

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 16, 2018 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-arrived late**  
                  **Gene Morgan, District 3**  
                  **Sherrie Taylor, District 5-arrived late**  
                  **Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator**  
                  **David Weiss, County Attorney**  
                  **Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked everyone to mute their phones, welcomed everyone and said they were waiting on a quorum. After a quorum was present, she called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for a silent prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Jackson said there were no amendments to the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Resolution Honoring Mr. Terrence Roberts**

Mrs. Jackson said they had a Resolution honoring Mr. Terrence Roberts and he was not present at this time.

**2. Resolution Honoring Mr. Shannon Faison**

Mrs. Jackson said they had a Resolution to honor Mr. Shannon Faison.

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

Commissioner Hinson said a few words to say, then read the Resolution and presented it to Mr. Faison.

**3. Update on New County-Wide Radio System**

**Debbie Giles, Mobil Communications**, appeared before the Board. She was before the Board to give a brief overview of the status of the communications system. She said the equipment had been ordered and they started receiving it on December 18<sup>th</sup> and additional equipment was coming in daily. She said County staff was working with the other tower sites that had to be leased and they were assisting as needed. She also said the FCC application had been submitted, was being reviewed and approval was pending.

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for the update. He said he had been told a good completion date they were shooting for was May and she said more likely it would be June or July.

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked her for the update and said his understanding with the sites they already had, they were going forward right away and would be sooner than the other sites and she said yes.

Chair Holt asked if they noticed any conditions regarding the current towers and Mrs. Giles said there would probably be shelter issues and concerns and they were working with County Staff regarding that matter and would be discussed at the meeting the next week.

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

Mr. Thomas was present and said they would soon see written confirmation that the County has fulfilled their financial obligation with the Havana Library. He reminded them the County had a 20 year lease with the Town of Havana and the first 15 years required they pay \$2,300 a month and then they would apply to the debt service.

He apologized he missed when they had a discussion last month where they amended the Sales Tax Ordinance. He said he wanted to go on record saying when it came to the Public Works Department and any work done outside of Transportation needed to be fully reimbursed. He said  $\frac{1}{4}$  of their budget was made up from Sales tax and  $\frac{3}{4}$  was from Gas Tax. He informed them if they did work and was "in-kind" for another Department, it could be easily perceived that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that was Gas Tax money and whatever Public Works did outside of transportation needed to be fully reimbursed and mentioned there was extra Eales Tax funds in the Fire Fund if they chose to do that so they could fully reimburse transportation or have someone else do the work.

Chair Holt asked if they could be reimbursed when he mentioned "in-kind", if they did something minor and he said he did not think they wanted to get into any issue where there was a question as to whether any amount, fuel or gas tax money was used. He said for example, in the past, the parking lot behind their building, the transportation department did some work there and the Board fully reimbursed them from the General Fund so there was no question that any Gas Tax money was used. He said they wanted to always make sure that of Transportation was used anywhere else, they were fully reimbursed.

Chair Holt asked if the Town of Havana provided Staff and services for the library and Mr. Thomas said the County received money from the State to operate all three libraries, the Town just provided the building.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the property had been deeded to the Town of Havana, could they put restrictions as to what the County could do with the building and who was responsible for maintenance and upkeep of it. Mr. Thomas said there was still 5 years left on the lease and there was plenty of time for them to review the arrangement for the future.

#### **CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDS. COMMISSIONER HINSON**

**OPPOSED.**

4. **Ratification Memo**
5. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **November 7, 2017**
6. **Public Officials Bond Reviews**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. Approval of the Contract with I.F.W. Security, LLC to Provide Security Services at the Edward J. Butler Building**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for approval of the contract with I.F.W. Security, LLC to provide security services at the Edward J. Butler Building during regular hours of operation.

Commissioner Morgan asked Mrs. Jackson to explain how this would be justified. She said it would come from the Building Maintenance Fund and was being done to make the employees in the building feel safe.

Chair Holt said she knew this was a needed contract.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. MR. WEISS HAD COMMENTS BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN.**

Mr. Weiss said option 1 was for authorization for the Chair to execute the documents and conversation was for the contract to come back before the Board for approval and with option 1, it would not necessarily come back before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan said he was not going to approve without having the contract before them to approve.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION AND MOVED OPTION 1 BE CONSIDERED AND THE CONTRACT BE BROUGHT BACK BEFORE THEM FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**8. Dissolution of Gadsden Hospital, Inc. or Appointment/Reappointment of Members to the Board of Directors**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for dissolution of the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. or appointment/reappointment of members to the Board of Directors.

**Craig McMillan, Chair of GHI**, appeared before the Board. He said he was contacted about reforming or appointing new members and said he was deferring to the BOCC to make the decision on who they wished to appoint and he had no suggestions. He said they started Gadsden Hospital, Inc. around 2000 in an emergency situation where the person in charge of the hospital was not doing their job and eventually led to the closing of the hospital. He added since they had leased a large part of the hospital to CRMC, their Board had no function and rarely met and it was discussed if there was a reason to have a hospital board anymore. He said they were here to do what the Board wanted them to do.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a need for Gadsden County to have a presence on the existing Board with Capital Regional that they do not have.

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

Mr. McMillan said they had no contact with their Board of Directors. Commissioner Morgan asked if it were his opinion they needed to continue GHI and Mr. McMillan said no. Commissioner Morgan then recognized Mr. McMillan for his service on the Board and his countless hours and extended his appreciation to the Board for their service.

Commissioner Viegbesie piggy-backed on Commissioner Morgan's expressions of gratitude for all he has done for Gadsden County.

**Arrie Battle, 919 Hardin Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said she was appointed to serve on the hospital Board and at their last meeting in Havana they decided they would meet twice a year and Mr. McMillan said if there was a need to and she said no, they decided they would meet twice a year and it be advertised. She said she was Vice-Chair and felt this was a slap in the face it being handled in the way it was.

**Arriane Graham** appeared before the Board and said her term expired at the end of last year. She said she was contacted to see if she wanted to remain on the Board and she told them yes. She said she had a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from FAMU and an Advanced degree in Nursing from the University of Florida and she had a great concern with the disbandment because they would not have a voice and said they do not meet because they do not meet and she was disappointed. She added if the board disbanded, CRMC could do whatever they wanted to do and they would have no voice.

**Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board and said he was one of the new persons on the Board and felt the Board was important and was supposed to be an advisory board to the Commissioners. He said he felt the Board served a purpose and felt it should remain a Board and remain as a consultant to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he heard there were Board members interested in serving in the capacity and advising the BOCC and felt the Board needed to continue. He added he did not hear they were no longer willing to serve and was against abolishing the Board.

Mr. McMillan re-appeared before the Board and said he wanted to address Ms. Battles' concerns. He said his first position was the BOCC probably did not need GHI and said no-one has brought any

hospital concerns to GHI. He added when they had the meeting in Havana, it was decided they would have quarterly meetings if there was something to discuss and nothing had been brought to them. He said he was willing for GHI to continue but they were not a marketing company. He said he and they were willing to do what the Board wanted them to do.

Chair Holt said it looked like some of the Board wanted regular meetings scheduled.

Commissioner Taylor said she felt it imperative to go back and have a full Board meeting and let them decide if they wanted to dissolve or move forward.

**Carolyn Ford, 526 South Key Street, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. She said the Gadsden Community Hospital had been a sore spot in the community. She said she wanted them to work on getting beds opened up and having a full hospital. She said a lady went to the Emergency Room, could not breathe, ended up being transferred to Tallahassee and eventually died. She asked the BOCC to advise the hospital Board to work toward that.

Chair Holt asked Mr. McMillan to meet if the three people were willing serve, if not recommendations would be made.

Mr. Weiss said there were three current Board members whose terms expired at the end of last year. Chair Holt said she was willing to re-appoint them tonight. Mr. McMillan suggested they have a meeting and get acknowledgement from them if they were willing to continue.

Mr. Morgan said he thought Mr. McMillan was suggesting contacting the expired Board members to see if they were willing to serve.

Commissioner Viegbesie said from the tone of the conversation this had been resolved and did not understand why option one was recommended by staff knowing the importance of this Advisory Board.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 2 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was trying to gather all information before making a decision and wondered why they would take action to dissolve GHI.

Mrs. Jackson said staff took that perspective because they did not hear anything different and was their belief the Board wished to dissolve and she recommended option 2.

Mr. McMillan said they were looking for direction from BOCC on what they wanted them to do.

Clerk Thomas wanted to offer information. He said a few years ago the contract was amended so the County could keep the dividends and interest of the Trust and currently there was \$768,000 that could be used for hospital only and one thing that might could be considered as they went forward was to look at expansion that CRMC was doing at other facilities and possibility at this facility in the future.

Mr. McMillan said the Clerk had been a great steward of the funds of the Trust and it was at

almost \$9.5 Million and was truly because of actions this Board had taken and the Clerk overseeing.

Chair Holt said they needed the Board to continue and while the Trust was not something they could grab, but it was something that they could think about what they wanted in the future.

Commissioner Morgan asked if they were talking about re-appointing two of the three Board members.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO REAPPOINT THE MEMBERS AND THE BOARD CONTINUE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Viegbesie thanked the Clerk for bringing this to their attention and said it confirmed the need for an Advisory Board.

Clerk Thomas said \$768,000 that was mentioned was what they had in their account that they could make their decisions on as it related to the Hospital.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the Advisory Board was needed and was the ears to the public that would listen to the communities' concerns and bring them back before the Board.

Commissioner Taylor asked Craig if the Bylaws adopted had been exhausted to where there was no additional work to be done and Mr. McMillan said he could not say there was no more work to be done, no work has come before them in the last few years for them to do. Commissioner Taylor said she wanted to make sure there was room for the Board to continue or if they had exhausted what they were doing. Mr. McMillan said the Chair of their Board sits on the Trust committee that identified the investments and the vehicles for the Trust money. He said that was being handled by the Bank and the Clerks' Office. He said there were a lot of things that could be happening if there was something to do.

Commissioner Taylor said for point of clarity, the reason she voted against reappointing members at this time was because they did not know if they would be here tomorrow. She added that she hoped the Board would uphold what the hospital Board came back with and they had a great group that had done some phenomenal things and was willing to see what the GHI Board came back with.

Mr. McMillan said he was here tonight just to discuss options of what the BOCC wanted them to do and not to take action tonight.

Commissioner Hinson said with that vote, they did not have to vote on that at all and now felt bad he voted for it.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he understood where he was coming from but there were some provisions in the Article and By-laws that those currently on the board, even if their term had expired, were still on the Board until they were replaced.

Commissioner Hinson said when he looked at this, if they don't show up, don't have to worry

about writing letter and for the peace of everyone, they were not talking about dissolution of the Hospital Board, they were talking about the board members and if they have heartburn about coming back, they did not have to come back.

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

**9. Appointment/Reappointment to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was for approval to appoint or reappoint two representatives from the BOCC to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors and identify a County staff person to serve as the County Liaison.

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

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT THE TWO CURRENT COMMISSIONERS, COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON, BE REAPPOINTED AND CURRENT INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR BE STAFF APPOINTMENT UNTIL HAVE PERMANENT ADMINISTRATOR AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROV THIS ITEM.**

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

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above referenced item and said it was to appoint members to the Gadsden County Development Council. She said there was one vacant position that must be filled by an elected official and one member in the tourism industry has had several consecutive absences and his term expired on December 31, 2017.

Chair Holt asked the Attorney if they should take the positions one at a time and he said it was good for up to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said felt the current persons did a super job but felt it was good for new people to give a taste of what was going on in the County. Chair Holt said she was asking if they should take the vote on the positions separately.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he felt they needed to take the positions one at time to avoid confusion.

It was noted that the elected officials were Keith Dowdell with the City of Quincy and Kathy Johnson with the Town of Havana.

Commissioner Hinson said he selected Kathy Johnson.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no heartburn either way and knew Mr. Dowdell was qualified.

Commissioner Taylor felt new talent was needed.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON TO APPOINT KATHY JOHNSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

The next position to be filled was a Qualifying Bed Tax Collector or Person involved in tourism

industry.

Commissioner Morgan recommended Mr. Richard McFarlin.

Chair Holt voted for Ms. Linda Dixon and did so because new blood was needed.

Commissioner Hinson asked for insight on both nominees.

Chair Holt said Mr. McFarlin had served in the past and Ms. Dixon moved back here from Atlanta and felt she might have new ideas.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Attorney about the composition of the board and Mr. Weiss said the way the Board was composed, they had to have either three or four bed tax collectors and there were two elected officials, 3 or 4 bed tax collectors and the remaining were people that had an interest with this industry.

Commissioner Hinson asked if everyone met the deadline and was told yes.

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

**CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT LINDA DIXON AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**11. Approval of Web Streaming Service for Public Meetings**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for approval of web streaming the regular meetings of the BOCC and Option 1 was recommended because it would be a free service.

Chair Holt said she was in favor of Facebook Live.

Commissioner Morgan said he was in favor of increasing the visibility of the Board and was a no brainer to have one at no cost.

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FACEBOOK LIVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he was the most transparent person and felt transparency was very important, but as a person that was on Boards, there were certain things that they did not want people from Brazil, Iowa, or Philadelphia to hear. He said he was very aware Staff had done a great job of getting them information but for every choice there was a consequence. He said he believed in professionalism and was why he was 100% against Facebook Live. He said he did not need someone from Jamaica telling him what they should be doing in Gadsden County. He said that was why he shot it down last time because Gadsden County was different from New York City or California and this was a professional Board. He added this was a decision that would affect people's lives on Gadsden County. He said if they wanted to campaign, go to peoples' houses, churches and be a part of the community, but don't use Facebook so people from Iowa could tell them what to do. He said the only people that needed to know there business was ones in

Gadsden County, it was not for everybody and what they did in Gadsden County was different from what was done in Tallahassee. He said he was the one that brought cameras back because he was big on transparency. He also said he understood some people wanted this because they refused to go into their communities and visit with their constituents and this was the easy way out. He said that was why he was tired tonight because people saw him.

Commissioner Morgan said for the record, this was about transparency for people who were unable to see the meeting or attend the meetings. He further stated the reason the cameras were voted on by the majority of the Commission and the reason it was discontinued was because of the financial position the County was in at that time.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**12. Approval of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 17-34 Administrator to Utilize Oral Accounts**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to award RFQ 17-34-Administrator to Utilize Oral Accounts to Browns Consult, LLC, the lowest, most qualified response.

Commissioner Morgan said he would make a motion to approve Option 1 at the appropriate time but would like to give final approval on this before it was published.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if the grant had specifications that the product must meet in order for the Grant to be used and Mrs. Jackson said absolutely. He said they should be looking mostly at the restrictions the grant has for the money to be spent for the project.

Commissioner Morgan asked, point of order, if there was a second to his motion for discussion of the item. Commissioner Hinson made the second.

Commissioner Hinson asked how they determined who was picked, why and what were some of the qualifications they looked at.

Mrs. Jackson said each proposal was to include experience of personnel of the proposer in the producing and directing movies and short films; identify the management and staffing of the proposer including resumes; describe the work and identify all persons to be assigned to the project and outline the nature of their responsibilities, including a description of their work experience for each person assigned to the project; describe the work experience of personnel in creating films that document historical events or documentation of interviews and should include a project schedule showing estimated start and completion dates of major tasks; provide five client references who would be contacted with examples of video services completed for each; indicate whether the firm was certified MBE or WBE business; and describe the associated costs of each service necessary to fulfill the scope of work.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious how the decision was made and they had a person that attends their functions, films them and then they were not the one that was decided on.

Mrs. Jackson said there was a committee and their decision was Jon Brown Consult.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad they were finally at a point and he felt the need to

document the elderly. He said there were a lot of people and they needed to have a committee that could identify the individuals that would have a wealth of knowledge of the County to interview and hoped there were a committee in place that was diverse that could identify the ones to interview.

Commissioner Taylor called the question

**Carolyn Ford** appeared before the Board and said when they applied, her and Mr. Southerland, they had just finished a documentary from the Summer until now and when she turned in the proposal, there were only three names on the list and now there were four and they needed to make sure their bidding process was correct. She also said this was very important.

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

**13. Appointment to the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was to appoint Gay Steffen to the Gadsden County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in an at-large position.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said the reason why they heard this board had not had a quorum, only two had come, was 1) there were Commissioners that had not appointed members to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said he gave his name about one year ago to the former Administrator-Jeff Dikeman (sp) and he had never received a call about the meetings.

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

**14. Discussion of Implementing Workshops Prior to Each County Commission Meeting**

Mrs. Jackson introduced the above item and said it was for Board discussion and action to implement a 4:30 workshop prior to each County Commission meeting. She said Staff was directed by Commissioner Holt to draft an agenda item requesting Board direction as to whether workshops should be held prior to regularly scheduled Commission meetings and would be informational, publicly advertised and attendance would not be mandatory.

Commissioner Holt said she visited Escambia County and some medium-sized counties (Leon County and Orange County) were doing this and she noticed they get all their information and was able to ask questions. Their aides sat behind them and the aides were able to get questions answered before the meetings. It gave them the opportunity to move smoothly in regular meetings.

Commissioner Hinson said he had no problem with it, but a lot of folk's schedules were different and hated to see it be mandatory.

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

Commissioner Hinson said it could make the meetings shorter.

**CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Viegbesie thought was for discussion, not implementation and Chair Holt said this was for discussion and action and was not mandatory for Commissioners to attend. Commissioner Viegbesie said he had also seen in other Counties, even Leon, staff members were present during the meetings and if there were any questions, they could call staff forward to address questions.

Commissioner Hinson said he mentioned this two months ago, there was a situation and they were calling a person up, had a full house, the person was sitting in the back and decided not to get up and was embarrassing to the County they did this. He said Staff should be in front so they could see what was going on and be able to address questions.

Commissioner Viegbesie said before making the motion, asked they consider one of the alternatives, either come in early or have the Administrator ask the opinion of staff at their meeting tomorrow.

Chair Holt said this was a suggestion, it would be up to the Manager how it was set up but all the Directors should be there and felt it would be a good dry run.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no problem if this would be a productive environment and if there were no increase of costs to the County and one hesitation he always heard from the staff and public, they had genuine concerns on how they would be treated when asked a question and did not have the answer a Commissioner wanted.

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**15. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mrs. Jackson thanked everyone for attending Gadsden County Day at the Capitol today and felt it was very successful. She also thanked Ulysses Jenkins for his efforts in the Agenda and coordinating the meetings with the lobbyists and said he did a yeoman's job.

Commissioner Viegbesie apologized for arriving late because he had classes and said what he saw was very impressive and while staff had left, there were some Legislators and workers who were coming around and had wonderful things to say about Gadsden County and seconded her commendations to Staff for a job well done.

Mrs. Jackson said Arnett Chapel AME has asked for a Proclamation for their 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary and asked if the Board would like to support.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR ARNETT CHAPEL AME**

**CHURCH FOR THEIR 151<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY.**

Mrs. Jackson said Major Wood had a weather advisory for snow and it was expected tonight and advised everyone to buckle up and said Public Works were out putting sand on roads and bridges.

Major Wood appeared before the Board and said snow flurries were showing to be in the Chattahoochee, Mt. Pleasant area and should be arriving around 4:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m.

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

He said Road and Bridge and the City of Chattahoochee was working together and FDOT was on stand-by. He advised School would be open tomorrow and he concurred they should be in school. Commissioner Hinson asked if they would have heat and Major Wood said there should be.

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

There was discussion concerning adequate heat in the schools.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said with regards to the situation that happened in Gadsden County at the Magnet School with the heating problem was not restricted to Gadsden County, it happened in other counties as well.

Mrs. Jackson informed the Commissioners there would be a January 24<sup>th</sup> Economic Development workshop for Directors at the Arsenal in Chattahoochee and that afternoon there would be a meeting with City officers.

She informed them there would be a January 29<sup>th</sup> Board Economic Development meeting at Tri-Eagle Sales.

She said there would be a February 1<sup>st</sup> informational workshop regarding Land Use. She said they should have received their Comp Plan and Land Development Code binders by now and they should be used as a working bible.

She said on February 5<sup>th</sup> would be the Emergency Management Workshop at the IFAS Center from 4:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.

She said on February 12<sup>th</sup> there would be a Stevens School community meeting at the Kelly-Campbell Center from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Chair Holt said at the Economic Development workshop they needed to invite the Industrial Board members and they needed to know who those members were and said they needed to pair some of the Boards up that had a common interest.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested the Tourist Development Council attend every Economic Development workshop.

Commissioner Morgan said they had talked about several different workshops and one thing he had tried in recent months for them to consider and talk about were the issues they were facing with EMS and the dollars they were losing. He said he would like to have a workshop scheduled for 1 ½ hours to address problems before budget talks come up. He recommended they reach out to FAC, who could put the word out a small county was looking at options and gather some information.

Chair Holt said she also would like to look at the Medicaid reimbursement and see what the numbers were now, what was being sent out and said it did not have to be a workshop, but would need a little bit of time to look at that.

Chair Holt then brought up a Juvenile facility and said they needed to look at a facility for juvenile delinquents at the jail and they had to be in compliance and needed a location where they were neither in sight nor sound of the inmates. She said she would like for the Manager to schedule a meeting with each Commissioner to discuss their interests and there was no-one better than the Judicial delegation to meet with.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report but did want to reiterate what the Manager said and said Gadsden County Day went very well.

Chair Holt said they had two employees, the Administrator and the Attorney and the employees of County are employees of the Manager and when something comes up with the County, they expect the Manager to pick up the phone and call the Chair and the same with the Attorney. She said no other Constitutional Officer tells them what to do and they do not work for anyone else and she wanted to reiterate that. She said she spoke with a Constitutional Officer and they were saying "I think we should do this or should do that and I told them you could call them all you want to, I'm not going to raise any sand until they do what you say because they work for this Board. They don't work for other people, so any issue comes up, bring it to this Board."

Commissioner Hinson said she was 100% right because there were five people he (looking at Mr. Weiss) had to be loyal to and if he lost focus, it was best to resign and said he did not work for the people of Gadsden County, he worked for the Board of County Commissioners and they represented the people of the County.

Commissioner Morgan said he was sure he had missed something and was unsure of what they were discussing. Chair Holt said it was something that happened with a Constitutional Officer and Commissioner Morgan asked if that was something for them to discuss here and she said no and he said just have the conversation with whoever you had to have it with and not have it up there. Chair Holt said in the last Court case, one of the things brought up that the employees worked for the Manager and then the Judge said whatever any employee did, the Board was responsible for, even though they worked for the Manager.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to recognize Mrs. McGriff; she was 101 years old and os “still dancing her way to the table”.

He said Dr. King did some amazing things and he attended an event in Quincy, a breakfast event hosted by the Gadsden County Hook-up of Black Women and there was a nice turn-out.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he appreciated Mr. Jenkins efforts at the Gadsden County event at the Capitol.

He said Chattahoochee put on a Martin Luther King celebration and hats off to them for their efforts.

He then said he knew the Chair was trying hard, but the meeting was lasting too long and they needed to stick to agenda.

Chair Holt said there was a timer and the previous Board had used the timer. Commissioner Morgan said they were approving items and then continues discussing them for 30-45 minutes after. Chair Holt said they could go to two minute comments and a minute rebuttal if that would work.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was actually thinking by now they should be home with only eight items on the Agenda.

He said at the CRTPA meeting today, he requested that FDOT seriously consider putting lights along Highway 267 and Highway 12. He said CRPTA asked FDOT to look into the request as immediate future projects and he will keep the Board informed with the developments. He said during the discussion, FDOT suggested they contact the engineering firm and let them conduct a study on the area of the roads where there was a population concentration. He asked they contact the engineering firm to do the study and he could take the information back to CRTPA. He said since he was the Vice Chair and to become the Chair, they were able to put on the Agenda a lot of the items that would go where they represent. He asked the Commissioners to bring State roads to his attention that needed work and he would begin to place them on future projects. Chair Holt asked if they would bear the costs and Commissioner Viegbesie said it was a State road and they would bear the costs, the only thing the County would bear would be the electric bill. He said they could consider solar lights and knew they were retrofitting old lights now with solar for State roads.

He said the next item was the issue of Gadsden County counting on Municipalities representation and the voting power of Gadsden County on the CRTPA Board. He said Gadsden County had two votes, one was his and the other came from the Municipalities. He said all of last year, Daniel McMillan was diligently at the meetings and he did not show at today’s meeting. He said he was asked today to suggest that the Interim County Administrator schedule a meeting between the six

municipalities and CRTPA leadership to ensure the second vote of Gadsden County was duly represented at the meetings.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**

Chair Holt said hopefully the Advisory boards were doing research on items that were coming before them but it was up to them to do research also.

She said she thought it was great they wanted to shorten the meeting but when they have land development issues come before them, it could take all night. She asked they give their opinion to the Manager if they were interested in a five minute presentation by any Commissioner and come back with a one minute rebuttal but to please give the information to the Manager so they would know.

**Receipt and File**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**18.** February 6, 2018-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 9:30 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**