

**AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 20, 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 - absent
Gene Morgan, District 3 - absent
Brenda Holt, District 4
Dee Jackson, Interim County Administrator
David Weiss, County Attorney
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Stevens School Community Meeting. The vision was read by the Deputy Clerk.

Vision:

The vision of Stevens Multipurpose Cultural Arts Center is to create a one-stop facility that is driven by the needs of the Gadsden County Community.

Mission:

To create a comprehensive facility that provides and increases public safety, health and wellness, economic development, youth education and enrichment, recreational activities and cultural awareness.

She said they charged the Building Official with creating a new design.

Mr. Clyde Collins asked how big of a building and said it could range anywhere from a 700 sq. ft. building on up. He said the existing building was almost 7,500 square feet and this was just an example of what could be put on the property.

Carolyn Ford asked could they not put two 5,000 square foot buildings on the property and suggested two different sizes.

Mr. Collins stated anything was possible and there were different options. He said they could change some stuff and they were using the City Codes. He said he would have to work on the angle parking.

Mrs. Dee Jackson asked about a Plan B.

Mr. Collins said yes there was a Plan B with the two 3,500 square foot buildings.

Commissioner Holt said looking at alternatives was a good thing. She also suggested another opportunity that was presented. She asked the City to consider the substation going into the building they were meeting in, the Kelly-Campbell building.

Mr. Collins said 1 parking space per 80 square foot.

Mrs. Earlene Hollis asked if they were keeping the lunchroom.

Mr. Collins said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said his opinion was they could build up and would save space.

Mrs. Rosetta Anderson asked if they were going to decide how they would build and then place what would go inside.

Commissioner Holt asked on an average, how much would what they were proposing cost.

Mr. Collins said \$130.00-\$150.00 dollars per square foot and would be about \$2 million.

Commissioner Holt said it would have to be completed in phases and would cost to put asphalt on the parking area.

Mr. Collins said for parking they would need around \$150,000.

Mrs. Ford said they needed time to study and did not seem that it was accessible to children. The space needed to be children friendly.

Mrs. Arrie Battles asked about the first building.

Commissioner Hinson said 7,000 square foot and could still be the same. The foundation was what cost. He said he provided another option, upward.

Mrs. Ford said she must visualize and they needed to look at what they wanted to put in the building.

Commissioner Hinson said the money would be on the first floor and Clyde concurred.

The monies from wall to wall are 7,000 sq. ft. He suggested upward because it would be cheaper and the foundation was confusing.

Chair Taylor said they all had a good point and it becomes an issue. She said in an upright building there was not a lot in this community and she wanted to come to a focus point. (Suggestions, substation, business incubator, youth center and health).

Commissioner Angela Sapp asked would some category get more funding.

Chair Taylor said yes because health and police chief were ready for no costs. "It can self-propel itself."

Attorney Weiss said there is case law. He said he was concerned that they could not limit budget discretion.

Mrs. Jackson said he was saying he did not know where the Board had the authority. He said he needed more time to be 100% sure.

Mrs. Battles asked for a clear explanation.

Commissioner Holt said the attorney said he didn't know and she would like for him to find out. "I need the state statute." She said they needed case law and if they were going to the Legislators they needed to have things solid. She said they needed to put numbers in.

Chair Taylor said they had to have information and they had talked with Congressman AL Lawson.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to put something on the legislative agenda. He said it was too late for the House, but not for the Senate. He said the insurance money was not specifically designated for Stevens School. He said he was in favor of the concept presented going forth.

Mrs. Ford said she was looking at the process. She asked Clyde was there enough money to refurbish the cafeteria and then use in the next 8 months.

Mrs. Battles said Clyde's plan could be number two.

Commissioner Holt said if they get the City to buy in and help with parking.

Mrs. Jackson said there was a grant before the school burned for \$2.5 million.

Chair Taylor five things they wanted to be done.

1. All in favor of Buildout in the lunchroom and parking space starting where they were now with Board's approval? **(Majority yes, Clyde to get a drawing of the current building. They want something nice and appealing then provide the services.)**

What kind of Buildout?

Mr. Collins said there are a lot of fix-ups such as air conditioner (\$30,000) and there was a grant. Mrs. Jackson said they were in limbo.

Mrs. Holt commented additionally on Stevens School, they needed to focus on economic development to get the money not the social stuff. She said to bring business that would make money, i.e., barber, restaurant.

Alma Venisee commented on renovating the cafeteria.

Mr. Collins reiterated the building and put parking lot Buildout.

Inez Holt said police was needed in this area.

Commissioner Hinson told the constituents he was their friend. In general, the money was out there and they could add \$200-300 thousand out of the budget to make it nice. They could also do matching grants.

Mrs. Jackson's response to Commissioner Hinson's statement was, Carlicia Pye; Roman Alexander's aide, said the deadline was 2 weeks ago. They could amend what was already submitted, but it needed to be in by Friday, which would be Wednesday, due to the holidays.

She said that needed to be an option tonight if they wanted to move forward.

Rosetta Anderson said she was not for losing the money and that she was in favor of moving forward with one of the options.

2. Which drawing would you like?

Commissioner Sapp said they should think about the open concept. They did not want a building that was facing the street.

Clyde's Drawing – Option B - \$1.5 million

Friends of Steven School drawing will be submitted to the legislature. (Mrs. Ford will meet Mrs. Jackson on narrative.)

Rosetta Anderson asked what tomorrow was for.

Chair Taylor commented the next evening the legislative agenda items would be addressed at the BOCC meeting.

Commissioner Hinson commented the CRA, could help with the building. He said instead of using the money, they could refurbish the building and let the County build the new building.

Chair Taylor thanked everyone for coming and for their input. She thanked them for the collaboration and wished them all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Angela Sapp echoed Chair Taylor's comments.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2017, Monday at 5:30 pm

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 P.M.

BRENDA HOLT, CHAIR

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk