

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 7, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M.,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

**Present:** Brenda Holt, Vice Chair, District 4  
Doug Croley, District 1  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, Assistant County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

**Absent:** Eric Hinson, Chairman, District 2

**INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Holt called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Eric Erskine from the First Baptist Church of Havana came forward to give the Invocation. Deputy Clerk Marcella Blocker took a silent roll call.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice Chair Holt asked for any amendments to and approval of the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, BEFORE THE BOARD VOTED, MR. PRESNELL REQUESTED ITEM 10 TO BE PULLED.**

Vice Chair Holt asked if there was anyone present that came to speak on Item 10 and there was no-one.

**VICE CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. ITEM 10 REMOVED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

- 1.** Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Presentation on Black Bear Issues  
Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said a representative of Florida Fish and Wildlife was present for a presentation on black bear issues in the Gadsden County area.

**Dave Telesco, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Black Bear Coordinator,** appeared before the Board to speak on behalf of Florida Black Bear issues. He added that there were only eight counties in Florida that had bear-proof garbage cans and Midway and Gadsden County were one of the places. He gave examples of "bear-proofing" the garbage cans, etc. to prevent foraging by the bears. Commissioner Croley and Vice-Chair Holt had questions. Vice-Chair Holt thanked him for the presentation and the information he provided.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

**2. County Finance and County Clerk Issues**

Mr. Thomas said for information purposes he had previously sent the Commissioners an email regarding outstanding long-term debt and gave a quick overview for the purpose of helping them with their long-term planning. He informed the Board there was approximately \$15.3 Million currently outstanding in the long-term debt; \$322,000 for the Tax Collector Building, which would be paid off in 2016; \$725,000 for ambulances, which would be paid off in 2017; \$8.9 Million for Hospital Bond, which would be paid off in 2030; \$3.7 million for Road Paving, which would be paid off in 2018; \$55,000 for a generator at the Woodham Building, which would be paid off in 2016, and \$1.6 Million for the Quincy and Chattahoochee Library, which would be paid off in 2022. He added that the reserve for contingency is now \$27,892.

Commissioner Morgan asked how long term debt was defined and Mr. Thomas explained there were other long-term debts, things financed for a period of time and he explained other long-term liabilities the Board needed to consider and generally anything over five years would be considered “long-term debt”.

**CONSENT**

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

**3. Approval of Minutes**

-December 3, 2013 Regular Meeting

**4. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills**

**5. Approval of Commissioner Hinson’s Travel to the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections Canvassing Board Workshop**

**6. Approval to Appoint Commissioner Brenda Holt as the BOCC Representative on the Tourist Development Council**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

None

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

There were no citizens that wished to speak.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. APPOINTMENT TO THE BIG BEND CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) BOARD**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for an appointment of a Board member to the Big Bend Continuum of Care (Coc) Board.

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

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

Mr. Presnell added the federal law changed on funding for homelessness efforts and an eight county region was identified to receive funding for that and Gadsden County was a part of that region and one of the Commissioners needed to be appointed to the Board.

Commissioner Croley asked who decided to form this.

Mr. Presnell said Leon County had been receiving the annual funding, which was a little over \$100,000, but the requirements changed to include an eight-county region. The eight counties comprising the region are: Leon, Jefferson, Franklin, Gadsden, Liberty, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla.

Commissioner Taylor said she had been in touch with these people and there was a meeting scheduled for Friday and this organization had funding to help with renovation of homes, funding to help with families going into homes, help with utilities, etc. She added she was willing to serve on this Board if the other Commissioners so wished and would like to see them move forward with this.

Vice Chair Holt said she had no problem with someone serving on the Board and asked that she go to the meeting and then at the next meeting they could make an appointment to the Board.

Commissioner Croley said he had no problem with Commissioner Taylor representing the Board in regard to this effort.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO SERVE ON THE BOARD.**

**8. SMALL COUNTY OUTREACH PROGRAM COUNTY ROAD 270a-FLAT CREEK ROAD-FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was to award the resurfacing bid of Flat Creek Road project to Peavy & Sons Construction, who was the lowest bidder of the three bids received.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN COMMISSIONER TAYLOR HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Taylor asked what part of Flat Creek Road was being resurfaced.

Mr. Presnell explained this was the same project they had previously discussed and this was the actual bid.

**THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ABOVE ITEM.**

**9. Jason and Cindy Broshears; Parcel ID#:5-01-OR-OS-1140-0000A-1111/CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and asked for Board approval to proceed with clean-up of

the property and have a lien placed on the property.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION ONE.**

**10. APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE HAVANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO ESTABLISH A SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR** ITEM PULLED FROM AGENDA

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**11. UPDATE ON BOARD REQUESTS**

**Retreat**

Mr. Presnell reminded everyone of the upcoming retreat scheduled for Tuesday, January 14th at 4:00 at West End Grill. Commissioner Taylor stated she would be unable to attend.

**Affordable Care Workshop**

He then reminded everyone of the workshop for Affordable Care scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bill McGill Library.

**Renaming/Dedication of Gretna Fire Station**

He said the renaming/dedication of the Gretna Fire station will be held January 16<sup>th</sup> and hoped everyone could attend.

**Legislative Delegation**

He said the Legislative Delegation would be on January 23<sup>rd</sup> in BOCC Chambers.

**Annual Report**

He pointed out the annual report had been finalized and a copy was in front of them.

**Beautification Project**

Commissioner Croley asked the status of money in place for beautification of the roadways and Mr. Presnell said it was in the Consultant's (Woods and Woods) corner and they were to re-draw and get approval from DOT to change specifications.

Commissioner Croley said he did not want to lose the money and asked for an update at the next meeting.

**Collector Roads**

Commissioner Croley asked if Mr. Presnell if he had a list of collector roads in writing.

Mr. Presnell said he had given a rough list to the engineering firm and they were to provide a formal list.

**Sidewalks**

Commissioner Croley asked about sidewalks. Mr. Presnell said Mr. Young and Justin of Preble-Rish presented two projects, one at St. Johns school and Commissioner Croley said a list was needed, that he could not advocate funding without having the list.

Commissioner Holt asked about the beautification if it was not obtainable on the highways, would it be possible at the intersections. Commissioner Croley said the beautification money was supposed to be used for all the municipalities.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

#### **12. UPDATE ON BOARD REQUESTS**

Mr. Weiss stated he had nothing to report, but was available if there were any questions and no-one had any.

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

#### **13. Report and Discussion on Public Issues and Concerns Pertaining to Commission Districts and Gadsden County**

##### **Commissioner Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she did not want to stop the flow, but asked how they were getting information out into the community so people would know when to come was getting out regarding the affordable healthcare workshop.

Mr. Presnell said it was posted on the County's website, it had been in the newspaper twice, was on the County's Facebook page and on Twitter.

Commissioner Taylor suggested posting flyers because not everyone read the paper or had access to the internet.

##### **FRDAP Grant**

Commissioner Taylor asked about FRDAP grants and said they could not do anything without land being donated or being (inaudible) and asked if the list he sent out included county-owned land.

Mr. Presnell stated that was not "raw" land and said he would send a list of raw land available.

##### **Road List**

She said she was a little off center as to why they had not done a formal list of roads to be submitted to CRTPA and Mr. Presnell said there had been several lists done in the past and they have worked from that list. Mr. Presnell said things had been fast-tracked and DOT was doing safety studies on High Bridge and Old Federal Roads, and added that DOT would be performing the audits themselves. She asked that Mr. Presnell keep her abreast of the situation. She said it was imperative that Preble-Rish finish what they needed to do to get the needed information to Commissioner Croley.

##### **Capital Regional**

She said she had met briefly with the CEO of Capital Regional and he mentioned he was starting to post job listings at the Emergency Room.

##### **Sidewalks**

She asked if he had had an opportunity to look at any other funding sources for sidewalks and Mr.

Presnell said that all he had found so far was DOT safety money. She asked that by the middle of March he have a list for them of potential sites.

#### **National Solar**

She asked the County attorney if the Solar Plant was a myth and he said he would follow up with them. Mr. Weiss said his last conversation with them was they were working on locating a site and getting their due diligence done.

#### **Commissioner Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan commented that the annual report looked really good and liked the fact that it had a tag line on it.

He said with regard to the Affordable Care Act , he thought the local churches might be good way to help get the word out.

#### **Commissioner Croley, District 2**

Commissioner Croley asked regarding the list of property, the SHIP housing that was referenced, if it included any houses the County had constructed. Mr. Presnell stated it did include the Brumby Street house. Commissioner Croley said he had mentioned at a previous meeting of a fire Christmas Eve in the Shaw Quarters where a family was burned out of their home. Red Cross sent the family to Midway for two nights but had no place available for the family to go after that. He asked why the family could not go into the house on an emergency basis to help them out on a temporary basis and said the County Attorney's Office had said it could not be done and he asked why and what they could do with the house-it was built with public funds and there was a need by a burned-out family; they have a family with legitimate need for a house. Mr. Weiss responded they could only use the county property for a public purpose and added opening it up for use might open themselves up for liability if they leased the house out and the County would technically become a "landlord". He added he was not saying there was no way to do it but he had concerns. Commissioner Croley stated he appreciated his concerns, but "...all I know is, it was Christmas Eve, and I have a burned-out family, we have a vacant house, and while we were able to take care of them at a motel for two nights, it just seemed like if we could run a cold-weather shelter out of a county warehouse, that we ought to be able to have an emergency dwelling for somebody for a week or something of that nature just to have gotten them through the emergency that they faced because these were tenants living in a rented dwelling and due to the scope of the destruction and damage to the dwelling, I did not see that the landlord was going to be able to put them back in a house any time soon."

#### **Transportation**

He said Mr. Presnell may have gotten a lot more information than he had, but when talking about the five year FDOT plan and the way he conveyed some of the information he relayed, it created the impression that DOT is ignoring the CRTPA planning process. He explained no money goes into the five year plan, according to his information, that Gadsden County does not get the support of CRTPA.

Mr. Presnell explained that with the change in the law, the five year plan has to go through a process and a vote in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Croley said whatever the Commissioners would like to submit, he would be happy to deliver and advocate for it as long as it meets their criteria.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they could find out how Red Cross figures the proportion of money they give to the families, the formula they use, because the amounts differ from family to family and asked Mr. Presnell if he could get some information on how they determine that.

Commissioner Holt said it might be good to have them do a presentation.

#### **Commissioner Holt, District 4**

##### **Affordable Health Care Coverage**

Commissioner Holt said it was important to get the word out concerning this and there was approximately eighty (80) days left to apply for the coverage. She added there was a need to have meetings in every district to be able to inform every one of the benefits of the Affordable Health Care coverage.

##### **Economic Development**

She said she was very interested in trying to get some incentives to get an empty building to give to economic development and that was why she supported the elementary school in Havana.

Commissioner Croley said he wanted to encourage the Administrator, the Clerk and Mr. Lawson to hold a meeting early with Capital Health Plan regarding changes in the health care law.

She asked Mr. Presnell for a list of roads, whether they are paved, unpaved, ones that need sidewalks, etc., by district so they could review it.

Commissioner Taylor said that would be a good workshop for them to hash out everything.

#### **Commissioner Hinson, District 1**

##### **RECEIPT AND FILE**

14. **A. November 19, 2013 letter from Douglas Croley to FDLE's Office of Criminal Justice Grants (Distribution of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant)**
- B. December 4, 2013 letter from Robert F. Bendus, Division of Historical Resources Director (Centennial Courthouse Celebration)**
- C. Letter from FDLE (Receipt and acceptance of financial and programmatic reports for Contract No. 2013-JAGC-GADS-1-D7-157)**

#### **January Meeting(s):**

-January 21, 2014, Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
January 7, 2014 – Regular Public Meeting

**February Meeting(s):**

- February 4, 2013, Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- February 18, 2014, Regular Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:10 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

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

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**