

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 16, 2016 AT 6:00  
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Brenda A. Holt, Chair, District 4  
Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1-arrived late  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt asked everyone to silence their phones, then to stand for a silent prayer. She then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was conducted by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell stated there were no amendments to the Agenda.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation Honoring the Retirement of Dr. Chookiert Emko**

Mr. Presnell said there were three presentations this evening.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting*

Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud the Proclamation honoring Dr. Emko and it was then presented to him.

**2. Resolution Honoring the life of Mrs. Joyce Beatrice Bradwell**

Mr. Presnell said the next one was for Mrs. Joyce Bradwell and Commissioner Hinson read the Resolution aloud and it was then presented to Monte Bradwell.

**3. Recognition of Superior Hair Designz**

Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud and then presented a special recognition to Superior Hair Designz.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas presented a Cash Report that had previously been emailed to the Commissioners. He said it showed a total of \$22.9 Million with all the accounts combined and \$5.8 Million was the road paving bond proceeds and \$6.4 Million was the General Fund balance. He added they were monitoring the Transportation Fund and the EMS Fund. The current Transportation Fund balance was \$158,954 and

was the lowest it had been in a decade. He added they had appropriated \$727,807 for equipment purchases. He further explained the cash flow problem should be resolved within the next few months when the annual Tier II and Tier III diesel distributions were received and the other revenue was received on a monthly basis. He said in the event there was a delay in the annual distribution of Tier II and Tier III diesel proceeds, it might be necessary to temporarily loan money from the General Fund to the Transportation Fund.

He then told them that after the payables on Friday EMS had a negative balance of \$106,731, but there was a budgeted transfer and \$280,212 was left of the \$560,425 transfer. He also said the fund would need to be monitored the rest of the fiscal year to make sure that amount would be sufficient.

**CONSENT**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**December 15, 2015-Regular Meeting**

**5. Ratification to Pay County Bills**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Ben Chandler, POB 324, Chattahoochee, FL 32324, Chattahoochee Main Street,**

Mr. Chandler appeared before the board to show one of the banners that had been designed by a student and would be displayed in Chattahoochee.

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

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. PUBLIC HEARING-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2016-003 for the Amendment of the Capital Improvements Element and the Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a public hearing to adopt Ordinance 2016-003 for the amendment of the Capital Improvements Element and the Recreation and OpenSpace Element of the Gadsden County Comprehensive Plan that had been approved a few months back and this was the second hearing.

Chair Holt announced this was the second hearing and asked if there were any comments from the audience.

Mr. Presnell asked **Allara Gutchner, Planning and Community Development Director**, to step forward and explain the changes.

Ms. Gutcher said this had been before the Commissioners in December for a transmission hearing to the State Department of Economic Opportunity and a letter was received back with no comments.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Gutcher if lighting at the interstate exits were included in this. She said previously the Capital Improvements Element had the whole budget in it and they were only required to look at issues that caused a level of service issue as far as transportation went.

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

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **7. Request for Capital Funding for Gadsden Arts Center Expansion Project**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was presented to the Board for consideration of a one-time pledge in the amount of \$25,000 in support of the Gadsden Arts Center's Community Connections expansion project and authorize staff to include the funding in the FY 16/17 budget. He added this amount was in addition to the annual funding requested by the Arts Center and provided through the County's non-profit grant program.

**Grace Robinson, Executive Director, Gadsden Arts Center**, appeared before the Board and presented their expansion project and said they had raised 70% of their \$600,000 goal and requested the Board to pledge \$25,000 to the Arts Center for their project.

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

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

Commissioner Viegbesie commended her efforts in the art community and said no doubt that arts and cultural diversity helped to attract business. He then made a motion to approve the pledge of \$25,000 to be included in the 2017 budget.

Chair Holt asked to wait to see if there were other comments.

Commissioner Morgan thanked her for the presentation and all she has done for the community and said currently the BOCC funded seventeen (17) different non-profit groups and added there were ten other organizations that received the same amount of money the Art center received. He said as much as he would love to fund this, it could not be done at this time.

Chair Holt asked Mrs. Robinson if she had approached the Quincy CRA and she replied she had not yet. Chair Holt then asked Mr. Presnell how much the BOCC gave to CRA and he said approximately \$300,000. Chair Holt said out of that money, part of it should go to improvements downtown and she added she felt this was a great project and they should help fund it.

**CHAIR HOLT SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR FROM COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND ASKED FOR A SECOND. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONERS MORGAN, HINSON AND TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**CHAIR HOLT ASKED HER TO COME BACK AT A LATER DATE.**

**8. Approval of the Contracts for J.B. Coxwell Contracting and D&J Enterprises, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to enter into a contract with J.B. Coxwell Contracting and D&J Enterprises, Inc. for Emergency Debris Management Services. Mr. Presnell explained in case there was a disaster, they were required to have two debris management firms that were pre-qualified with FEMA and both firms met the obligation. He also explained there was no costs to the County for either firm unless there was a declared disaster and had to utilize their services and that FEMA would pay for 80% of the costs incurred.

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

**9. Concord Road/Fairbanks Road Intersection Traffic Signal**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction for the installation of a new traffic signal at the Concord Road/Fairbanks Ferry Road intersection.

Commissioner Hinson said citizens had expressed concerns of safety and requested that a traffic light replace the caution light at this intersection.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had taken it to CRTPA along with the Pat Thomas Parkway/Crawford Street concern and had an email response and the crash data information and found there were not enough crashes for a light at the Pat Thomas intersection. He said with regard to Concord Road, there was a road safety audit done and it looked like they would be working on this matter.

Commissioner Taylor asked if the funding source had been identified and Mr. Presnell said the only funding source they identified would come from the paving fund. Commissioner Taylor asked if that was money he had available already and Mr. Presnell said that was all that was available in this year's budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there were any money because last time they had talked, they discussed funding and thought funding was there. Mr. Presnell said they were trying to get the money through DOT and their response today was they were not through evaluating and looking at it. He said his instructions were to bring something back for immediate action.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much money was available for this project and Mr. Presnell said it was budgeted as a Capitol project and the only other option would be to amend the budget to bring monies out of reserve.

Commissioner Morgan said this had been a long time safety concern in the County and there was no problem with them moving forward with a way to get it accomplished; but felt it their responsibility to consider the different types of funding that may be available for the project. He recommended letting staff work with FDOT and see if there were other avenues available for funding and then bring back and added he was not sure if it could be approved contingent on funding.

Commissioner Viegbesie gave a summary from CRTPA and said it recommended a new traffic signal be installed and added he would work with engineers to impress a sense of urgency and felt it would move faster. He also agreed with Commissioner Morgan regarding the need to look for other funding.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT FAIRBANKS FERRY ROAD/CONCORD ROAD AND TO AMEND THE BUDGET \$112,000 TO PAY FOR IT. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION TWO TO DIRECT STAFF TO CONTINUE TO SEEK FDOT FUNDING (OR OTHER GRANT FUNDING) FOR THE PROJECT. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR HOLT HAD QUESTIONS.**

Chair Holt asked if they were going to seek FDOT approval or grant approval and would the County be responsible. Mr. Presnell said they were responsible but was trying to find the money for installation. She said if it was stated that way in the motion, it put it so they had to go to FDOT or a grant.

Commissioner Morgan withdrew the motion and Commissioner Viegbesie withdrew his second.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN TO DIRECT STAFF TO SEEK ANY POSSIBLE FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was enough money in his budget to do this project and Mr. Presnell said yes.

Chair Holt said if they were able to get the funding before it was done, they would not have to pay out the money.

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

**10. Discussion of Gadsden County BOCC Rules of Procedures**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for discussion of the BOCC Rules of Procedure as outlined in Ordinance 2002-004.

Chair Holt said she asked to bring this forward so some corrections could be made and pointed out the document was from 2002. She added that it stated there must be a quorum and that Commissioners should remain in the Chambers at all times unless there was an emergency or an illness occurred. She asked the Commissioners to see if there were any changes they felt necessary.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when he reviewed the document he found it very enlightening and that **Article 7 Rules of Debate** got his attention. He suggested a document such as this be a part that was provided to all newly elected commissioners to help orient themselves with the BOCC Rules of Procedure. He felt they should spend some time reviewing this and update it even if they had to workshop it.

Chair Holt said if someone had to leave the meeting before the meeting ended, they needed to make arrangements to let someone know it was an emergency “because the document says, State law says ‘an emergency’ but they could not just leave because there was a phone call.”

Commissioner Taylor said she read the document in its entirety and understood the reason for it, but when you run a program and what might be important to her may not be important to others. She then said the people elected them to do this job and she made a choice to do service for the community. She said there needed to be some type of dialogue so they could be respectful of each other and what they were committed to.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Attorney regarding the quorum, attendance and delegation of voting, which would he say if they were not honored would constitute a malfeasance or nonfeasance and felt there needed to be a “meeting of the minds” and did not think there needed to be action taken.

Chair Holt said she felt that it was a good idea to workshop it and it was not an action item tonight; they just needed to have improvements made to the document.

Commissioner Viegbesie said when the document was prepared it should be made available to every board member, advisory board member and suggested they contact FAC to bring someone in to work on ethics, public records and sunshine laws.

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

Chair Holt asked the Attorney to review each item and write his opinion so something could get going regarding this matter.

#### **11. Discussion of Roles and Responsibilities of the Gadsden County Industrial Development**

##### **Authority**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the Industrial Development Authority.

Chair Holt said she brought this forward because there was new industry was coming to the County. She said there was an Industrial Board and medical marijuana was coming into the County and was a total industry by itself. She said they only met once a year and would not help the BOCC at all. She said they needed to have a workshop with this Board and could not have a Board that sat silent while there was new industry coming in.

Commissioner Morgan said he questioned whether there was a need for the Industrial Authority Board as well while they were looking into this and she said there may not be but they needed to look into it and this was a workshop item with the Board.

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

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY CHAIR HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP WITH THE INDUSTRIAL BOARD AND THIS BOARD.**

**12. Update of the Cost to Provide the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Program (GAL) for Gadsden County for FY2016**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was presented to explain changes that have occurred in the Guardian Ad Litem Program in recent years and to inform the Board of the cost of providing this service. He said they had received an invoice for \$8,189 for the County's share of the office expenditures for the year 2016. He said they investigated it and State Statutes require the counties in the circuit to share the costs of office space and in the past they had budgeted \$11,750 to help with the cost of secretarial staff. He said he would investigate this a little more and when they start discussing the budget, they may want to drop what they had been budgeting for the representative.

Chair Holt asked if space was available and Mr. Presnell said they did not want space, they were not interested in that.

Commissioner Morgan said they had a local person that was provided office space at County expense, they left of their own choosing to go back to Tallahassee and now the County was being invoiced. He asked if there was prior knowledge and Mr. Presnell said no. Commissioner Morgan said for them not to pay the bill. Mr. Presnell said statutorily they were required to share office expense. Commissioner Morgan said he found it hard to believe they did not have to inform us of that expense when they consolidated the positions and Mr. Presnell said there had never been an invoice until now. Mr. Weiss said they were not obligated to pay a portion of the secretarial support but they were required to pay a portion of the office expense.

Mr. Presnell said he was recommending that if they approved this tonight, during the budget process, he would have more information but they probably would not want to fund the position any longer if they were required by statute to pay the rent.

Mr. Weiss pointed out there was a thirty day termination clause in the contract. Chair Holt said she would like to see what the case law was and the services they provided before they terminated anything.

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

**13. Approval of Amendment to Existing Agreement with eGov Strategies to Redesign and Improve the County's Website**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval for the amendment to an existing contract agreement for professional services with eGov Strategies to redesign and enhance the current website and authorization for the Chair to sign.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had been the "drum major" for updating and improving the website and commended staff on updating the County website and knew it was a work in progress and it was more user-friendly now.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. COMMISSIONER MORGAN HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a current agreement that ran for 40 months and Mr.

Presnell said there was a current contract and wanted to make changes to bring TDC as well as the Development Council in. Commissioner Morgan said the initial agreement started in August 2013 and the renewal was coming up shortly and why not wait until end of service for the change. Ulysses Jenkins said the original contract was \$25,215. Commissioner Morgan asked why not wait until the agreement came up at the end of the 40 month term and then negotiate the services for the next agreement. Mr. Jenkins explained in the agreement there was an additional 12 months that automatically kicked in on the original contract and they were seeking to bring in three websites together to one. Commissioner Morgan asked if the County was already paying for that service and Mr. Jenkins said no, it was outside the scope of service. Commissioner Morgan felt they should explore other options.

**CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**14. Approval to Utilize County Law Enforcement Funds to Conduct Fifth Annual Rural County Summit**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to utilize County Law Enforcement Training Funds to conduct the Fifth Annual Rural County Summit to be held April 5-7, 2016.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON.**

Before the vote was taken, Chair Holt recognized Sheriff Morris Young in the audience and asked him to step forward.

Sheriff Young stepped forward and said this particular summit had been a treasure for not only the Sheriff's Office but also for the community and they had brought people in from all over America to Gadsden County. He said he was looking for them to help him better promote the county when they bring people in from the outside and felt there was a great opportunity to do so before this summit took place.

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

**15. Amendment to Gadsden County Traffic Calming Policy**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of amendments to the Gadsden County Traffic Calming Device Policy.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson thanked the Board for having an open mind and meeting the needs of the citizens by removing the fees for establishing traffic calming devices in the community.

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

**16. Memorandum of Agreement to Support the Continuation of the rural Areas of Opportunity**



Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity to support Gadsden County as a member of the Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO). He added that Gadsden County must agree that fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities as determined by the Rural Economic Development Initiative by entering into the attached agreement.

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

**17. Software License Agreement**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Software License Agreement for the software billing, collections and data into the State EMS Office.

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

**18. Approval of the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Gretna for Animal Control Services**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Gretna and Gadsden County for the provision of animal control services within the city limits of Gretna, FL.

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

**19. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Contract #2016-JAGC-GADS-1-H3-197**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval to accept the award for the 2015-16 Justice Assistance Grant for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, total funding \$37,519.00 and authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**20. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said tomorrow scheduled from 1:30-3:30 is consideration of the Gaming bill and the incoming Senate President Negron would be presenting an amendment that included Gretna.

He reminded everyone of the Retreat that will be held at the Gretna Creek Entertainment on the 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00 and the Relay for Life hotdog event the same day on the Courthouse Square starting at 11:00 a.m.

He said he was working with FAC on the training for all Boards.

Chair Holt said regarding the amendment for the Bill tomorrow in the Senate, it had been asked if you signed up to speak to instead wave and it would show support of the bill.

Commissioner Taylor had a question for the Manager and asked at the last meeting they talked about ensuring that they looked at the County as a whole with regards to developing parks so they

could do their due diligence with providing recreational activities and supported something that Commissioner Viegbesie brought up and asked if there were any other opportunities around the County, particularly land that the County owned or some that was available for purchase. She asked if he had had any success in identifying areas they could look at as far as developing. He said in her district they had identified a site on Joe Adams Road that the County owned east of the Armory and there was another piece east of Quincy. Commissioner Taylor asked the process. Mr. Presnell explained when the budget process started they would then discuss it and budget money for park construction or when grant cycles come around to apply for FRDAP grants. Commissioner Taylor said even though the County owned the property, how could the property be accessed. Mr. Weiss said until it was designated as public property for public access and deemed safe, it was just owned by the County.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss apologized in advance for his absence at the upcoming retreat but had prior plans to be out of the country but would have someone there.

#### **CRA**

He said with respect to the questions regarding the CRA, he looked at this in the past and CRA is required to provide an audit to the Board and said sometimes they do and sometimes they lag behind and there are sometimes issues with it. He said he was not aware of anything more they had to provide than an audit. Chair Holt said she wanted to see the audit and was sure the rest of board would like to as well. She also asked for a written opinion once he looked over their responsibilities and the Board's responsibilities.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked where they were on the closing of the property in St. Hebron. Mr. Weiss said the contract had been executed but the snag now was the contract was contingent on the subdivision of the property and the owners were retaining 1.7 acre of property to the east of what was being sold to the County.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had several things to address:

#### **Citizen Advisory Task Force regarding the Multi-Use Bike Trail**

He said he would like their recommendation to be agendaed for the next meeting and upon the adoption of the recommendations would like the proposal to be done so it could be provided to CRPTA.

He asked Mr. Presnell how far they had gotten with the municipalities in replacing the slot formerly occupied by former Midway Commissioner Delores Madison and said they were losing points in voting because of the open slot from Gadsden County. Mr. Presnell responded that he had spoken to several people regarding this matter and at this point they needed to get together because there were four people interested but ultimately it was up to the commission to designate

a person.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A WORKSHOP REGARDING THE ORDINANCE OF UNIFORMITY OF SIGNAGE IN THE COUNTY AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A PRESENTATION OF A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO MIKE AND ABBIE, A SMALL BUSINESS LOCATED IN HAVANA AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

Mr. Weiss mentioned regarding the sign ordinance, it was in the Land Development Code and would need to go through the Planning Commission.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan said he wanted to reach out to Public Works and the Administrator and express his appreciation for their hard work in the paving initiatives that was going on across the County and that they had worked very hard for months in preparation of the roads and also for the Sheriff and the Clerk being present and part of the meeting.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if he could piggyback the comment Commissioner Morgan said and added he had noticed on (Highway) 12 there was an extension of the paving to some driveways and there were some humps in the road and wondered when they would be smoothed out.

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

Mr. Presnell said with the driveways, a lot were done during design when they design the project and was a DOT job. He explained sometimes the contractor had to make calls when they get there and something does not work out and they would use a little asphalt to make a smooth transition.

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

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said if they could start streamlining some of their comments when they address agendaed issues, stay on target and stay to the point, the meetings would flow more consistent and perhaps quicker.

She said regarding the property on Joe Adams Road, she would like it looked at as far as safety and make sure something that was doable could support a park in the future.

She then said with regards to comments Chair Holt said that had to do with choices and said she considered Board meetings less than a fifth of what a commissioner's job was all about. She said more work was done in the community, more work done with regard to peoples' needs and ideas came from the community. She said "that's where the rubber meets the road is when we're out there. This is something that is certainly a necessity with regards to board meetings, but I think if we are due diligent 100% of the time, then a lot of our effort is conducted in the community. This is form, not necessarily fashion but this is definitely form that we need to go through, but most of the work, in my humble opinion, well, as far as I'm concerned, is in the community. I want to

officially say that there will be evenings, Commissioners, and I promise you it won't be until after the Commissioner comments and I probably will need to go because we have 9:00 shifts and I will have to do that. But, again, it won't interfere with my ability to be a Commissioner. I think I've been working jobs three-four jobs about all my life, that's how I was raised and that is what I will continue to do to make my means meet. So, the only other thing that I have to say is, ah, Good Night."

Chair Holt said, as she has said before, they had to come to work, it was a state law and not a decision she made, the State said they meet at 6:00 p.m. and they meet at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor asked to speak and Chair Holt said she was going to move on because she had made her comment. Commissioner Taylor asked her to yield and she refused and said it was Commissioner Hinson's turn to speak. Commissioner Taylor asked Commissioner Hinson if he would yield and Chair Holt said he would either speak or she would move on past him. Commissioner Taylor said Chair Holt had made a comment and she had the right to respond. Chair Holt said she could after he finished.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was any updates regarding progress with Havana Heights and said he had several calls regarding chains being removed. He asked if they had been contacted by the Corporate office and Mr. Weiss said he not sure if the Administrator had any contact, but he had sent a letter to follow up their letter and had received no response.

**Clyde Collins, Building Official**, gave an update regarding Havana Heights and said they were not interested in opening the parking lot and was told it was closed for repaving, but he did not think so. He added that they were still working on the one apartment that burned.

*Commissioner Taylor left the meeting.*

Commissioner Hinson said in the past week some great leaders had fallen.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION FOR ED JONES AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MATTER.**

Commissioner Hinson stated he would get the necessary information to Staff the next day and the viewing would be from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at New Jerusalem Church on Friday.

**Minutes of Meeting**

He said he found it hard to challenge minutes when they were delivered months later and asked how it could be expedited so after every meeting they could receive minutes the next meeting. He added he could not vote on minutes when they were past three months and sometimes a word could change things. He asked that they check with the Clerk to see what they could do because the Clerk may have "dilapidated stuff". Chair Holt said the Clerk had a good sized budget. Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to check to see what the County Commission could do to "help the process so it could be a little bit more efficient and accurate for the citizens because everybody want to be transparent. That's what transparency all about and you don't want the minutes coming to you four months later."

Mr. Presnell said he would “get on it”.

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

**Economic Development**

Chair Holt said they needed reporting back from them and would like to see what they were talking about before budget time came and would like a presentation every so often before the Board.

**Hospital Board**

She said there had a couple of calls from the first meeting of the hospital board’s new members asking when there would be a meeting with the Hospital Board and Mr. Presnell said a tentative date was being worked on.

She said they never received a supply list of what could not be ordered from Clerk’s Office. She added that a lady told her that her husband worked and during the summer time he could not get tinted safety goggles and she wanted a list and just because it was not in OSHA did not mean they could not work above OSHA. She also said she had no problem in going to court with the Clerk because “our job was to look out for people, not to be confined so we cannot look out for people.”

She also said she was not trying to be offensive regarding the attendance but it was a job and if it was by law, she was afraid of not abiding by the law.

Commissioner Morgan pointed out there was no state statute requiring attendance and she said she was afraid of breaking a state law, not that that was one.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting.*

Commissioner Viegbesie said with the televising now of the meetings if the constituents felt there was a particular commissioner that was not representing them, there was a democracy and when the next cycle came, they could be “taken out” and they needed to continue doing the work of the people and work in harmony.

**Receipt and File**

**23. Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce-Small Business Services Center Quarterly Report**

**24. Resolution Honoring Mrs. Lillie Doris Stokes**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**25. March 1, 2016-Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
February 16, 2016 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:01 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

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

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**