

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 5, 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  
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Holt called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

Mr. Presnell said there were three presentations or appearances tonight.

**1. Recognition of Mari Vanlandingham for Service on the Planning Commission**

Commissioner Morgan said he was honored to present a plaque to Mari Vanlandingham on behalf of the Board for her nine years of service to the Planning Commission. He read aloud the plaque and then presented it to Mrs. Vanlandingham. Mrs. Vanlandingham thanked the Commission and said another passion of hers was adult literacy and thanked the Commission also for their support with the Library.

**2. Proclamation Honoring National Library Week**

Mr. Presnell said the next presentation was a Proclamation honoring National Library Week and he announced a number of festivities that would be taking place at the Library.

Chair Holt read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to Tabitha Washington, Librarian. Ms. Washington thanked everyone for their support since she had come on Board.

**3. Super Why Summer Reading Camp**

Mr. Presnell said there was a presentation from Mr. Buddy Harrison, Corporate Support Representative, WFSU Communications, appeared before the Board and introduced Kim Kelly. She spoke briefly to the Board about the grant project and said the program targeted 3-6 year olds, was a camp that was three weeks long and would teach them different skills. She brought research data to share with the Commissioners.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Marcella Blocker informed the Board there was nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said before they moved away from the Consent Agenda, in part of the minutes was the December 15, 2015 Succession Workshop minutes and asked when that would be scheduled again to work on the process that was recommended at that workshop. Chair Holt asked him to bring that up at the end of the meeting under his Remarks.

**4. Approval of Proclamation for Water Conservation Month**

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- a. September 10, 2015-Budget Hearing
- b. September 21, 2015-Budget Hearing
- c. December 15, 2015-Succession Workshop
- d. January 19, 2016-Economic Development Incentives Workshop
- e. February 2, 2016-Regular Meeting
- f. February 16, 2016-Regular Meeting
- g. March 1, 2016-Regular Meeting
- h. March 15, 2016-Regular Meeting

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6. SECOND PUBLIC HEARING-Community Development Block Grant**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said they needed to adjourn the meeting to see if there was any public comment.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO BRIEFLY ADJOURN THE MEETING TO HOLD THE SECOND PUBLIC HEARING.**

Mr. Presnell said this was the second and final hearing and explained the purpose of the hearing. He asked if there was any public input. Commissioner Morgan asked about the material before them and said he had not had a chance to review the packet and Mr. Presnell said it had just been provided to them.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a lot of information to absorb and asked the Attorney if this was his first time seeing this packet and he said it was.

**Dee Jackson, Grant Writer**, appeared before the Board and said the entire application was basic and said there was no write-up required for the grant and she explained the allocation of the money.

Mr. Presnell said if there was no further input, they needed to re-convene the meeting and then

they could take the vote.

Chair Holt asked what caused the delay and Mrs. Jackson said it was due to her being on maternity leave and she explained the break-down of \$750,000.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

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

Commissioner Hinson said he had problem with \$112,500 administration fee and Mr. Presnell explained most places used consultants to do the CDBG grants and asked Mr. Lewis to come forward to address this with the Commissioners.

**Tom Lewis, President, DPB Consulting Engineers**, addressed the Board said there was a process to qualify a consultant to use for the grant and that was not done and added that he was helping because Gadsden County needed this grant. He further explained the process was driven by the Department of Economic Opportunity and the grant was announced 1 ½ weeks ago and was due April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the deadline was April 25<sup>th</sup>, could this wait until the next meeting and approve it at that meeting and Mr. Presnell said he did not want to take that chance. Commissioner Morgan said his concern was they were presented at the meeting tonight with approximately forty pages and he had no problem considering the grant, but was not comfortable voting on this item without reviewing the packet. He added if he were asked to vote on this item tonight, he was not going to vote for it and would like the opportunity to support it.

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

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a one-time capital funding in the amount of \$25,000 to support the Gadsden Arts Center's Community Connection expansion project. He added they had raised 70% of their \$600,000 goal to date through private contributions. Mr. Presnell said Ms. Robinson had appeared before the Board earlier on February 6<sup>th</sup> and was tabled to give her a chance to request funding from Quincy CRA and the City of Quincy and the City of Quincy voted to fund \$25,000 and the Quincy CRA agreed to fund \$9,500.

**Grace Robinson, Executive Director of Gadsden Arts Center**, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was in favor of this and had taken a tour of the building and had the expansion project shown to him and felt it was something needed for the art and cultural aspect of the community and hoped every commissioner took the time to walk through the Center to see what they were asking the money for.

Commissioner Morgan said he understood the value the Art Center brought to the County and felt the better way to fund the expansion project was through the Tourist Development Council (TDC) and Ms. Robinson said she felt it could fit but her concern was the angle of marketing received from the TDC, the City and the CRA was anything the organizations were currently doing with them, she asked that they continue first because they did not want to erode their current success and branding by further asking and trying to grow. Commissioner Morgan said his position was why one has any impact on the other; it was a one-time expansion project. He added he felt if they agreed to this, it would open the door to other non-profits coming before them and asking for additional funding and encouraged the Commissioners to support funding through the TDC and added that was what it was designed for and said they did not have the money to fund this through Fund Balance or through Capital Project Funding from the General Budget.

Chair Holt said she would vote for the item but did not think it should come through TDC; this Board should bite the bullet and not put it on another board and believed it was good project.

Commissioner Taylor said she concurred with Commissioner Morgan for TDC being the funding source but heard what Ms. Robinson said that it might compromise funding in the future from TDC.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator if there was \$25,000 available or did they have to find a way to fund it. Mr. Presnell said if the Board chose to do so, the money would be available October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE SUBJECT TO FUNDS BEING AVAILABLE. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**8. 2016 Paving Projects Phase II Bid Award**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was to award the 2016 Paving Project to Peavy and Son Construction in the amount of \$2,349,556.00.

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

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not see the Change Orders that were made because he was absent from the last meeting due to him serving on the Canvassing Board. Mr. Presnell said this was the awarding of the Bid and the Change Order would be on the next agenda.

**9. Concord Road Signal Task Order**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for the installation of a new traffic signal at the Concord Road/Fairbanks Road intersection and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

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

**10. Interlocal Agreement for Road Resurfacing Projects**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board direction on the Interlocal

Agreement for Road Resurfacing Projects between the City of Quincy and Gadsden County BOCC for the resurfacing of Joe Adams Road and Walsh Road and for authorization for the Chair to sign.

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A SECOND FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES.**

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for the total amount of the entire costs.

**Justin Ford, Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board to address their questions. He said based on the bids received, Joe Adams Road total costs would be \$139,590 and Walsh Road would be \$64,602. Commissioner Taylor asked if this would be coming out of the funding for that district and was told yes.

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

**11. 2015 Striping Project-Change Order #1**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to issue a Change Order to Oglesby Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,867.74 to close out the 2015 Striping Project and for 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**

**12. Update on Various Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell said he had several items tonight:

The Men of Action had purchased a building across from Reynolds Doughnut Shop and was having a dedication Saturday;

He said they had a great day with USDA that was in town for Congresswoman Graham's meeting at the IFAS Center and went to the proposed Multi-purpose Center at the site at the Livestock Pavilion;

He said the Health Council would be meeting in this Chamber on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and was to talk about the breakdowns that came out;

He reminded them of the Rural County Summit going on right now through Thursday;

He told them there would be a Sign Ordinance Workshop on April 19<sup>th</sup> before the regular meeting;

He said they were in the process of scheduling Joint workshops with the Municipalities-Havana would be at the Library; Gretna would be on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Casino and Midway would be April 21<sup>st</sup> and would like to get the CRPTA representative issue resolved from these meetings;

He said they had budgeted money to acquire property in the Dogtown area for a fire station and they had found property and was offered a really good deal that was less than appraisal for a two acre piece and asked they vote tonight to allow Staff to proceed.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he did not mind the last approval and has asked in the past for a

community center and felt it was needed on the east side of Gadsden County and District One needed things as well but everything was being approved for District 2 and it needed to be fair and have things approved for District 1 and he could not vote for it until they talked about what was happening in District 1.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad to hear Commissioner Hinson make the comment he made; this was Gadsden County and St. Hebron was in east Gadsden and the Park and Recreation Center that was being worked on has community activity center in its design and was being designed with what they have in the Jack McLean Park but that was a separate issue from this. He explained this was for a community that did not have fire service and a lot of people had lost their housing and lives to fire because it was in a dead zone outside of the fire service area and had to do with human safety and this money was budgeted and was in the fiscal budget for the current year. He further stated that fire was non-discriminatory and hoped they could take "I, Me, Mine" out of the project they were doing and look at Gadsden County as a whole and that no matter where the project was, just like the money was spent for a traffic light, it was for the good of Gadsden County. He added he hoped with the things they did, they looked at the county as a whole as opposed to the fragmentation of "my district, my district, my district". He further added that he did not have a district, he was elected to represent a district, but they were on the Board for the good of Gadsden County as a whole.

Commissioner Morgan said since they would be approving something based on the project and asked since it involved spending dollars, should it be agendaed for approval. Mr. Presnell explained he just wanted approval for Staff to proceed with the acquisition and it would come back before them for the purchase, but he needed to spend a few dollars to get the title work done, etc. Mr. Weiss said he felt it could be approved in this manner that he was just asking for approval to move forward.

Commissioner Taylor said she did not have a problem with it, but with taxpayers' money being spent; it needed to be placed on the agenda. Mr. Weiss said he did not think there would be money spent, it was a matter of proceeding with getting a contract ready to present to the Board, but he agreed if dollars was to be spent, it needed to be an agendaed item. Mr. Presnell said he would be preparing a Contract for Sale, he was simply asking for the Board's blessing to proceed with the two acre tract.

Chair Holt asked if money would be spent between tonight and the next time it was placed on the agenda and Mr. Presnell responded yes, if they approved it tonight, he would get the survey going, the lawyer prepare the contract, etc. Chair Holt said it needed to be agendaed.

Commissioner Viegbesie withdrew his motion.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO AGENDA THIS ITEM, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Hinson said in this part of District 2, before Commissioner Viegbesie became a commissioner, he rallied the troops at New Bethel Primitive Baptist Church to discuss a fire station and it was not an issue about fire stations and that was why he funded the majority of the fire stations at \$300,000 to Concord, \$100,000 towards Havana, and all throughout Gadsden County, there was two in Gretna, one being at Robertsville and said his speech all the time was for

infrastructure and this time it was about fairness and nothing to do with infrastructure. He added this time it was OK to spend \$20,000-\$30,000 here but he wanted them to spend \$20,000-\$30,000 over there (in District 1) as well and wanted them to consider when he brought things up for Havana, Midway or Lake Yvette because there was a need for a Community Center on the east side of Gadsden County.

Chair Holt said she did not disagree with him that they needed one, but that area was the only black-out there was in the County that was lacking in coverage. She said this was an area that could not be reached within 12-15 minutes and a wood frame house would burn down in that time and this was a need and not necessarily a want. Commissioner Hinson said quality of life was a want also.

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

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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

Mr. Weiss said the Oral Argument was scheduled for the Gretna Casino case for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at the Supreme Court in Tallahassee.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO PRESENT A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION TO THE GREENERY FLORAL AND TUXEDO PLACE OWNED BY RON GREEN. A SECOND WAS MADE BY CHAIR HOLT. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE THIS.**

He then gave an update of the Florida Art Trail from CRPTA and said in the last meeting held March 21<sup>st</sup>, CRPTA adopted three options: the recommendation that came from the Citizen Advisory Task Force that included the length of the bike trail and the concerns of the three businesses, the Tallavana School, NAPA, and May Nursery were included in the Agenda for discussion. He said the options presented were: 1) recommend to FDOT to complete the PD&E; 2) To authorize CRTPA staff to forge recommendations from the Task Force into the design phase should the phase be funded; and 3) To authorize CRTPA staff to further enhance project involvement in any additional phase of the Art trail through the initiation of a Special Project in the Unified Plan Work Program. He added that all three options were actually motioned for adoption and it passed with Commissioner Viegbesie being the only opposition and he said the project was moving forward with the PD&E.

He said with regards to the rate at which institutions and agencies data information was being infiltrated and compromised to be held ransom by various organizations, and small cities' computer systems were being hacked into and held hostage, along with hospitals, etc. and asked Mr. Presnell if there were any measure in place to insure that the county government data information was safe from being compromised by cyber pirates and Mr. Presnell said yes. He said last year they upgraded the firewall protections and changed the back-up capability.

Commissioner Viegbesie suggested in addition to that, that they provided mandatory security awareness training to all county employees at all levels to help prevent the data information being compromised.

**Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan asked Mr. Presnell if he could schedule a ribbon cutting for the Rosedale Park and try to do it on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Viegbesie said he would be in class at that time.

**Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said Mr. Presnell mentioned the Health Department having a dialogue with all interested parties with regards to the ranking of the County and hoped it was scheduled in the very near future.

She said she met with a couple that talked about cleaning the lakes, and there was a lot of debris and fallen trees and said they mentioned a dam being built in Georgia that will affect the flow of the river to Florida and she was told water would be drawn from our lakes in order to make the water level appropriate in Georgia. She added Herb Chancy was in that meeting and he might be able to provide more details.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought that was one of the battles Florida, Georgia and Tennessee has been in for years with the water wars.

**Summer jobs**-She asked if commissioners still were able to present five applications for youth to be hired and he said yes, they needed to be submitted to his office.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in the announcement there was nothing saying commissioners could recommend five students. Mr. Weiss said his recollection of the policy was everyone was still required to submit an application to the County Administrator's Office, but they decided that the commissioners could select five applicants from all the applicants and did not think the notice was inconsistent with the policy.

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

Commissioner Hinson recognized one of his former athletes, Mr. Wilcox, and said he graduated from Alabama State.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE FAMILY OF COACH DAVID "BERNARD" MOSLEY.**

He thanked the Board for the summer youth employment opportunities and said along with the 100 students they will employ, they needed to have jobs available for 10 students that were mentally challenged students.

He said a citizen in the community that mentioned changing the name of the road where the hospital, health department, etc. was located to Medical Boulevard because everything was located in the one area.

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



**Summer Job Program**-Chair Holt asked on the Summer Job program, to hold them long enough to have hospitality training before they go to the job.

**Welcoming Small Businesses**-She said it was great they were welcoming small businesses and new businesses that were coming to the area, but she expected something to come from the Chamber as well.

**Receipt and File**

15. a. Resolution Honoring Melvin Ray  
b. Proclamation Honoring Mrs. Roberta Pittman Stephens

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

16. April 19, 2016-Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:44 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK