

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 19, 2017 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 2-appeared by phone
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt asked everyone to make sure their phones were on vibrate and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Morgan gave the Invocation and Chair Holt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CLERK OF COURT

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

CONSENT

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

- 1. Approval to Accept the FY 2017 4th Quarter Report**
- 2. Approval of the 2018 BOCC Meeting Calendar**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. September 19, 2017**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Approval of Contractual Agreement between CenturyLink and the Gadsden County BOCC

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the contractual agreement between CenturyLink and the GCBOCC and for authorization for the Chair to execute the documents.

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

5. Approval of the Agreement with the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department to Provide Security Services at the Edward J. Butler Building

Mrs. Jackson asked to table this item.

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

6. Selection and Appointment of Members to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said this was for selection and appointment of members to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council. She also stated that Mr. Matt Thro wished to stay in that position.

Commissioner Viegbesie nominated Linda Dixon to be appointed to the Council.

Commissioner Morgan said there was someone serving through the end of the year and had indicated they were willing to continue. He said he understood the need to appoint someone to Councilman Holton's position but felt they should wait on the second appointment until the end of the current term.

Chair Holt said there were several people that were interested in the position and applied. She said they also looked at the vacancies and absences and these were sent from the Council. Commissioner Morgan recommended they vote on the two appointments separately.

Commissioner Hinson asked that she repeat what they were talking about. She said Commissioner Morgan asked that they vote on the positions separately. Commissioner Hinson said Cathy Johnson had submitted her application but it was never received by staff and was not included in the packet.

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

7. Economic Development Professional Services Contract-Gadsden County Development Council

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for discussion, review and approval of the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between the GCDC and the BOCC.

Commissioner Viegbesie said based on the conversation had and concerns he heard from some fellow Commissioners, was about the payment plan. He said having heard that and after reading

this, he made a motion.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson asked if option 3 was still for two years and he was told yes. He said he was comfortable with one year instead of two and asked if the attorney had any problem with the contract. He said there was word in contract that concerned him. He asked about Paragraph 6 and the Attorney addressed his concerns.

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

8. Economic Development Professional Services Contract Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was presented for discussion, review and approval of the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between BOCC and the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Morgan wanted the term for two years as with the GCDC contract.

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

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 WITH 24 MONTHS AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTE 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Taylor asked for deliverables and Commissioner Morgan agreed-two good organizations working to try to improve their Economic Development situation and felt it was incumbent upon them to verify the deliverables, measure them on a consistent basis and as Commissioner Hinson reminded them, there was a 30 day out clause in both agreements and was their responsibility to make sure they were adhering to the deliverables.

9. Approval of the Amended Security Force Southeast LLC Contract

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Amended Security Force Southeast, LLC contract and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

10. Request to Revoke Authorization for Redeemed, Inc. to Apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant and Designation of Redeemed, Inc. as the Applicant on behalf of the County

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was a request to revoke the authorization for

Redeemed, Inc. to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant. She said that after the last meeting of December 5th, Staff learned the Sheriff was not aware of the grant submission nor in support of it and the County had not traditionally designated nonprofits as grant applicants and authorized them to be responsible for grant program design and implementation on behalf of the County because the County was ultimately responsible for the grant.

Chair Holt said she spoke with the Sheriff last week and he informed her he knew nothing about this grant. She said there were a lot of non-profits in the County and the problem would be the grant coming through the BOCC and them not giving other non-profits the opportunity to administer the grant.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he mentioned this to the Interim County Administrator and as soon as they were out of the meeting, he received a call from a citizen and they advised him it was a federal grant and the implication of it and that the Sheriff was not aware of the grant being applied for. Commissioner Viegbesie then talked with the Sheriff and he was not aware of the grant, meaning he did not approve it. He asked if the County had a Criminal Justice Diversion Program outside of the Sheriff's Office and Mrs. Jackson said not that she was aware of. Commissioner Viegbesie said he was personally disturbed when he heard this information and he was leaning toward option 1.

Annie Berry appeared before the Board and said she did not represent that she was with the Sheriff's Department, none of the language she provided to the Board stated that and therefore she said the Sheriff did not have to know about this. She then said they already approved this at the last meeting and said she was told by the funding agency it was too late to change this now.

Chair Holt said in the meeting it was mentioned that she worked for the Sheriff's Department by herself, the Manager and they said the vote was contingent upon the application to come back before them for approval. Mrs. Berry said the application had not been submitted but the Letter of Intent and the Agency that was applying for the grant had already gone and she said the County Administrator had a copy of the application.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was the one that made the motion and had the hand-out that was provided by Mrs. Berry at the previous meeting. He said the handout stated everything specified Gadsden County, if he had realized this at the previous meeting he would not have made the motion and he was glad this was back on the Agenda for him to correct the wrong he did because of the lack of knowledge.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything wrong with the contract and Mr. Weiss said there was no contract. Mr. Weiss said he recalled the question asked was if a non-profit could implement the program. Commissioner Hinson said it came down to what was fair.

Commissioner Morgan said when the item originally came before them she called him to discuss it and he thanked her. He said he agreed with some of the comments Commissioner Hinson made. Commissioner Hinson said if the Sheriff was OK, he was OK. Commissioner Morgan said he called the Sheriff and the Sheriff was not OK with this. He said he felt if they supported a non-profit in this capacity, they were setting themselves up for future issues.

Commissioner Taylor said they could not get in the habit of doing this.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said this was the second time they had put an organization on notice for approval and then revoked their approval and this could compromise their integrity.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Taylor said she could appreciate the Sheriff and his position. She said there should be some kind of way that Redeemed and the Sheriff's Office could work this out.

Mrs. Berry asked if the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department had a drug court and said no, Redeemed did; she asked if Gadsden County Sheriff's Department had a pretrial release program- no, Redeemed did. She said the Sheriff's Department did not have the whereforall or the experience to fulfill this grant.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt this application should have come through the Sheriff's Department and let him approve this and the Sheriff was not OK with this.

Mrs. Berry said it was known that the Sheriff said he did not support this and she never said this was coming from Sheriff Department and was their assumption. She said she did not understand and did not appreciate the way the Board was handling the situation because of their assumption.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND IF THERE WAS A SECOND, ASKED FOR A ROLLCALL VOTE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Morgan said it was indicated earlier or suggested Sheriff said he was applying for the grant and Mrs. Berry said yes and Chair Holt said if he were applying for the grant it would be on the form but issue was what they were doing now with it.

Mr. Weiss pointed out at end of option 1 stated "and advise DCF of the revocation and that Gadsden County does not intend to submit a grant application" and if Gadsden County intended to submit a grant application, they should remove the last part.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO EXCLUDE GADSDEN COUNTY DOES NOT INTEND TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. ROLLCALL VOTE WAS TAKEN.

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

BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. REVOCATION GRANTED.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

11. Update on Various Board Requests

Mrs. Jackson said they reached out to GHI (hospital board) because there are three members whose terms expire on December 31st and Mr. Craig McMillan's recommendation was to dissolve the Board.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan said he had volunteered for a long time and he supported his position if he wished to do this. He suggested they agenda this item and ask him to come before the Board so it could be discussed.

Mrs. Jackson thanked them for them attending the Staff Christmas party and told them the float won first place in the Christmas parade.

She said there was a Memo in front of them regarding the timeline for the Courthouse renovations and she would also be providing them with a timeline for the Communications project and the Ag Center.

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for the updates and asked about the ongoing issue of the BOCC meetings not being aired in the Chattahoochee area. She said they had reached out to Spectrum and they were doing all they could to get that going. He said they were airing the meetings on Facebook on the County page until approximately 1 ½ months ago and have had several inquiries as to why it was removed.

Commissioner Taylor returned at this juncture of the meeting.

He said he thought they were going to re-entertain that and there was no costs to the County and would continue to ask about this at every meeting until it was addressed. Mrs. Jackson said Staff took direction from the last Board meeting and they are looking at Facebook Live or some other alternative and it would be brought back before the Board at a later date.

Commissioner Morgan asked about the County Administrator's Position, he said they were in a rush to get the position filled a few weeks ago and now had heard nothing about it. She said Staff had not been directed to do anything regarding that matter.

Mrs. Jackson thanked everyone and said Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Taylor said to the Administrator and staff congratulations for winning the Christmas float in the parade. She then said something happened a few minutes ago with the last Agenda item and hoped this would not be the direction the Board would continue in with giving someone their blessing one meeting and then revoke it at another meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie wanted the Interim to look into the voter registration and wanted an update regarding same.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

12. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but was available for questions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR WILLIE SIMMONS, NOW HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AT FAMU AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR SHANNON FAISON AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Hinson then recognized Antonio Jefferson as he was recently recognized by North Florida Rural Caucus.

He then asked for a Resolution for a young couple, Terrance Roberts and wife Natalie Roberts and wanted to recognize them at the next Board Meeting.

He also wanted to recognize the Havana Kiwanis Club for their Christmas baskets.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan mentioned for a future workshop or discussion, the Sheriff's Office. He said approximately three years ago they entertained a new Administration Building in an effort to improve efficiency and reduce costs and felt the Board would be wise in discussing it because it could save money. He said he would also encourage them to discuss updates and modifications to improve the efficiency at the Jail.

He said he appreciated the efforts the Interim County Administrator has put into the position she was in charge of and encouraged her to continue.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said she did not vote for the FAMU thing and asked to change her vote.

She said one of their schools was recognized as the Number 2 school in the Nation to move in Mathematics and they would be recognized sometime in April.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

She said with the Workshop held earlier, she concurred with Commissioner Viegbesie it was probably better to not add those type meetings in front of a regular board meeting because it was just too much.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

She suggested having a meeting sometime soon to keep the “irons hot” and moving forward.

Commissioner Morgan said it was very important and sessions needed to be short enough to retain information and build on it.

Commissioner Taylor said the point she was trying to make, she was tired and sure everyone else was as well about what they should have done

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Vice-Chair, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie commended Gadsden County Economic Development Council for the event at Creek Entertainment yesterday.

He also commended the Sheriff’s Department for the Active Shooter exercise and the Faith-based community for their response and attendance.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 2018.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DELSONTA JACKSON AND A RESOLUTION FOR HAVANA MAGNET SCHOOL, SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Administrator to look into the status of Havana Elementary School and the status for Gretna Elementary School and St. John Elementary-had heard rumors.

Chair Holt asked that they call the Administrator on some of these items before the meeting to get things out of the way to move the meetings faster.

She said GCDC did an outstanding job yesterday and told them to continue doing so.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 2, 2018-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
December 19, 2017-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk