

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 2, 2017
AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS
WERE 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-absent
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Robert Presnell, County Administrator
 David Weiss, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. Chair Taylor did point out for the record this was optional and no-one was obligated to stand or involve themselves in this.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation Ms. Lizzie Mae Figgers

Mr. Presnell said this item was a Proclamation that was to be presented to Mrs. Figgers and was very happy Commissioner Viegbesie had asked the Board to do this. Chair Taylor asked the Commissioners to join her in the front, Commissioner Viegbesie read the Proclamation aloud and it was then presented to Mrs. Figgers.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was present and said he had nothing report tonight.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

3. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said they found out earlier today that gaming was off the table, hopefully they will reconsider it, if not they were still in the Supreme Court.. She urged citizens to call their representatives and encourage them to reconsider.

She also said unless it goes back on, Midway sewers will not be funded.

She said she received a great compliment on the library from out-of-towners.

She mentioned a story on Sixty Minutes regarding “Tri-State Gold” and how three counties in Mississippi came together and hired an economic development person. She said she planned on going there and touring to see what they had accomplished.

She said she spoke with Mr. James and they were not having their annual event, but she said the Commission along with the Tourist Development Council, needed to look at having an annual event.

She said she was in Bainbridge yesterday and there were 4 teenagers from Gadsden County in Court on drug charges. The Judge sentenced them to 10 years and said he would let them serve probation but if they failed, they would be sent to prison. She said everyone that appeared there, if they were a minority, they received no less than 10 years and another man growing 3-4 plants and had methamphetamines on him was sentenced to 6 years’ probation.

Commissioner Hinson said a Pastor asked him Sunday for a break-down on the ½ cent sales tax. Mr. Presnell said he had planned a presentation on that at a later date.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie wanted to commend the County Administrator and the Director of Roads and Bridges for making sure the roads and bridges were done in District 2 expeditiously.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION TO NORA JAMES AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for being a blessing to the community and said he had received lots of thanks for the sidewalk in Hampton Heights.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION TO BE PRESENTED TO ROGER LEWIS AND BRUCE JAMES AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

He then said his mother, who was previously diagnosed with breast Cancer, had recently completed chemotherapy and radiation.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Not present

Commissioner Sherrie D. Taylor, Chair, District 5

Chair Taylor said Commissioner Morgan did inform the Administrator he would not be present at the meeting tonight.

She said she wanted to commend Mr. Presnell and his staff for their part in Relay for Life.

Jail Re-entry

She said she was at a workshop this morning regarding the Jail re-entry program. She said they

came up with ideas on how to help them find a place to stay and getting case workers there. She said housing was an issue in Gadsden County but there was a surplus of abandoned houses in the County that they now own and maybe they could look at the prisoners rehabbing the houses.

Evictions

She said it was costing people too much money to have people evicted. She said while she did not want to see anyone on the street, it was costing landowners \$300-500 to get their property back and then having to spend thousands to get their property back and was why people were getting out of the business of renting houses.

Emergency Management

She said with Emergency Management, for the first time in a while she could appreciate the fact that they were all on one accord with Emergency Management and needed to be under the Board and they needed more direct contact with it. She said she was not leaving the resources out because they knew it; she said she was concerned with the organization and how information was funneled to the Board.

Senior Citizens

She said this board refused to dismantle and she asked the Attorney to look into this matter. She said it was an illegal board operating because people were sitting in key positions that should not be on that board and they needed to look at how they could separate. She said she recognized the Board was limited because of by-laws that were put into place but they were in a County building and received County funds and there should be something the County could do.

She said Commissioner Holt said something profound regarding water, electric and sewer. She said there were four interchanges from I-10 that come into the County and vacant land around each but no infrastructure there.

CONSENT

Mr. Presnell said the Consent Agenda was before them.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Chair Taylor asked if there was anything in particular he wanted to discuss. Commissioner Hinson said there were a few things with the Minutes that he had a question mark on. He said it was dealing with some issues that were discussed during the Budget workshop. He said he agreed with some of the things regarding the Health Care Coordinator but there was a word he didn't recall using and could not approve.

- 3. Approval of a Proclamation for "Child Welfare Professionals Recognition Day"**
- 4. Ratification to Pay County Bills**
 - a. April 5, 2017**
 - b. April 18, 2017**
- 5. Approval of Minutes**

- a. **September 8, 2016-Budget Hearing**
- b. **August 2, 2016-Budget Workshop**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Approval to Accept the FY 2017 2nd Quarter Report

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board acceptance of the 2nd Quarter report for fiscal year 2017.

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

7. Consideration of transmittal of a support letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of Greenways and Trails to add the Chattahoochee-to-Bristol (C2B) Trail to the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan and Opportunity/Priority Trail Maps

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it sought approval of a letter of support to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails to add the Chattahoochee-to-Bristol Trail and the supporting Florida National Scenic Trail linkage through Calhoun and Jackson County to the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan and Opportunity/Priority Trail Maps.

Commissioner Hinson asked what the pros were for Gadsden County. Mr. Presnell said it was such a unique geological area along the river, had steep topography and endangered plants and things that were unique to Florida.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF OPTION ONE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.

Chair Taylor had a question regarding the topography and Mr. Presnell explained there were steep, heavy ravines that were a very unique feature and at the bottom the temperature was so much different that it grew unique plants that were endangered. Chair Taylor asked about tourism and Mr. Presnell said people were coming now, it was just unorganized right now.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

8. Approval to Utilize County Law Enforcement Funds to Conduct the Sixth Annual Rural County Summit

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for approval to utilize County Law Enforcement Training Funds to conduct the Sixth Annual Rural County Summit to be held June 13-15, 2017.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIOENR

VIEGBESIE. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD COMMENTS.

Chair Taylor said the Board should be on the agenda.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought it was good for the Board because if an emergency happened, the Governor would call the Chair. Chair Taylor said she did not get an invitation. Mr. Presnell said he received an email earlier today. Mr. Presnell said the Attorney counsels him about having everyone together in a room and Major Woods asked him if there was a problem or to clarify if the Chair should receive it. She said this was set for June 13-15th and was ample time to notice the event.

Commissioner Holt said there was nothing saying they could not all attend an event together; they just could not discuss anything that might come before them to vote on.

Chair Taylor said she would like for the Board to be invited, recognized and represented. She said for protection purposes, she would like for the meeting to be advertised and the fact that they would be there.

Major Shawn Wood appeared before the Board and said on that Thursday afternoon the Governor would be present.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

9. Training for Criminal Investigators

Mr. Presnell introduced the item and said it was for approval to pay training costs for a criminal investigator and members of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Bureau to attend the listed trainings that were sponsored by training facilities.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECONDE. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.

Chair Taylor asked if there was money that needed to be paid. Mr. Presnell said it would come from training funds that were designated for that purpose from traffic tickets.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. Discussion of confirmation of an appointment by Commissioner Hinson to the Planning Commission for District 1

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board confirmation of Commissioner Hinson's appointment to the Planning Commission for District 1.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. CHAIR TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.

Chair Taylor asked who the appointment was and Mr. Presnell explained it was Antwon McNeil and replaced David Tranchard.

CHAIR TAYLOR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

11. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell said for Roger Lewis' and Mr. James' cook-out, he and his wife provided a lot of the game.

Relay for Life

He said it was good to see everybody there.

He asked the Board to pass a Resolution to be presented at the next meeting for Public Works Week.

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

Brickyard Road

He informed the Board this just went out for bid and the road that was going into Four Star Freightliner delayed it a bit.

He said there will be a Workshop before the next meeting regarding CDBG and SHIP starting at 4:00 p.m.

He said there will be a Workshop on May 25th and he will have a break-down of the ½ Cent sales tax. Commissioner Viegbesie said he may be out of town for that workshop but would check his schedule.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had requested a list of County Roads that had old signs that were unreadable and there was one not far from Ball Farm Road and some had been replaced already and asked when others would be replaced. Mr. Presnell explained they were actively working on it, the signs had to be ordered and it was being worked on.

Chair Taylor asked the status of High Bridge Road and asked where they were on the list. He said Old Federal Road was ahead of High Bridge but he would check on it.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

12. Update on Various Legal Issues

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

Chair Taylor asked about the Senior Citizens Board and if he could see how that could be resolved.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any individuals willing to donate dilapidated houses, could he look into that matter. He said if they were going to consider accepting property, they needed to be in condition where it was not dangerous.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to recognize yesterday was International Workers' Day.

Commissioner Hinson asked for an update regarding the Summer Youth Employment. Mr. Presnell said it closed out Friday and they would soon be interviewing and placing them. Commissioner Hinson suggested the County do their interviews and then the Commissioners could make their selection.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON FOR A PLAQUE HONORING DAVID TRANCHARD AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.

Receipt and File

13. a. Resolution for Sterling Watson

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 16, 2017-Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:23 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHERRIE TAYLOR, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk