

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 17, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HELD, 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 called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m., asked everyone to silence their phone and then asked for a moment of silence. She then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag and a silent roll call was conducted by Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Presnell said he had a few amendments to the Agenda. He asked to add Item 4a Resolution to Family of J C Kenon and Item 4b Presentation by Erica Burroughs-Girardi for the Health-Care Symposium, move Item 5 to Item 7a and pull Item 11.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at this juncture of the meeting.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Presentation of Audit

Ryan Tucker, Purvis Gray & Associates, appeared before the Board and gave a brief update of the results of the Audit for the 2015 fiscal year. He said there was a delay in getting the final audit out because they had to wait for information from Florida Retirement System (FRS) to come out. He said it was their opinion that the financial statements were fairly presented in all material respects, and was an unmodified and clean opinion and was the highest level of assurance that could be received. He also added they had inserted an “Emphasis of Matter” to the audit because the County had adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and it required employers participating in defined benefit pension plan to report the net pension liability. He also explained because of such, the County decreased its beginning net position in the governmental activities by \$12,219,995. He explained the changes in the Net Position and said the County was down almost \$9 Million and most of that was due to road grants. He said the summary of the Net Position showed the County was down to \$53,665,550 down from the prior year of \$66,648,199 and said the County had to put a big liability on the books this year. He added that it was recommended that the County kept two to three months of annual expenditures in reserve and the County was at 2.4 months. He further explained the

County's proportionate share of the Pension Liability for FRS was \$7.8 Million. He pointed out the amount of Federal funding the County had received was \$650,000 and they had to do some single audit procedures but next year the threshold would move to \$750,000 and if it stayed the same, the County would not have to have a Federal single audit. He said the one finding from the State Single Audit was in relation to the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) and not getting competitive bids on the projects and recommended that procedure be complied with. He added that over-all the books were in good shape.

Commissioner Viegbesie commended the effort of the Accounting firm with the degree of thoroughness used on the audit. He asked from an auditor's point of view, what was the state of County's reserves. Mr. Tucker said the reserves were adequate and comparing to a similar size county, the County was where it needed to be. He said it was recommended between sixteen to twenty-five percent and the County was in the range it needed to be.

Commissioner Morgan said they always do a great job of communicating and said they had referred to suggestions about checks and balances in particular duties and asked if it had been addressed. Mr. Tucker said that had been addressed. Commissioner Morgan then asked about unrestricted reserves and suggested amounts and said three months were recommended and they were at 2.4 months and asked if that was room for improvement and Mr. Ryan said yes. Commissioner Morgan asked if there were any concerning trends they found and Mr. Tucker said no, they found the long-term debt per citizen was a little higher on average than the peers but determined that most Counties do not have a Hospital they are helping to fund and the County just went into \$6.4 Million of new debt and inflated the numbers.

Commissioner Taylor echoed the same sentiments of Commissioner Morgan and thanked the Clerk for having the books prepared and ready for the audit and to the Manger. She said she saw there were deficiencies with regard to internal control with regard to designs and operations and asked if that had been addressed and Mr. Tucker said yes.

Chair Holt asked with regard to FRS, she said she hoped, along with the League of Cities and Association of Counties lobbying, to get some help for employees. She asked with regard to the SHIP contracts, if that included roll-over contracts. Mr. Tucker said he would suggest it be re-bid. She said with regard to the healthcare issue, some small counties ran their own hospital and she was paramount in getting the one here up and running.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Mr. Tucker had said the reserve was in the right position and using the benchmark, how much of it did he think that needed to be a sound of caution as to how they drew on reserve for any future expenditures or something they needed to be aware of so not to play on whatever reserve there was. Mr. Tucker suggested not going below two months.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGB ESIE,
THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AUDIT.**

2. Mosquito Control Update

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said at the last meeting there were questions concerning mosquito control and asked Jamison Spencer with Mosquito Control to come forward.

Jamison Spencer, Director of Mosquito Control, appeared before the Board and gave a brief presentation. He said he had responded to 178 property calls this month alone and was getting 30-40 calls a day and this had been the busiest month so far.

Chair Holt asked the Manager about the liability and Mr. Presnell said it would be covered under the County general policy and they followed the Department of Agriculture guidelines. He also said Mr. Spencer was a licensed mosquito control operator and there were not many of them in Florida. Mr. Presnell asked him to touch on requirements and where he could spray. Mr. Spencer said he had to receive a complaint, had to physically go to area to see the mosquitos and then spray.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had received calls from constituents and have been asked if the citizen called if he went onto the property to spray or only spray the peripheral of the property. Mr. Spencer said the citizens could request either a property spray or a street spray.

Commissioner Morgan said they were facing a different animal from last year and asked how they were managing. He added there had been questions regarding the pros and cons of the spray and asked if it would hurt kids, pets, or lawns.

Mr. Presnell said there was a three tier plan with Department of Health and the biggest thing everyone could do was not allow standing water on their property.

Mr. Spencer said the City of Chattahoochee and City of Quincy had their own spray truck.

Commissioner Morgan asked about ones that did not want their property sprayed and Mr. Presnell said they needed to contact them and could be placed on the map and would not be sprayed.

3. Recognition of Public Works Week

Chair Holt asked everyone with Public Works present to come forward for National Public Works Recognition Week. She read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to Curtis Young, Public Works Director.

4. Recognition of Prima Donna Hair Salon

Commissioner Taylor read the Certificate aloud and presented it to Donna Gibson, Prima Donna Hair Salon.

Ms. Gibson said she was a second generation hair stylist.

4a. Commissioner Viegbesie read aloud the Resolution for J C Kenon and presented it to the family.

4c Mr. Presnell introduced the above item.

Erica Burroughs-Girardi, Community Coash with the Robert Woods Foundation, appeared before the board and said with the health ranking, Gadsden County ranked the lowest in the State and was now working on changing the trajectory of the ranking to make the County a healthier place. She added the Health symposium would be tomorrow (May 18th) at the IFAS Center.

Mr. Presnell said the County was pleased to have her here and they were coming up with a plan tomorrow to improve the area.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood when they received the report; there were other components in the report. Ms. Burroughs-Girardi said the County Health Ranking used over twenty measures, but they did not collect the data, it was compiled by other sources.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was any good news that came out of the report and she said it showed areas of strength in the physical environment. He asked how often the rankings were put out and she said it was on an annual basis and this was the seventh year.

Commissioner Viegbesie expressed his regrets on not being able to be present at the Health Symposium because he would be in summer school.

Commissioner Hinson said he had done research but would wait for tomorrow. He added that when he served on the School Board, he was successful in getting rid of slushies and cokes in the school system.

Ms. Burroughs-Girardi said their website was www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Pastor Charles Morris, 23201 Blue Star Highway, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and said he hoped this was an opportunity to do something and asked if this was a one-time thing or would it be ongoing. He also said with the County being on the bottom, it could only go up.

Commissioner Hinson said health was his specialty and was a head football coach and found when he was heavy, he get would get depressed.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Thomas was present and had nothing to report.

5. Ratification to Pay County Bills

Moved to Consent Agenda

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

6. Approval of Minutes

April 19, 2016-Regular Meeting

7. Approve Gadsden County BOCC to Piggy-back on the PACE Cooperative State Purchasing Agreement

7a. Ratification to Pay County Bills

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Alphonso Figgers, 215 North Chalk Street, Quincy, FL 32351-Shaw Quarters Community Action Group, appeared before the Board and presented them with a bulletin for an invitation to the Shaw Quarters/Addition Elderly Banquet on Saturday, June 11, 2016.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. PUBLIC HEARING (Legislative)-Transmittal of Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to allow Solar Power Generation Facilities (Solar Farms)

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a request to approve the transmittal of text amendments to the Future Land Use Element (FLUE) of the County's Comprehensive Plan to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. He explained the purpose was to add solar power generation facilities to the list of allowable uses in the Ag-3 Future Land Use category. He added the Planning Commission had held a workshop and public hearings to address where they should be located, standards they were to meet and the level of review they should require.

Chair Holt said this was a public hearing and asked if there were any public comments and there was none.

Commissioner Taylor asked whether or not when comes to taxing for the areas, would they be paying for Ag 1, Ag 2 or per structures that would be built in the area? Mr. Presnell said If they approve the property and a solar farm installed, the tax rate would reflect the equipment value.

Mr. Presnell said the current Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code did not address solar and this would protect the County and lay out rules and regulations so when an application was received, there would be tools to address it.

Mr. Weiss said he thought Commissioner Taylor referred to agriculture exemptions and if the property was not used for such, they would not be entitled to the exemption.

Commissioner Hinson asked the impact to approving the change and Mr. Presnell said the only impact would be if a solar farm located here there would be the regulations to site it with proper setbacks from residences, roads, etc. and control where they could go and would be a positive economic impact. Commissioner Hinson asked what jobs would be provided and Mr. Presnell that would be hard to say until a plant located here.

Commissioner Morgan said he was ready to approve option 1.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was ready as well and added for the record that this would also was renewable energy and would reduce costs and the dependency pf burning oil to generate an energy source.

Chair Holt said in looking at Gulf Power and other companies, getting energy from solar into lines would not necessarily reduce light bills. She asked if there was any sales tax generated from the sale of solar energy to a provider and said it may be a commerce issue.

Chair Holt asked if there was any public input and there was none.

Commissioner Morgan pointed out they were simply changing the text to allow solar farms.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. Partial Release of property from SHIP Mortgage from Sylvia Cooper

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for a partial release of property from a SHIP mortgage from Sylvia Cooper.

Commissioner Morgan asked direction from the attorney on what they were doing.

Mr. Weiss explained there was a mistake in the legal description and the deed only meant to convey lot 3 but other lots were included. He added that staff had verified that Lot 3 was the only lot that was improved and this was an attempt to release Lot 2.

Commissioner Morgan encouraged the Board to find out the value of the land before taking action on this item.

Mr. Weiss said his opinion was this was a mistake and this action was to correct the mistake.

CHAIR HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM IN ORDER TO GET MORE CLARITY AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN. THERE WAS DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN.

Chair Holt asked with the original conveyance from Lex Thompson to Cedric Banks; Mr. Banks then conveyed to Carla Dudley lot 1; he entered into a Sales Contract with Sylvia Cooper for Lot 1; then conveyed Lots 1, 2, 3 to Sylvia Cooper; Sylvia Cooper then Quit claimed back to Mr. Banks Lots 1 and 2.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER MORGAN WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

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

10. Approval to Pay an Emergency Repair for Installing two (2) Chiller Compressors at the Capital Regional Medical Center-Gadsden Campus

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to pay Hodges Heating, A/C and Refrigeration \$6,482.00 that was deemed an emergency to replace two of five compressors for the Chiller located at the Capital Regional Medical Center-Gadsden Campus.

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

11. Approval to Renew the Standard Maintenance Contract with Emerson Network Power, Liebert Services, Inc. to Service and Maintain the Battery Module (NBATIMOD) in the 911 Dispatch Office at the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office

Item pulled

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

12. Update on Various Board Requests

Mr. Presnell reminded everyone of the Health Symposium tomorrow at the IFAS Center; Thursday night the joint workshop with the Town of Havana; and May 26th the Budget Workshop at Commissioners Chambers.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

13. Update on Various Legal Issues

Mr. Weiss reminded the Commissioners that on June 7th there was an Oral Argument on Gretna Racing at the Supreme Court at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Weiss what the County's chances were and he said he was hesitant to answer that and said the nature of this case was such he felt it would be a split decision and felt it would be a close split.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

14. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator where they were with the mural project that was approved a while back and asked for an update on scheduling the performance evaluation workshop as well as the initial part of the succession planning as recommended at the earlier workshop.

Mr. Presnell said they had contacted the FL Association of Counties and had not had much success with someone coming to give a workshop on the forms, but they were attempting to find someone.

Commissioner Gene Morgan, District 3

Commissioner Morgan expressed his sympathy for the loss of her family that she had recently experienced.

He said he was getting antsy about the County Manager's contract coming before them because of the succession planning mentioned by Commissioner Viegbesie and felt it needed to be agendaed on the next agenda for discussion and action to be taken.

COMMISSIONER MORGAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE COUNTY MANAGER'S CONTRACT BE PLACED ON THE NEXT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION AND SECOND WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THERE WAS DISCUSSION.

Chair Holt felt the succession planning should come before the extension of the agreement.

Commissioner Viegbesie felt the current Administrator should be a part of the succession planning.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. CHAIR HOLT OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner Sherrie Taylor, District 5

Commissioner Taylor said with regards to the meetings with the municipalities, it had been suggested that when they meet with the next municipality, they have a deadline to share on when to submit their priority list as well as a vision.

Commissioner Morgan stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.

She felt they were having great discussions but the discussions were not focused and when they walked away there was no true understanding what the meeting was about and their responsibilities. She suggested they look at the whole picture and to share that during the meeting. She added she felt the meetings were going well but needed to be a little more structured.

Commissioner Morgan returned at this juncture of the meeting.

She mentioned earlier in the meeting when Ms. Burroughs-Girardi appeared before the Board regarding the status of the County and it was mentioned a few meetings ago funding for parks and asked staff to look into this and bring back suggestions as to what can go in the budget for health initiatives.

She mentioned she was at a meeting earlier and was asked to be mindful of Wednesday night church so citizens could participate.

With regard to the Senior Citizens Board, the bylaws and term limits and other issues have come up and might be room for clarity and suggested Mr. Presnell look into it and if need be, bring it back to this Board.

Mr. Presnell said he had been asked to serve on the regional Board for the Area on Aging.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked if the meeting with Midway been re-scheduled and Mr. Presnell said no firm date yet but would have it this week.

Park issue-He said he had been talking with someone and they were willing to sell a piece of property that was twelve to thirteen acres of land near the Havana Heights apartments and was needed in the community.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4

Chair Holt thanked everyone for all kind words and sympathy recently received. She added they were preparing for her brother's funeral that passed away last week and received word that her older brother passed away and would be unable to attend Apalachee Regional Transportation and needed someone to attend in her place. Commissioner Hinson offered to go in her place.

She added on meeting with the Cities, this was to brainstorm and not be so official the first time and they did not meet the July deadline, there was still time to organize.

With regard to the parks, with the ones the County already have, people are not there and crime is going up. If people of the community are not using the parks, there will be elements there that are not wanted and they need to be monitored by the community and with only three or four deputies on duty at night, the security is not there.

Receipt and File

15. a. Mediacom

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 16. May 18, 2016-Gadsden County Community Health Rankings Symposium-IFAS-8:30 a.m.
May 19, 2016-BOCC/Town of Havana Town Council Joint Workshop-Havana Public Library-6 p.m.
May 26, 2016-1st Budget Workshop-Meeting Chambers-4:00 p.m.
June 2, 2016-BOCC/Chattahoochee City Council Joint Workshop-Arsenal-6:30 p.m.
June 7, 2016-BOCC/Greensboro City Council Joint Workshop-Creek Entertainment-6:00 p.m.
June 21, 2016-BOCC Meeting-Chambers-6:00 p.m.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 17, 2016-Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:13 P.M.

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk