

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 1, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Eric Hinson, Chair, District 1  
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4  
Doug Croley, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney  
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

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

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Doss from the Salem Methodist Church in Havana came forward and gave the Invocation. Chair Hinson then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Marcella Blocker.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell announced he would like to remove Item 5 from the agenda.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. ITEM 5 WAS REMOVED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Quincy Loop Project**

Ray La Fontaine, FDOT Project Manager

Mr. Presnell said there was one presentation tonight and Mr. Ray La Fontaine with FDOT was present to discuss the Quincy By-pass project.

**Ray La Fontaine, FDOT Project Manager for Quincy Loop North**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief presentation. He announced they would be holding a public kick-off meeting on May 22, 2014 in the Commissioners Meeting Room. He said they would be analyzing several corridors within the study area that will be connecting State Road 12 on the east side with County Road 268-Solomon Dairy Road. He said this would help reduce heavy truck traffic in downtown Quincy.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

The Clerk was present and had nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- January 7, 2014 Regular Meeting
- January 21, 2014 Regular Meeting
- February 17, 2014 Regular Meeting
- March 4, 2014 Regular Meeting

**3. Approval of Resolution 2014-008 Supporting the Community Transportation Safety Team (CTST) to Apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding Through the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)**

**4. Approval of Resolution 2014-006 in Support of the Gadsden Leadership and Law Academy**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Walter C. Rogers, 2059 Hardaway Highway, Chattahoochee, FL 32324**, and appeared before Board. He informed the Board of a current problem he and his sister, Jackie Reese, 301 Tharp Circle, Quincy, FL, were having because of a personal gate that had been placed across a public county road, the Woodrow Butler Road, by members of the Jones family with permission erroneously granted by Gadsden officials. He explained there was a multi-line telephone call with Mr. Presnell, Curtis Young, Gene Morgan and himself and Mr. Presnell indicated that in 2007, there was a meeting held physically on the dirt road near the gate in question, with Mr. Presnell, who was the Public Works Director at the time, Derrick Price, who was the County Commissioner at that time, several members of the Jones family and representatives of the St. Joe Timber Company, who owned land at that time at the very end of the road. The Jones family was granted permission to place the gate across the road and Mr. Rogers and his sister, who jointly own land on the road, were not contacted for inclusion in the meeting. He added that according to a survey, their land included approximately one-half of the road beyond the gate in question and actually encompassed the road in its entirety at the southern end of the road. He explained the gate denied them several hundred yards of public road right-of-way and greatly diminished the value of their property. He said it was their contention that County Officials created the problem by improperly allowing the gate to be placed across the road and they felt the gate should be removed and the roadway re-opened for public access. In conclusion, he added that several members of the Jones family live in his area and he had known some of them for over 40 years, they were good, hard-working people and he felt they have done nothing wrong nor did he think they would intentionally do anything wrong, but did feel the County had made a major mistake in the matter and should assume the responsibility and rectify the problem by having the gate removed.

Commissioner Holt pointed out with this matter not being placed on the agenda, it could not be discussed among the Commissioners and addressed at this time, but if they wanted the matter placed on the agenda, they would need to get with the County Manager if they wanted to have it heard by the Board. Mr. Presnell said they were aware of the problem and the Attorney was currently researching the matter and they were working with them on the issue and at some point, it would need to be placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Croley said there had previously been a petition filed to close the North end of

Jamison Road and asked if there was a process, while he was doing research regarding that particular road, could he review, for the Board's benefit, the legal process for closing a road.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**5. Rescinding Of The Vote To Approve The Request For Monetary Assistance With The FCAT Rally Scheduled For April 5, 2014** Item removed from the agenda.

**6. Approval of the Criteria for the 2014 Summer Youth Employment Program**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said this was for clarification of the criteria for the 2014 Summer Youth program. He added in the past, the students had to have a "C" average, and satisfactory in their conduct.

**Lonyell Black, HR Analyst**, stepped forward to answer questions the Board had.

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

Commissioner Morgan asked if applicants who were in the program in the past were eligible for this program.

Mr. Presnell said no, there was too much demand to have repeat youths for the program.

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

Commissioner Croley asked if the program was limited to the public schools.

Ms. Black said no, that private and home-schooled students were also eligible; the program was for all youth of Gadsden County.

Commissioner Croley felt it wrong for a commissioner to make recommendations for students for the program and wanted every child that applied for the program to have a fair chance.

Chair Hinson said he felt all the commissioners had integrity and would not do anything wrong.

Commissioner Morgan asked what the fiscal impact to the County was.

Ms. Black said \$75,000 was allocated in the budget for the program.

Commissioner Holt asked that the committee have five people on it instead of three.

Chair Hinson stated that last year a student that applied who had lost her brother in a car accident during the school term and during that time she had received an "N" on her report card, but had maintained a 3.8 GPA. He asked that they take into consideration if the child had one "N", that they consider what may be going on in that child's life at that moment.

Commissioner Taylor felt the Commissioners should be able to select 5 students each and the

committee select the remaining 50 students. She also felt they should not weigh the conduct as heavy as they were proposing, to interview the children and choose the best that apply.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO HAVE FIVE PEOPLE PLACED ON THE COMMITTEE, THE STUDENTS COULD HAVE ONE "N" IN CONDUCT AND THE COMMISSIONERS COULD CHOOSE FIVE STUDENTS FROM THE OUTLYING AREAS OF THE DISTRICTS. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER CROLEY HAD COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Croley said he had a problem with commissioners giving names to the committee for them to automatically approve.

There was further discussion among the Board.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT CLARIFIED HER MOTION, WHICH WAS FIVE PEOPLE ON THE COMMITTEE, COULD HAVE ONE "N" FOR ONE NINE WEEKS, AND COMMISSIONERS COULD RECOMMEND 5 YOUTH FOR THE PROGRAM. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

- 7. Approval of Resolution No. 2014-007 Approving the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan for FY2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017**  
Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the above resolution.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

- 8. Appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for an appointment to the CareerSource Capital Region Board.

Commissioner Holt recommended Mr. Roy Moore, co-owner of Piggly Wiggly.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- 9. Update of Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell confirmed that all the commissioners would be in attendance at the next scheduled Board meeting, as there were several issues on the agenda and he would like input from all the board members regarding same.

#### **Quincy Shuttle**

He also informed the Board there was a City of Quincy meeting scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Quincy Shuttle and depending on what they decided, they will agenda that item and possibly have that on the April 15<sup>th</sup> agenda as well. He added if the City did not fund it, they could be looking at a different scenario regarding the Shuttle, but there were enough funds in the budget to finish out the year.

**Scott Town Park**

He reported that the pavilion at Scott Town Park had been put up with finishing touches being done on this date, the slab had been poured, and inmate crews were building picnic tables.

Commissioner Croley suggested there was \$10,000 for an off-road bike park, which was on hold for environmental considerations and suggested those funds go to this park for equipment.

Commissioner Taylor asked if a process in place for dollars that were specifically earmarked for something else and if it would need to come before the Board before proceeding.

Mr. Presnell said it would come before the Board for approval before the funds were used.

**Enterprise Zone**

Mr. Presnell announced there was an Enterprise zone meeting scheduled for next Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. at the Livestock pavilion to discuss promotional activities and a Development Council meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the same place.

**Sidewalk Projects**

He also announced that the Community Traffic Safety Team will meet the next Tuesday to approve sidewalk projects.

Chair Hinson asked for a workshop regarding the enterprise zone.

He also reported that the two projects that had been proposed, the Courthouse renovations and the Ag Center project, neither one came out in the House or the Senate budget committees. He said they had taken it upon themselves to make some calls and have the Senators contacted. The next day Senator Montford filed an amendment and the recommendation went up on their reconciliation budget, which was \$100,000 and was not enough to build it, but it would keep the item alive so when they go into negotiations, it would be an existing project.

**Social Security Administration Building**

Commissioner Morgan asked if Mr. Presnell wanted to give a recap of the phone call regarding the Social Security building. Mr. Presnell furnished them the name and number of the management company of the building.

Commissioner Holt said they were looking at the libraries adding icons onto the computer screens and having a private area for someone to help the ones that were not computer savvy to fill out the information on their own. She added that they were offering this for one library and wanted to see how much usage that one received before adding it to any of the other libraries.

Mr. Presnell said a kiosk was in the testing phase at the moment in Baltimore and depending on the usage, we could be the first in the nation to receive the kiosk.

Commissioner Morgan reiterated that clear communication would be the key on what would be offered where and wanted to make sure it was understood by the public what services would be provided and that this was a federal government decision and was not done at the county level.

Commissioner Holt publically thanked Senator Nelson, who jumped out early to assist with this

matter, along with Senator Rubio and Representative Steve Southerland for their support and involvement in this matter.

**United States Special Operations Command-Military Training**

Chair Hinson asked about the status of the letter of support for the military company conducting exercises in the county and had concerns about this and had considered rescinding his vote of support because he saw no benefit to the county that the exercises be conducted in the county and said if he could get anyone else to feel the same way he would cancel his decision and rescind his motion regarding that. He then added if the other Board members did not think it was a problem, he had no problem with it.

Commissioner Holt asked if Mr. Presnell could contact the gentleman so Chair Hinson could discuss this with him, and possibly bring the matter before the board again.

Commissioner Croley gave the benefits of the exercises being conducted in the county, they would be buying fuel, food, training exercises would be conducted on private land and they would pay for the use of it and also would reimburse the law enforcement costs.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**10. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss stated he had nothing to report, but was available to answer any questions.

**Havana Heights**

Chair Hinson asked if there had been a response regarding Havana Heights and said he had received a phone call and the complex was trying to force people to stay inside the building.

Commissioner Holt said when she served as vice-chair of local NAACP, they found that Flint Garden Apartment tried to do the same thing and found that they did not have the law on their side and could not hold people captive in their own homes.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**11. Report and Discussion on Public Issues and Concerns Pertaining to Commission Districts and Gadsden County:**

**COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor said she would appreciate updates regarding the Social Security Administration, but did not want to get involved, she would like periodic updates.

*Chair Hinson stepped out at this juncture of the meeting.*

She also added that she hoped to see everyone Saturday at the FCAT Rally that has been moved to Corry field from Noon until 2:00 p.m.

**Commissioner Morgan, District 3**

Commissioner Morgan asked Olivia to bring up the County web page on the monitor and asked where the audit information and quarterly financial updates were located.

Olivia brought up the County home page and showed them where the information could be found.

*Chair Hinson returned at this juncture of the meeting.*

#### **Updates from GCDC**

He asked if the update that would be provided on April 15<sup>th</sup> from the GCDC would be their quarterly report and Mr. Presnell said yes.

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

Commissioner Croley said he understood that when they entered into the Emergency Management Agreement, they would be getting quarterly updates from them as well.

Mr. Presnell said there would be three updates a year, that it would not be quarterly.

He then asked if they were owed any updates for Small Business Job Development and training or if they were receiving what they were to be receiving.

Mr. Presnell said yes.

#### **Commissioner Holt, Vice Chairman, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said the Medicaid increase for the County would be 90% starting in the year 2015-2016 and they really needed to lobby against paying that amount.

#### **Affordable Health Care Act**

She stated that the Affordable Health care ended at 12:00 last night and said it seemed everyone wanted to get on at the last minute.

#### **Economic Development**

She thought the website should show if a new business was coming to town and what was going on to help inform people of what might be coming to the county and the possibility of new jobs coming to the area.

Mr. Presnell informed the Board that that was already part of the website; there was an icon there for that purpose.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted it easily assessable so people who visit the site would not have to hunt for the information.

#### **Enterprise Zone**

She added that she had had a few calls from constituents, one that was a homeowner that did not want to be located in the Enterprise Zone and one from a commercial business owner that asked why it was not advertised more.

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

##### **Medicaid**

Chair Hinson asked if a workshop regarding Medicaid could be scheduled.

Commissioner Holt said the information could be brought back to them via email so they could look at it.

Commissioner Taylor said they were well into the fiscal year and the Board needed to hear feedback from the Economic Development Council and it needed to be soon so they would know where they were in the planning stages and what was expected.

Mr. Presnell said they would be present on April 15<sup>th</sup> for the meeting.

Commissioner Croley asked if all of the Interstate 10 was zoned agricultural and said that had to be incorrect because the City of Quincy had the Industrial Park acreage that was located in the City that should be zoned for industrial infrastructure, along with University of Florida (IFAS) that operated all the agricultural land and there were motels located on the south side with an inadequate sewer system. He added he understood that the City of Quincy was looking into annexing that area and the property owners that were willing to do that.

Mr. Presnell clarified that looking at the exchange with the exception of the existing motel, there was a tract of land owned by a private family that was available for development and they consider the IFAS land off the table.

Commissioner Croley asked if there was not an Industrial Park owned by the City of Quincy that adjoined the Interstate.

Mr. Presnell said there was the one behind the jail, and it did run down to the Interstate, but had no access. He said in talking with the Economic Development Council, Beth Kirkland had gone through each city and inventoried what was available where a restaurant could go and they had come to the conclusion that the County had nothing available. He added to get something available would require between a six month to a year process through Planning and Zoning and the Board and would require four votes. He added the best they could do at this point to help the County was to push the businesses toward the cities where something could be done.

Commissioner Holt said "If we don't do a darn thing, we're not going to get a darn thing"; there was all of US 90 to the City limits and they had not encouraged a sewer line going out and they could partner with the cities, get a CDBG grant to help the cities and be able to get sewage and water to be able draw businesses to the area.

#### **RECEIPT AND FILE**

12. A. March 5, 2014 Letter from Social Security Administration District Manager to the Board (Closing of Quincy Social Security Office)  
B. Proclamation Honoring the Life of Mr. Harry K. Holt

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

13. -April 5, 2014-Regular Meeting  
-May 6, 2014-Regular Meeting

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
April 1, 2014-Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:38 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**ERIC F. HINSON, Chair**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**