she had met with the City Managers and there were sponsors for all the events for that day at the Capitol. Chair Holt said she was concerned with Floor 22 that was usually where the costs were and they needed to go after the committees that went after the money and be selective.

**Receipt and File**

**16. Death Resolutions**

**Letter from FDOT**

**Letter from DEO**

**Letter from Florida Health**

**Letter from the City of Miami Beach**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**December 5, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**