

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 6, 2014, 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  
David Weiss, County Attorney  
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

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

Chair Hinson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. He asked everyone to stand for a silent prayer for everyone who had recently died or who had lost a loved one and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Beryl Wood.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no amendments to the Agenda.

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

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Chair Hinson said in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Board had a plaque and Proclamation to present and accepting the Proclamation was Mr. Richard Davison, legal counsel for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Department and Chair Hinson asked him to step forward. He then read the Proclamation aloud and presented it to him.

Richard Davison, Attorney for the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, along with Sheriff Young received the Proclamation recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Attorney Davison had a few words to say to the Board.

Mr. Davison's daughter, Christina Davison, appeared before the Board and had a few words to say. She thanked the Board for doing the recognition in honor of her Mom and hoped to one day follow in her footsteps.

Sheriff Young also appeared before the Board and thanked everyone and said the pinwheel garden was placed in honor of Gria Davison. He also added that everyone needed to realize the abuse of

our children in this County and added that as a community, there was a need to advocate for the children and come together on their behalf.

**2. Presentation by Riverway South-AC**

**Mr. Homer Hirt, President of Riverway South**, appeared before the Board and thanked the Board for allowing him to speak to them. He said he was the President of Riverway South, Apalachicola and Choctawhatchee Non-Profit Organization and they were eight counties strong and gave a brief background and stated they promote tourism and their money came from the Tourist Development Councils and other groups and was matched by the State of Florida and was used for tourist promotion. He added that Interstate 10 was considered “a river of money” and they hoped to help each county get that “river of money stopped off for a while”. He also listed scholarships that have been given out by them. He further said that while they would not come in to tell the TDC how to run things, he offered help if they so wanted.

**Pam Portwood, Project Manager**, spoke to the Board and said they were working on promotional materials to help tourism development throughout the eight county region and on a campaign to get people off off I-10 and over the next year they would be working on 16 more self-guided itineraries to go along the I-10 exits to guide people to places throughout the region off the exits. She thanked Gadsden County for partnering with Riverway South and hoped to continue the relationship.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Hirt for coming before the Board and sharing what was happening within the region and now knew who to reach out to when they had questions.

**CLERK OF COURTS**

Mr. Thomas was present had had nothing to report.

**CONSENT**

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

After the vote was taken, Commissioner Taylor asked to pull Item 8 for discussion.

- 3. Approval of Minutes**  
-March 18, 2014, Regular Meeting
- 4. Approval of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Memorandum of Understanding**
- 5. Approval of Management Control Agreement**
- 6. Approval Of Interagency Agreement With Gadsden County Clerk Of Court**
- 7. Approval To Accept The Standard Contract Between The State Of Florida, Department Of Revenue And The Gadsden County Board Of County Commissioners**

- ~~8. Approval Of Amendment Of Contract With Ashbritt, Inc. For Emergency Debris Management Services~~ PULLED FOR DISCUSSION
9. Approval Of Amendment Of State Aide To Libraries Grant Agreement
10. Approval Of Proclamation Designating May 2014 As Bike Month In Gadsden County
11. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER HOLT'S TRAVEL TO THE 2014 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACo) ANNUAL CONFERENCE
12. Approval Of Commissioner Hinson, Holt & Taylor's Travel To The 2014 Florida Association Of Counties (FAC) Annual Conference

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

8. **Approval Of Amendment Of Contract With Ashbritt, Inc. For Emergency Debris Management Services**

Commissioner Taylor said with this document, a company had been identified that could take care of debris.

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

She asked if there had to be two companies and how they were chosen.

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

She asked if there was a list that the Board could entertain and if this was the right procedure that he choose the companies and not the Board.

Mr. Presnell responded that this particular contract was brought to the Board, had a contract with them, but currently the contract had expired and the Public Works Director, Curtis Young, had recommended with the upcoming hurricane season, this be extended for one more additional year.

Chair Hinson stated that anything that affected the Budget should not be in the Consent Agenda.

**CURTIS YOUNG, Director of Public Works**, stepped forward to address the Board and stated that the contract had expired and they were trying to get an extension to be able to get through the hurricane season.

Commissioner Taylor asked the County Attorney, with this being a fiscal impact, should it be on the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Weiss responded there was no legal reason why it could not go on the Consent Agenda.

Chair Hinson asked if this item could go under General Business at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Croley pointed out the vote had been taken already to approve the Consent Agenda.

Chair Hinson said the vote could be rescinded.

Commissioner Holt said she felt it was OK to proceed forward with this, if there was a fiscal impact, to bring it back up under General Business at that point.

Chair Hinson said the Board needed to be consistent, if funding was to be impacted by the General Revenue, it could not be under the Consent Agenda and they were going against what they earlier said.

Commissioner Taylor said she needed to go on record and could not vote for it at this time, she would rather have it agendaed for a later item, even though the majority could move it forward.

Chair Hinson commented to Commissioner Holt that since she was on the winning side of the item, she could move to either rescind or reconsider the item.

Commissioner Croley said he did have the same concern, but understood they were coming up on the hurricane season.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO RECONSIDER ITEM 8.**

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

There were no requests.

**13. Public Hearing-Adoption Of Ordinance No. 2014-002, Adopting Procedures To Consider Acquisition Of Property Interests In And Acceptance Of Maintenance Responsibility For Certain Private Roadways In The Unincorporated Area Of The County Under Certain Conditions**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and commented the County Attorney had developed the Ordinance for the Board's consideration. He explained there were a couple of changes that had not been discussed previously and made a note that the attorney wrote the Ordinance and his opinion was that one requirement be that the roads be brought up to County standards before the County could accept it.

Mr. Weiss further explained the procedures to the Board members.

Commissioner Taylor asked who set the standards.

Mr. Presnell said the standards were outlined in the Land Development codes, which required a 60 foot right-of-way.

**LARRY GANUS, 2174 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to speak on this issue and mentioned that he lived on one of the private dirt roads that they were maintaining themselves and was in favor of this Ordinance. He mentioned the only thing in the Ordinance that he really did not like and would like to see struck from the

Ordinance was the clause “but not paving”. He thought it would be a better Ordinance for those roads that the Board accepted to be “silent on that issue” and let it run its natural course for roads to be ranked on the road paving list if and when the County started paving dirt roads again.

Mr. Weiss said that was not the intent, intent was the County would be agreeing to accept maintaining the responsibility of the roads, but not present paving and it was never the intent that the road could never be paved.

Mr. Ganus said he thought everyone understood they were on a maintenance schedule, not necessarily a paving schedule.

Commissioner Holt stated she was not in favor of removing that language because there were dirt roads waiting to be paved and they would not be happy, after they had waited 20 years, to have someone come in ahead of them and have their road paved.

Mr. Ganus asked how often the road paving list was updated.

Commissioner Holt said the list could be updated, but the County had no money.

Chair Hinson said he has worked in the past with Mr. Ganus on the P&Z Board and what he said was absolutely right, but he also understood where Commissioner Taylor was coming from.

Commissioner Croley disclosed that he and Mr. Ganus had had an extensive conversation regarding the Ordinance and the concept behind it and there did need to be in the County a reasonable and legal method to expand the County transportation system. He said some of the concerns, like the attorney referred to, was the County could not do public work on private property and could not give the benefit to bring that road up to county standards unless the County had accepted it, but it could not be accepted if it did not meet the standards. He said they should also consider the costs of maintaining the roads. He added that, conceptually, there had to be a way for the transportation system to be expanded and serve the needs of the citizens across the unincorporated areas of the County.

Commissioner Holt said she was in favor of the process, but was uncertain how to proceed and it needed to be fair per district.

Commissioner Taylor said there were issues now; obviously the engineers would need to look at the roads so as not to cause residents to have more of a problem and maybe each district could be given a mile a year. She added that the unincorporated areas were the County’s responsibility and she did not agree that the paving part should stay in, but make it understood that there were other roads that would come before them on the list and the language needed to be cleaned up. She added that, as a Board, they needed to look at the Ordinance together and see if they could come up with language that could push this forward and then proceed on.

Commissioner Morgan said he and Mr. Presnell had spoken in the past regarding this item and based on his experience as the Administrator and the Public Works Director for 13 years, asked if he thought it was a good decision to take on additional roads with the situation with the County.

Mr. Presnell stated that anytime additional work was added for existing resources, you would stretch yourself thin. He said that all he asked was that it be limited to projects that were feasible and that was the reason the Ordinance was written in the manner it was. He added he thought the original discussion was a mile a year, but it seemed to be on a lot broader scale and 20 miles a year would be bad.

Commissioner Morgan asked to speak with the Public Works Director.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director**, came forward.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Young and his department for their service during the heavy rains and said he knew their calls had been tremendous and had been handled quickly. He asked him how adopting additional roads would affect his department.

Mr. Young stated the way the Ordinance was written now was working but if it went the other way, it would hurt them because they would not only be using the motor grader, but would need to use additional equipment.

Commissioner Morgan asked what was wrong with the system now.

Mr. Young said there was no problems, as long as they could evaluate it, get in and out, there was no problem.

Commissioner Morgan then asked that Allara Gutcher come forward.

**Allara Gutcher, Planning and Community Development Director**, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Morgan asked Ms. Gutcher if she could expound on this matter.

She said from a Land Use perspective, she did not have an inventory of road right-of-ways and did not know the complexity of the issue and even if there were an inventory, the inventory would be probably only what the County owned.

Commissioner Morgan said it was his opinion that would cost the County a lot of money. He said there was no road-paving list being adhered to and everyone has asked for one for some time. He thought the plan that was currently in place was working fine and until the County could take care of the roads that they have, thought the County needed to stay where they were for the time being.

Commissioner Taylor said they had to do their due diligence around the Board and discuss things thoroughly. She added she heard what the Public Works Director said concerning the roads, but what about the people that lived on the dirt roads that were asking for their roads to be adopted.

Chair Hinson asked when the last time was that the County adopted private roads.

Mr. Presnell said the last time the Board entertained the private road issue was when the E911 system was put in.

Chair Hinson asked how roads were adopted previous to that.

Mr. Presnell said roads were adopted one by one and the only mass adoption change was when the E911 went into effect.

Commissioner Holt said the Board should move the item and it could always be critiqued.

Commissioner Croley said it was appropriate that they have an Ordinance process in place that would allow expansion of a transportation system in an orderly manner, but work could not be done on private property, because doing so would put them in an illegal situation. He added that they also needed to consider the maintenance costs and there were no answers regarding that. He further added that there was language in the Ordinance that was not quite right and some of the roads had legacy trees that people would not want taken out. He said the Ordinance needed more work and he could not support it the way it was written.

Commissioner Holt said if more work was to be done to the Ordinance, the length of road per year should be added and the road had to be brought up to standard.

Commissioner Morgan said some folks had built nice homes on dirt roads and new the roads weren't paved when the homes were built and didn't want to necessarily live on paved roads. He added that this Ordinance would make a change and a number of the residents would not have a say-so in this because there were a number of roads where there were landowners, but they don't live in Gadsden County and thought they were not considering everything and they really needed to slow down on this and give it a lot of consideration.

Mr. Presnell added, on a practical standpoint, there was approximately 100 miles and that data was available at the Public Works Department, of private roads in this County, and unless this Board directed Legal Counsel to talk about the standards or the LDC was changed, out of the almost 100 miles, there was 5-6 miles in the County that would qualify for this program, unless they specifically addressed the standards.

Commissioner Croley asked where the County would get the resources to deal with the water that was not as strongly mentioned in the Ordinance.

Chair Hinson said it was their job to take care of the citizens and they were in a pretty good situation as a County as a whole, the funding was there and they needed to support the people that needed it. He added there was \$6.4 Million in the budget, but was not saying to spend it all, but was sure Preble-Rish could find funding, just need to start talking about it. He then asked for Justin Ford, Preble Rish to come forward.

**JUSTIN FORD, PREBLE-RISH**, appeared before the Board and said a few were coming up, Lewis Lane was in the process of being designed and will be constructed shortly.

Chair Hinson stated grant money and not county money would be paying for it. He then added that he was not after paving every road, just if someone's road was in great shape, it needed to be considered.

Commissioner Croley asked Mr. Ford if he had reviewed the Ordinance and he had not. He said that, conceptually, he had no problem with having an avenue to expand, but his concern was with this process, there might be some roads that would not meet the criteria.

Mr. Presnell said it would limit the roads and nothing would be brought to the Board that had not been evaluated, decided and ready.

Mr. Weiss explained it did have a screening process, but if a complete petition was gotten, it would come before the Board, even if the County Administrator's recommendation was impossible to do it.

Commissioner Croley made a motion to move the Ordinance forward without any specific number of mileage of road and leave as written.

Commissioner Taylor said there was 98 miles of road in the county, if the term "standard" was to stay in as written, there needed to be language added with the Administrator or Public Works Director to also make a judgment call and allow flexibility in the language.

Chair Hinson asked if there was a second to Commissioner Croley's motion. Motion died for lack of second.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE WITH CONSIDERATION OF TWO CHANGES 1) PUT IN AMOUNT OF MILES AND 2) HAVE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO BE ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THE TERM "STANDARD" PER ROAD.**

Commissioner Croley raised an objection on the motion that Mr. Presnell was an employee of the County, not a sworn official and could not make those deviations to the standards and 2) would need to see the ordinance re-written with that terminology in it before it could be lawfully voted on because it was not properly written.

Commissioner Taylor withdrew her motion.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TAYLOR THAT THE ATTORNEY BE DIRECTED TO PRODUCE LANGUAGE TO ALLOW THE BOARD FLEXIBILITY IN REGARD TO STANDARD. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 TO APPROVE OPTION THREE. COMMISSIONERS HINSON, HOLT AND TAYLOR OPPOSED. MOTION FAILED.**

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT TO BRING THE ORDINANCE BACK WITH ONE MILE LIMITATION AND STANDARDS RE-WRITTEN TO NO LESS THAN 45 FEET WIDE ON ROADS, BEFORE A SECOND, THERE WAS BOARD DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Weiss shared Commissioner Croley's concerns with deviating from the normal standards on accepting the roads and added if they wanted to change county road standards to a minimum of 45 feet, he did not think there was any problem with that, but there might have to be some input

from Public Works and the Planning Department.

Commissioner Holt withdrew her motion.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO BRING IT BACK TO ONE MILE CHANGE AND KEEP THE STANDARDS. BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, COMMISSIONER CROLEY CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.**

Mr. Weiss suggested the Board be specific in the language for the one mile and where they wanted it and then it may not need to come back for another public hearing.

Commissioner Croley asked if it was up to one mile in the county per year or if it were one mile per district per year.

Mr. Thomas where the money would come from to be able to do this and added one issue that would need to be visited was the declining revenue and the transportation fund and fund balance and the other matter was relying on the attorney to make sure nothing violated the use of the transportation funds.

Mr. Weiss said they needed to make sure they were not spending public funds on private property and that was the purpose of having the roads brought up to county standards before the road could be accepted. He also said another point to the ordinance was the Board still had to make a determination that accepting the road benefited the public at large.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Manager if it were feasible to do one mile per district per year.

Mr. Presnell said knowing the roads the way he did, there was no way they would have the time or equipment to do one mile per district per year.

Chair Hinson said if they agreed to do one road per district per year, they could get more out of that.

Commissioner Croley asked if the Ordinance would be coming back.

Mr. Weiss asked if it was a maximum of one road per district per year and the answer was yes.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE ONE ROAD PER DISTRICT PER YEAR AND HAVE IT BROUGHT BACK BEFORE THE BOARD. COMMISSIONER MORGAN OPPOSED.**

**14. Public Hearing For The Amendment Of The Land Development Code Chapter 2, Definitions; And Chapter 5, Development Standards, Section 5003, Non-Conforming Uses And Structures**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said in the Land Development Code, the non-conforming uses were lumped together as Non-Conforming and there were “Non-Conforming Lots”, “Non-Conforming Structures” and “Non-Conforming Uses” and this would clean-up the language in that section of the Code.

Chair Hinson asked for public comment and there was none.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**15. Cr 270A (Flat Creek Road) Resurfacing-Additive Change Order**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and explained it was to seek Board approval to approve a change order for Peavy and Son Construction to utilize the remaining grant funds of approximately \$100,000 to further enhance the overall project and replace a culvert on the road.

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

**16. Approval of Interlocal Agreement With City of Midway and the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said the Board was seeking approval of an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Midway and the Gadsden County Building Inspection Department to provide inspection and permitting services. He said the item had been before the Board earlier and had been voted on, but when the Agreement was presented to Midway, they requested some minor adjustments to the Agreement, limiting the agreement to 10 hours a month.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, ATTORNEY WEISS ASKED TO POINT OUT SOME CHANGES IN THE AGREEMENT.**

Mr. Weiss pointed out that the document that had been discussed and voted on at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and when it was executed by Midway, it was not the revised Agreement and did not reflect changes the Board had requested. The Board asked what the changes were and Mr. Weiss said he added a provision for termination, indemnification and liability and made a stronger provision that what was originally in the Agreement.

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

**17. Selection and Appointment of Member(s) to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was a request for the BOCC to appoint a member to the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council. He said two people were interested in the seat: Ms. Lynn Badger, Owner/Operator of White Dog Plantation Bed and Breakfast in Havana and Mr. Nick Bhakta, General Manager of the Comfort Inn Hotel in Midway.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE MS. LYNN BADGER. COMMISSIONER TAYLOR OPPOSED.**

**18. Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners, City of Quincy and Big Bend Transit, Inc., to Provide the Quincy Shuttle Bus Service**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Transportation Agreement between BOCC, City of Quincy and Big Bend Transit to provide the Quincy Shuttle Bus Service. He stated the contract had expired on April 30, 2014, but an extension of the contract had been worked out with Big Bend Transit to provide the service at the same rate through September 30, 2014.

Chair Hinson said he wanted to disclose and make sure it was on record that he had a contract with the City of Quincy marketing their broadband last year and the contract had expired on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Croley asked where the shuttle covered and Mr. Presnell responded it covered all over the City of Quincy and made a couple of runs a day to the City of Gretna and Havana.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the funds covered through September 30<sup>th</sup> and the City of Quincy approved it.

Mr. Presnell said yes.

Chair Hinson also pointed out that the Town of Havana approved to give \$5,000.

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

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **19. UPDATE ON BOARD REQUESTS**

Mr. Presnell informed the Board that Allara had brought in someone to put on the first of two Visioning Workshops with the TDC and thought it was a very good session.

He reminded the Board the first Budget workshop would be May 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

He said there would be an event at the main Library on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. for Social Security.

*Commissioner Morgan left the meeting.*

**Relay for Life**-He thanked all the employees for their participation in raising \$4300.00 to help fight Cancer.

**Summer Youth Program**-He reminded the Board, names were still needed for the applicants they had or if they preferred, names could be chosen from the list they had.

He also informed the Board there was a very interesting meeting recently with the railroad people and folks with the Port St. Joe port in Greensboro at the Depot. He said the port would be dredged and already had two clients signed up and there was finally some life coming into that project and there was an opportunity for warehousing, distribution and a lot of options. He also told the Board of plans for a cruise ship starting in 2015.

**CRTPA**-Long range planning meeting scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Legislature**-the basic programs, library, solid waste, the day-to-day things were all funded, but on special projects, such as Courthouse, nothing was funded. He added the Ag center was just about lost, but came back to life and received \$800,000 in the House and Senate budgets and then was cut \$250,000 last Thursday night. He also said Midway received \$70,000 to do sewer work and the big winner for Gadsden County was a group for at-risk kids that received \$500,000.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

### **19. UPDATE ON VARIOUS LEGAL ISSUES**

Mr. Weiss said there was nothing to report, but was happy to answer any questions the Board might have.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

### **20. REPORT AND DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ISSUES AND CONCERNS PERTAINING TO COMMISSION DISTRICTS AND GADSDEN COUNTY**

#### **Commissioner Taylor-District 5**

**Social Security Office**-Commissioner Taylor said there was a need to do a little better job on community awareness with regards to the Social Security Office. She said there was a meeting scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> and there was nothing out there to inform the public. She added that the numbers at the main library would determine what Social Security would do at the other libraries in the future.

**Dirt**-She said there had been a lot of requests for dirt and asked how long the turn-around was once there was a request.

Mr. Presnell said the problem was the dirt was wet, but if dry dirt could be obtained, getting it to where it needed to be was a problem because the trucks could get stuck.

**Summer Employment**- She asked what the start dates were because parents were starting to call inquiring of that.

**Relay for Life**-She commended the staff on Relay for Life and the effort that was put forward and was a great morale booster.

**State of Emergency**-She thought the Governor had declared a State of Emergency because of the flooding and asked Mr. Presnell if Gadsden County was able to capitalize on that.

Mr. Presnell said no, until the threshold was met and in Gadsden County that was approximately \$350,000 in damages to qualify for that.

**Land Use Change**-Asked that it be placed back on the agenda and if they should entertain that matter while the attorney was critiquing the language with regard to standards so everything could be handled at one time or if they could get something and wait for a later date with regard to standard language.

Mr. Weiss said with the way the Ordinance was drafted would allow for a change to the standards so if the language was changed in the Land Development Code, it would automatically change in the Ordinance.

**Commissioner Croley-District 2**

Commissioner Croley recognized the County Administrator for taking the lead on getting the guard rail safety issue addressed on Shady Rest Road and said there were some phone lines out, but that was due to the City of Havana cutting a cable at almost the same time the guard rails were being moved. He also acknowledged Mr. Curtis Young, Public Works Director and his staff at how well they responded across the County to the many concerns recently. He asked about the status of safety stripping on the roads.

Mr. Presnell said there was not enough money in the budget last year and there was \$100,000 last year and proposing the same amount this year.

Commissioner Croley asked if most of the stripping work had been completed for this year and Mr. Presnell said he did not think so.

**Curtis Young, Public Works Director**, stepped forward and said all the stripping had not been completed but should be complete within the next couple of months.

Commissioner Croley said that was good because the public continued to ask about that, especially when the roads were wet because it was hard to see the stripping.

He also commended Mr. Presnell on the meeting with Economic Development and the port people and said it was a concern across the region and hoped it continued to move forward.

**Commissioner Holt-District 4**

**CRTPA**-She asked about the bike trails and placement of bike racks so people could safely park and lock up their bicycles.

Commissioner Croley said that was a good question and had come up in all four counties and cities and was trying to find a way to get the bike racks in for the ones that would ride bikes to school as well as the bike trail. He said they were looking for funding, but as far as he knew, staff had not identified exactly where to obtain that from.

**Staff Concern**- She reminded the Commissioners that the staff answered to the Manager and not to the Board and they need to control how they talk to the county staff.

**Grant Writer**-She expressed the need for a grant writer and knew there was one with the engineers, but expressed the need for someone that was responsible for organizing and applying for some of the things talked about at the meetings.

**Visioning Process**-She added that the person that came in with the Tourist Development Council was great and expressed the need to show some of these plans to the Economic Development and Planning and Zoning and also to have them attend some of the workshops.

**Social Security Administration**-She said this is was matter they needed to push because the kiosk would not be attainable unless the video computers were in each of the libraries and the kiosk needed to come second.

**Apalachee Regional Planning Council**-She said she serves on that council and several business have applied for funding for different start-ups and they needed to look into some of them to see what they might be able to do to help them.

**Civility**-She reminded the commissioners if any constituents contacted them that did not live in their districts, to have them contact their commissioner or the County Administrator.

**Commissioner Hinson-District 2**

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to send a Resolution to Ms. Sarah Kirkland, who had recently passed away and didn't know if any of the other commissioners would like to join him.

**Relay for Life**-He complimented Mr. Presnell and staff for what they did on the amount of money raised.

He asked that they continue to “agree to disagree” and not to “hold feelings on your shoulders” and not do things in a spiteful way.

**RECEIPT AND FILE**

22.

- a. Gadsden County Division of Emergency Management Quarterly Report ( (12/2013-03/2014)
- b. Gadsden County Small Business Service Center Quarterly Report (April 2014)
- c. Florida Department of Health-Gadsden Quarterly Progress Report for ½ Cent Sales Tax Prevention and Education Program (January 2014-March 2014)
- d. April 9, 2014 Letter from United States Special Operations Command (Military Training April 29-May 9, 2014)
- e.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

-May 20, 2014-Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.  
May 29, 2014-1<sup>st</sup> Budget Workshop @ 4:00 p.m.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
May 6, 2014 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HINSON DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:54 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**ERIC F. HINSON, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**