

**Board of County Commissioners  
Gadsden County, Florida**

**AGENDA**

**Regular Public Meeting**

**July 15, 2014**

**6:00 p.m.**

Present: Eric Hinson, Chair, District 1  
Brenda Holt, Vice-Chair, District 4  
Doug Croley, District 2  
Gene Morgan, District 3-Absent  
Sherrie Taylor, District 5  
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Courts  
Robert Presnell, County Administrator  
David Weiss, 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. and Pastor Charles Morris came forward to give the prayer and Chair Hinson led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. A silent roll call was taken by Marcella Blocker.

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

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Presnell stated he would like to add Item 2B-Approval of Commissioner Hinson's travel to Florida Association of Counties Annual Leadership Summit.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Update from CareerSource Capital Region**

**Jim McShane, CEO, CareerSource Capital Region**, appeared before the board and gave a brief rundown of their services and added that they serve basically everyone that walked in and they were a universal service system. He explained he covered Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties and there were 6,000 jobs available in the tri-county area.

Mr. Presnell pointed out that if someone was looking for a career change or educational opportunities, CareerSource would pay the tuition, buy books, uniforms, and certification and would have a job upon graduating.

Commissioner Taylor said she was a realist and had a job with the Gadsden County School District

working with parents and they had called CareerSource several times and was unable to get a representative to come to their meetings. She asked what the 6,000 jobs that was available.

Mr. McShane said they were in healthcare, truck driving, retail and government.

Commissioner Taylor then asked what percentage was available in Gadsden County and Mr. McShane said a small percentage.

Commissioner Taylor also said she did not mean to sound condescending or disrespectful, but was talking from the heart and expressed the need for jobs in this area.

Mr. McShane apologized for no-one getting in touch with her for their meetings and said two of the representatives were dismissed and he would not tolerate that type of service and they were going to become career specialists in that they would be available to help everyone with career climbing.

#### **CLERK OF COURTS**

Clerk Thomas said he had sent the Board members a couple of memos and wanted to expound on those. He went on the record that he was opposed to the gas tax increase that was part of the proposal to build the new jail administrative building and pod because as it appeared to him there was no net increase to the transportation fund, money was being taken from the 1 cent sales tax to pay debt service and the fund balance of the transportation fund would continue to drop while at the same time they plan on taking on new roads. He wanted to be clear that he was not opposed to the new jail pod and it was something they had talked about with the former Sheriff years ago. He also pointed out they had requested an additional judge to help with the felony cases on trial week and that had not happened and the reason they wanted that first was the jail was at capacity and without additional judge help, prosecutors, defenders, more people would sit longer and would cost more money potentially. He added if they decided to add a pod, the Board would have to sacrifice something.

The second thing he wanted to discuss was the Court Facilities fund. He said in 2004, the Board tacked \$15.00 onto speeding tickets by authority given by the legislature and in 2009, the Board added an additional \$15.00 so everyone who received a speeding ticket in Gadsden County paid an additional \$30.00 that goes into a fund that was to be for Court facilities. He said the problem he had with this, was the County was taking approximately one-third of the money off the top for operational costs, utilities, insurance, security and this was to save the General Fund. He further added that last month he sent a report of four different types of mold growing in the Courthouse and the poor air quality. He said while he appreciated the County Administrator's attention to the problems, he felt the overall response to the report was lacking and it was potentially a serious problem.

Chair Hinson said he thought the problems had been addressed and was very shocked and stated they had given direction to the Manager to look into the problems and thought everything had been cleared.

Mr. Presnell stated the main issues were in the basement and were being addressed and they were installing HV lighting to offset the issues. He also pointed the Courthouse was 100 years old, the issues did not happen overnight, the roof leaked, that was finally addressed and some of the issues were design issues and the Courthouse was not designed for air conditioning and HVAC systems.

Commissioner Croley agreed with the Clerk regarding the environment that he had personally been all

over the Courthouse and was aware of many of the issues he pointed out. He asked if the Clerk was dissatisfied with rate of progress that was being made or if he was sharing information.

Mr. Thomas said that Mr. Presnell had responded every time he had talked with him, but he was not satisfied with the rate of progress because some of the issues were serious and there were people in close proximity of the molds.

Commissioner Croley said the Courthouse was in District 2 and was the heart of the County government and was on the County logo and added the Board needed to be proactive, not reactive in dealing with the issues.

Commissioner Holt said the Courthouse was over 100 years old and there needed to be a plan to get it in shape and asked if the Clerk was asking for the funding source to pay for the improvements.

Clerk Thomas said in a lot of the counties, the \$30.00 was used exclusively for improvements to court facilities and this year they could expect to collect \$290,000 and \$108,000 was already budgeted for routine expenses, such as utilities, insurance, etc.

Commissioner Taylor said the Clerk had a spot on the agenda every meeting and did not ever recall anything in past of any formal requests from him.

Clerk Thomas said he had hoped with presenting it informally to Board and the Administrator, it would be addressed.

Commissioner Taylor said anytime there was an item with costs associated with it, it should be formally presented to the Board.

Mr. Thomas responded that there were some maintenance cleaning issues that had been identified and he thought those matters should be done as part of routine cleaning and did not need to have money allocated for that.

Mr. Presnell said the items he was made aware of dealing with cleaning was in the return air ducts and the HVAC people vacuumed the ducts and he was made aware of the problem approximately one month ago and took action immediately to resolve the cleaning issues.

#### **CONSENT**

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

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

-May 20, 2014 Regular Meeting

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**John Chafin, 3501 Sharer Road, Tallahassee, FL-drainage problem on his property on McPhaul**

Road, appeared before the Board regarding the County diverted water onto his property and has caused drainage issues. He said there was a washout approximately ten feet deep and goes across his property the length of 600-700 feet. He said he had given County officials an easement to work on the property and had met with Justin Ford of Preble Rish and a recommendation was made to fix the drainage problem and it had not worked and had only fixed approximately one-third of the problem. He said he also had met with Northwest Florida Water Management. He said he had retained Scott and Wallace to represent him and a letter was sent to the County Administrator and there had been no response. Recently the County placed a 24" pipe across the road, but there needed to be something done before he took action in Court. Mr. Chafin explained he had his attorneys on hold for the moment to see if something could be worked out.

**Minister Alphonso Figgers, 215 North Chalk Street, Quincy, FL 32351**-Shaw's Addition Crime Watch and Community Action Committee, appeared before the Board with Certificates of Appreciation for their assistance regarding health fairs that they attended, along with other issues.

**Mary Smith, 3137 Atwater Road, Chattahoochee, FL** – Racism. Ms. Smith addressed the Board and said she had lived on her property since 1943 and never had a problem until 2005 and that she has lived in other places and has never seen the racism as she has seen here. She stated she has people that trash her property, kick her gates and the law enforcement came and arrested her children. She said the problem neighbors were squatters and the owners of the property did not intend to do anything.

Commissioner Taylor said they needed to look at the legal aspect and if there were squatters on property and were on the property illegally, there might be something legally that could be done to help Mrs. Smith out.

Mr. Weiss said it sounded like this was a private matter and needed more information before they talked any more about it.

Commissioner Holt advised Ms. Smith to seek legal advice.

**Dwayne Smith, 3137 Atwater Road, Chattahoochee, FL**, appeared before the Board and said they were taking legal action, but their problem was they were not being treated fairly by Gadsden County. He said there were pictures showing where the neighbors were tearing up their property and the Sheriff's Office refuse to stop them from abusing their property.

**Tracey Stallworth, 770 Selman Road, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board and asked how they could obtain lights in his neighborhood and he also had a problem with county and city trucks speeding in the neighborhood and said his biggest fear is someone being killed because of the speeding trucks. Commissioner Croley gave him his mobile phone number and asked him to contact him with truck numbers and who was speeding and he would try to help address the problem.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **3. Approval to Declare Gadsden County Health Department's Dental Equipment as Surplus and**

**Authorization to Sell the Surplus Equipment**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was seeking Board approval to declare Gadsden County Health Department dental equipment as surplus and requested authorization to sell the surplus equipment.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN, CHAIR HINSON CALLED FOR DISCUSSION.**

**Max Martinez, Interim Administrator**, appeared before the Board to answer questions and added that as of June 13, 2014, because of Medicaid changes, both locations at the Quincy office and the Havana clinic were closed and they were not able to sustain the dental program. He said to keep services in the County, they outsourced the program to Neighborhood Health and they would help absorb some of the staff and one dentist. He explained the Health Department bought the equipment and it was worth over \$200,000 and they did not expect to make that much on the sale.

Commissioner Croley said after researching the matter and a telephone call from Commissioner Matt Thro with the Town of Havana, this effort was to take the dental equipment and go through the formality of the proper county surplus disposal and both entities would provide the same operations in place for the citizens' healthcare.

Commissioner Taylor said Mr. Martinez had two letters because he sent an email stating they were ready to sell and asked if they were ready to buy. She stated she had talked to both of them and there was a contract, but the contract said nothing according to what she was told about the equipment. She disclosed that she had spoken with Aretha Jones and Max Martinez and felt like the equipment at Neighborhood Health should be left alone and at a reasonable time, make it a sellable item. She said she was with Mr. Martinez, but his timing was an issue and was affecting a program and what they were trying to do was not ethical. She asked that they try to help this program move a little more down the road. She added that the idea now was to make sure they had good services in as many parts of the County as possible. She suggested they promote it, that it was a great program and was paying a decent salary.

Mr. Martinez asked to respond and said he had been working with Neighborhood Health for over a year and the Health Department was very supportive and was trying to do them no harm. He said they asked for other equipment, such as the refrigerator to place their vaccines in and they had the facility manager to install one for them. He said sometime in May he met with Ms. Aretha Jones and her new CFO in his office when they were getting ready to close down before the June 13<sup>th</sup> deadline. He advised them they were in the process of shutting down the dental office because they could not sustain it and he could lease them the equipment or they could buy it but it would have to go through the Board of County Commissioners. At that time, she informed him she was not interested in leasing, she wanted to purchase it. He said this was conducted across the table and he later contacted her and asked her to put it in writing that she was willing to purchase the equipment and it was done. He later spoke with Joel Montgomery, the CEO of Florida Medical and said the same thing to him, that they were shutting down and have state of the art equipment if they were interested in using it. He was very excited and said he wanted to open a dental office in their facility. When Mr. Martinez met with him again, Mr. Montgomery stated since he had the space in the Jessie Furlow Building, he wanted to start there. He explained it would cost \$20,000 to move it because it would take someone who understood how to move

the equipment. He said he was asking if this could be done and all they wanted was something back from the equipment. He added there was an entity that has \$2.2 Million and to give them something for the state of the art equipment and both entities would be satisfied using the equipment and the Health Department no longer has a use for it.

Commissioner Holt said once they knew it was to be brought before the Board, the documentation should have been provided in the packet for them to review.

Mr. Martinez appeared before the Board again and stated he was following instructions of the County Administrator and they were simply asking to get something back on the equipment they had purchased if and when the County chose to sell it.

Commissioner Croley said there seemed to be an individual present that seemed to have some information because Commissioner Taylor brought some information up that he didn't understand or he agreed with Commissioner Holt that the information in the packet was not complete and he would like to hear from anyone else that might have something to add.

**Patrice Gray, a representative for Aretha Jones**, spoke on behalf of Neighborhood Watch and stated their position was they were informed that they had the opportunity to purchase the dental equipment, but they were understanding the timeframe in which that purchase had to be made. She added they were currently providing services using the equipment in the dental clinic in Havana to patients in the County that were uninsured and currently were not paying for any of the services.

Commissioner Croley asked her how soon they were interested in buying the equipment.

Ms. Gray responded that once they received information as to the costs of the equipment and the timeframe, they would be prepared to move forward, but they have not received that information yet. She said they did received \$2.1 Million to make them a federally qualified health center and the majority, if not all of the funds, were going toward salaries for the specialty providers and the positions they had to hire in the short amount of time that was already addressed.

Commissioner Croley said he saw that Rhonda Woodward had some information.

**Rhonda Woodward, Senior Accountant/CPA for Gadsden County Clerk's Office**, appeared before the Board, and stated it was brought to her attention that the property purchased for the Health Department under Florida Statutes Chapter 381, once they bought the equipment, they had the authority and were supposed to transfer title to that property to the County, which was why it was before the Board now. She explained that the statute stated that "Anything the County received from Health Departments will be handled in accordance with all other requirements of Section 274", which she explained, required when you surplus property, it had to be disposed of in accordance with the County's bid process, which was also stated in the agenda item. She further stated that she had not seen a written bid process and did not know if the offer that was brought before them was in accordance with their bid process procedures and typically, a bid of this amount was a sealed bid process.

Commissioner Croley withdrew his second and the reason being, he would like this item tabled and allow all parties to review this and get all the information in their packet before it was

reconsidered.

Commissioner Holt said there were two or three things going on with this. She added that one was precedence if going to give away property, you had to look at what was done in the past, if going to surplus and sell the property, then the bid process must be followed. If the property was not surplus, they should follow the process as they did when they gave equipment to the vocational school. She said she had no problem with two entities getting the equipment and no problem with them paying for it and if the equipment were to be surplus, it was fair game to anyone and if someone outside the county bought it, there would be no services at all. She said it was her opinion they would be better off, if they were going to surplus it, to sell it to these two entities, if possible.

Mr. Presnell pointed out that if the Board did decide to surplus the equipment; staff was requesting authorization to sell the surplus equipment through the County's bid process.

Commissioner Holt withdrew her motion.

Commissioner Taylor said Commissioner Holt brought up a very valid point in that if the equipment went through the bid process, anyone could bid on it and it would hurt everyone in the long run and she would like to table this until the Administrator could get with the entities that were interested locally.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE MANAGER COULD MEET WITH THE ENTITIES AND COME UP WITH SOLUTION TO KEEP SERVICES AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVE PROCEEDS.**

**4. Approval of Engineering Consulting Services for Gadsden County**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said staff was directed by the Board to solicit a RFP for engineering services and it was done as instructed. Six firms responded and the recommendation of the ranking team was to continue with services with Preble-Rish.

Commissioner Holt asked about the engineering firm's grant writing process and asked, for example, the Bank offering to do a CDBG grant for the purchase of the property east of Quincy for the ambulance service. She added if they could do a CDBG, the county should be able to get some grants in that area so the County could be competitive with economic development.

**Justin Ford, Preble-Rish**, appeared before the Board to answer questions and said that specifically to the economic development site, some of the grants were primarily CDBG economic development grants, along with other types of grants they could pursue. Some of the grants would require the companies to commit jobs to the county on the front end and without the jobs committed, the grant would be pretty well dead. He added if they were aware of a company interested in coming and needed a, b, c, done, they could meet with them, prepare the grant application and submit it.

**Warren Yeager, Preble-Rish**, addressed the Board and said his firm was focused on small communities and small counties. He said that they could also work closely with the lobbyists in trying to obtain grant funding.

Commissioner Taylor asked with the rebidding if there was any savings. She added that she was not a proponent of Preble-Rish and would not vote for them tonight and there needed to be a change. She further stated there was more going on in some districts that there were in others, and every district needed to receive a fair shake.

Commissioner Croley stated he supported the agenda item for option 1 and thought the evaluation committee ranked this firm out the highest and they offered a consistency in experience and knowledge of the county and was very involved in small county coalition work. He then asked Mr. Yeager to return to the podium and stated he was either the immediate past chair or current chair of Small County Coalition and was a commissioner from Gulf County and asked him how many rural counties Preble-Rish worked with in North Florida.

Mr. Yeager said that what Commissioner Croley had stated was correct and informed them that his company worked with approximately ten rural counties in Northwest Florida and said that they understood rural issues.

Commissioner Croley said there was not an engineering firm on the list that was not qualified and the decision to choose an engineering firm, rightfully as ranked out number one, should go to Preble-Rish and if they wanted them to work in a certain area, state it and when the Chair was ready would like to make the motion that they accept option one.

Chair Hinson thanked Preble-Rish for coming and said he wanted to break it down and be fair. He read from the Agenda Request and said the four member committee was appointed by the County Administrator and after reviewing the proposals, the committee did not deem it necessary to require presentations and he felt that was a “red flag” because he felt the Administrator should have brought this to the commissioners and he pointed out that the request stated that a copy of the proposals were on file in the Management Services Department. He felt they should have the proposals for them to review and they needed to be transparent. He said he would like to know how Preble-Rish was paid, if it were by percentage of grants and contracts, and wanted to make sure everything was fair. He felt they did not have all the necessary information and wanted to see all of the proposals and wanted to have a workshop regarding this matter.

Commissioner Croley said he wanted Commissioner Hinson to feel comfortable in his decision and pointed out this firm worked with the other two rural counties that made up this region on the Metropolitan Regional Planning and their support was needed to help this county to receive funding to improve the roads, whether it be SCRAP, SCOP, safety projects or LAP.

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**5. Approval of Millage Rate Notification and Set the Date, Time and Place for the Public Hearings to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2014/15 Gadsden County BOCC Budget**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the millage rate for the TRIM notices. He added that the property values went down and it would take an increase of the millage rate to 9.1443 to collect the same amount of money that was collected last year.

Commissioner Croley moved that they keep the millage rate at 8.9064 as it currently was.



Commissioner Holt said if they decided to raise it, they could always reduce it.

Chair Hinson asked if someone could explain how the roll-back worked.

**Jeff Price, Senior Management & Budget Analyst**, appeared before the Board and said the way Commissioner Holt explained it was “exactly dead-on”. He further explained that the county would receive the same amount of money this year that was received last year in taxes, \$11 Million.

**Chair Hinson**

“So really, what you are saying, when you do a roll-back, no-body’s taxes will not go up, really, it pretty much will stay the same.”

Mr. Price started to talk.

**Chair Hinson**

“No, no, hold up, excuse me, excuse me, hold on a second, Mr. Price, I want you to tell me the truth, cause one thing I don’t like, again, is someone who is trying, someone, I don’t like this proposal here anyway, because (inaudible) this proposal here. It throws a different light out there. I want you to tell me the truth. The truth, just tell the truth and we can move forward.”

**Mr. Price**

“There will be some properties that the value may have gone up and some that went down.”

**Chair Hinson**

“Cause you know I’m going to do research on this, right?”

**Mr. Price**

“I’m sure you are.”

**Chair Hinson**

“I want you to tell me the truth on record about roll-backs with the property values; I want you to tell me the truth. You are my financial director, right? I’m going to come up here, I’m going to do extensive research on this right here. Unfortunately, I did not approve this whole agenda, he (Mr. Presnell) didn’t give me a chance to look over anything and ask me anything about do I want to approve the agenda that came beforehand so I was out of town and everything, so I apologize with not getting in contact with you. So, please tell me the truth, cause I’m going to do extensive research on this thing. I’m gonna come back at the next board meeting and we’re going to talk about it. So, can you tell me the truth about roll-back, so everybody in the audience can know the truth.”

**Mr. Price**

“There will be some properties that the value has gone up, so if you roll-back the rate to the 9%, they will pay more in property taxes. The majority of the properties have gone down in value. They will pay less or the same as last year.”

**Chair Hinson**

“So, in essence, the majority of folks in Gadsden County, if you keep it as is now at roll-back, majority of people in Gadsden County will still be less or the same.”

**Mr. Price**

“Correct.”

**Chair Hinson**

“Correct. So, but if you bring it down, so if you bring it down, see, Mr. Presnell got about 100 acres of land, right? So it really will affect him. Mr. Croley, you know everybody got a lot of land, it would affect us. We are here to serve, what? The people, right? So, ah, so, what you are trying to tell me, cause like I said, we did the same thing, just curious, cause I was going, I was curious that this happened. So you are trying to tell me that we keep it at 9.1, and I’m not saying I’m gonna go for it, I’m just throwing it out there so we can talk about it, 9.1443, you still gonna pay less money than you was as did last year or the same.”

**Mr. Presnell**

“Exactly the same.”

**Chair Hinson**

“Well, he said, he’s the Budget Director, he’s the one you pay almost \$80,000 for, right? You said that majority of the people in the county will pay the same or less, right?”

**Mr. Price**

“Correct, depends on the value...”

**Chair Hinson**

“The value of the property, right? The small percentage of folks may pay a little bit more, right? So, you keep it as is, I’m not saying I’m going for it, I’m just, we, I just want to make sure the community is educated with this, so, if we bring it down, Gadsden County make less money, less money going to Public Works, that you fighting for, put money out in other areas, less money going to hospital services, less money going to library services, less money going to EMS, less money going to everywhere else and, but if keep it the same, everybody pay the same. Common people pay the same. Almost everybody pay the same. So, I’m going to vote whatever y’all want to vote for, I just want to make sure, I want to make sure y’all know what’s going on. I’m not saying anything different, I just want...”

**Commissioner Croley**

“That ain’t how it works. There is more to it.”

**Chair Hinson**

“No, what I’m saying, I just wanted the public, I just wanted the public to know the truth that if you doing the roll-back, right, the majority of the people doing the, they sticking with the roll-back because almost everybody in the county, the majority of people, you gonna pay the same or less anyway. It just look that way, cause look like, cause look like, see look at numbers, you think you thinking you gonna pay lot more taxes, but majority of folks in the county gonna pay less or the same, you know. It’s just something to consider so we all know what’s going on. But we, you know, I pay \$300-400 a month on taxes myself, so I, so, everybody here probably pay that kind of

money, and so, ah, when I come here I don't represent Eric Hinson, I represent the people. So, if I was here for me, maybe I wouldn't have brought this up, ah, Mr. Croley. So, please tell me, whatever y'all want to do, somebody make a motion, whatever, the majority of the board want to go with it, least I want to make sure the Board..."

**Commissioner Croley**

"I already made the motion."

**Chair Hinson**

"Commissioner Croley made the motion to..."

**Commissioner Croley**

"Stay at 8.9064. I want to tell you why."

**Chair Hinson**

"Go ahead, Mr. Croley."

**Commissioner Croley**

"You are located, if everything was a stagnant world, you never had any changes and that might be true. There is a millage cap at 10 Mils. You keep going up, you will be at that cap. With all due respect to the Gadsden County School Board and I do not mean this in a disrespectful way, that is not always the model to go by because here's the situation. We are next door to an urban county of Leon. We have businesses that we are interested in moving over to Gadsden County. One of our most competitive advantages is, we have a very favorable tax structure for them to come to. They can move into our Industrial Parks because I keep hearing about jobs. We want to get jobs down here, say in Commissioner Taylor's district, we want to see the City of Quincy establish that Industrial Park, or build it out with the proper infrastructure. You want a site for them to come to, because businesses in Tallahassee are hit with so many taxes, they are looking for places to move to. So you have an opportunity to bring in more volume and when you speak about this ad valorem tax rate and roll-back, it's like the car that you're buying a 100 gallons of gas a month for at a dollar, so that's \$100 that you are spending on fuel. Then you want to turn around and say, OK, I bought a new car that gets better gas mileage, now I only have to spend \$90, but the store says, or station you are buying the fuel from, says well, we want to still keep \$100 in revenue, so we are going to raise the price per gallon to \$1.11, which is what they'll have to do to equal the same \$100. Well, what happens is, people who are looking to buy fuel are not going to come and pay \$1.11 a gallon, they are going go where they can get it for \$1.00. The point I'm trying to make is, you are, Leon County is being, is driving these businesses out and they will come here, they will buy, they will locate warehouses, there is warehouse jobs, things of that nature. That's why you see over in your district with the 10/90 Park. So, raising your property taxes and you'll soon be, if you keep on doing that, you'll soon be back at 10 Mils, which is where it was before, before the people, the people you are talking about, voted in this state to force the taxes down. So, Mr. Chair, I still let my motion stand, because it's in our best business interest."

**Chair Hinson**

"In all fairness to, thank you too, Mr. Budget Director, I cut you off one or two times, you always been straight up with me and I thank you for your honesty, and also, all fairness too, I didn't say I was for either/or, I just wanted to know the facts, and so, at least we got the facts, or at least

everybody know now the truth and we can just vote on the truth. Whatever y'all decide to go with, that's the direction I will go with."

**Mr. Presnell**

"Mr. Chair, to make sure y'all are comfortable with those two dates, you know there's a rule the School Board goes first and they have to be so many days apart and those are proposed for the public hearings for the adoption of your budget."

**Commissioner Taylor**

"Let me just say this, we have to do the roll-back, we have to go with the 9.1443 to be in order to balance our budget and be able to do some projects next year. Like you said a moment ago, to take care of the hospital, the roads, the bridges and all else. If when we get our announcement from the Property Appraiser's office and it sounds a little bit more favorable than what we are hearing now, then we can take it back to 8.9, but if we adopt 8.9 tonight, then you won't be able to go up if you are not bringing in money. We need to make sure we'll be able to balance. So, you have a motion on the floor for 8.9, is that your motion (looking at Commissioner Croley)?

**Commissioner Croley**

"Yes."

**Commissioner Taylor**

"OK, well, I'm going to back up and I'm not going to support that, I'm going with the 9., I'll back up and I'll wait."

**Commissioner Croley**

"I'm only going to say, just bear in mind, you will be raising taxes, millage rate and..."

**Chair Hinson**

"No, what are we saying, we're not raising, all fairness, Mr. Croley, if, I'm glad the news media is here, we not raising taxes, it staying the same. It's the same or less, it's just, it just look, huh..."

**Commissioner Taylor**

"The money collected will stay the same."

**Chair Hinson**

"Yeah, everything collected will stay the same, it's not like you are raising taxes, nobody will not have no adverse effect, actually, it will probably be less than what you paid before, according to what the budget director said. So, if someone decides to say something, at least it will be said the right way, because Eric Hinson did not say this, the Budget Director said that it was going to be staying the same or what? Less."

**Commissioner Croley**

"The people in District One didn't send you over to vote for what he said, he lives in Tallahassee."

**Commissioner Holt**

"Mr. Chair, may I?"

**Chair Hinson**

“If I get two votes on any side that’s the, my thing is that whatever y’all want to do, that’s the direction I’m going.”

**Commissioner Holt**

“Mr. Chairman, I don’t, it’s like I said before, if you vote for 8.9 now, you can’t raise it if you need to. When you started this conversation, I said you go for the roll-back and at next meeting, if you need to reduce it, reduce it.”

**Chair Hinson**

“Because I’m not trying to raise taxes, I’ve never raised taxes before in my life.”

**Commissioner Holt**

“They’re going to beat up on you when you get home.”

**Chair Hinson**

“Who cares? I mean, my thing, my thing is working for the people and, and, and the truth is the truth. The truth is that if, if, if you go with the roll-back, it’s going to be the same or less. That’s the truth. So, what you’re paying, it’s going to be the same or less. It’s not like your taxes are gonna, at the most, he said ‘most of the people’.”

**Commissioner Croley**

“My motion died, I guess, for lack of a second. You, ah, I’m assuming that’s the case, because no-one said it.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“You need to formally say that, that your motion dies for lack of second, does it die for lack of a second?”

**Commissioner Croley**

“Are you seconding it?”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“No sir.”

**Chair Hinson**

“My thing here...”

**Commissioner Holt**

“Mr. Chairman, go ahead and say it dies for lack of a second.”

**Chair Hinson**

“It dies for a lack of second.”

**UPON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TYALOR, THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 IN APPROVAL OF THE ROLL-BACK RATE OF 9.1443. COMMISSIONER CROLEY OPPOSED.**

Chair Hinson pointed out the great thing about the motion, they were not saying they were

sticking with the roll-back because they could always go down; it was being used as a measurement right now.

Commissioner Croley said he would like to hear the explanation in the Kiwanis Club meeting.

**Chair Hinson**

“Honestly, Mr. Croley, I can make sure that by November that we can get a good explanation too, as well, in the mid-part of November.”

**Commissioner Taylor**

“What was that comment you just made?”

**Commissioner Holt**

“Nothing, let’s go.”

**6. Approval to Apply for the State Funded Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant #15-BG-83-02-30-01-020 and the Federally Funded Emergency Management Preparedness Performance Grant #15-FG- -02-30-01-087**

Mr. Presnell introduced the above item and stated it was for their approval to apply for State funding for the Emergency Management Grant.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, BEFORE THE VOTE WAS TAKEN CHAIR HINSON HAD COMMENTS.**

Chair Hinson said he supported the Sheriff’s Office, but they had talked about Economic Development Block Grant and if they voted on this, they could not have two block grants and they commented earlier they wanted the block grants to be for economic development.

Mr. Presnell pointed out this was not a CDBG grant.

**CHAIR HINSON CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**7. Update on Board Requests**

Mr. Presnell reminded them of the budget workshop scheduled for Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

He said there would be an event Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> ‘Prayz in the Park’ located in the field by Bradwell Mortuary.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**8. Update on Various Legal Issues**

Mr. Weiss said he had nothing to report, but was happy to answer any questions.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Taylor, District 5**

Commissioner Taylor asked about access to the Canteen money at the jail and said they wanted to do some things at the jail.

Mr. Presnell said they had made a request and he met with the Clerk's office about it. He said they were under the impression the canteen money was set aside, that they had turned money in, but it goes back into general funds. He said the purchase of the beds would be made out of the general fund because they would be attached to the jail and would be a permanent item.

Commissioner Taylor asked that this item be placed on the agenda for further discussion because she wanted to make sure the funds were used in the best way possible.

She said she had received word from someone in the community that there was state statute that allowed 50 foot wide private roads and would like that brought back after she received the statute and shared it.

She said they had been talking about Planning and Zoning coming back with the Comp plan. She said she would like to see something before October and would also like to have a copy of the Comp plan.

She also wanted to hold community meetings and no-one has initiated that.

**Commissioner Morgan, District 3**

**Commissioner Croley, District 2**

Commissioner Croley pointed out meetings seemed to stretch out longer and longer and requested the Chair to do something to shorten them up and get better control of the meetings.

**Commissioner Holt, Vice Chair, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she would like to have the events ordinance brought back at the next available meeting.

She said she agreed with Commissioner Taylor regarding the Comp Plan and would like to have it brought back also.

She said Commissioner Hinson and she attended a workshop in New Orleans and it would be nice to provide in budget for Planning and Zoning members to attend conferences.

**Commissioner Hinson, Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said last year he asked the Board to give \$130,000 to hire an executive director for economic development, instead they hired a consultant. He said he did not feel comfortable with that and unless they hired an Executive Director, he wanted to give money back to the Chamber.

**RECEIPT AND FILE**

**10. a. Clerk of Courts Operations Corporation Report (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of CFY 2013-14)**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

11.            -July 24, 2014-2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Workshop @ 4:00 p.m.  
                  -August 5, 2014-Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.  
                  -August 19, 2014- Regular Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:19 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**