AT A SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 29, 2019 AT
4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 2
Brenda Holt, District 4
Gene Morgan, District 3 (by phone)
Sherrie Taylor, Vice Chair, District 5
Arthur Lawson, Interim County Administrator
Jeff Price, Sr. Budget Manager
David Weiss, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Welcome
Chairman Viegbesie called the Special Budget Meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

INVOCATION
Major Wood gave the Invocation and Chairman Viegbesie led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-min limit)

Amy McBride, 917 Schwall Rd., Havana, FL, Non-Profit Grant Request
Nick Maddox, 3987 Bobbin Brooke Circle, Boys & Girls Club

GENERAL BUSINESS
Chairman Viegbesie made sure that Commissioner Morgan, who appeared by phone, was on the line and could hear the meeting.

1. Introduction and Summary Highlights
Mr. Lawson said the intent was to get clear direction from the board in terms of the level of funding for all of the Constitutionals as well as the regular County officers and also the Non-profits. He stated the intent was to make some final decisions to finalize budget. The next meeting on budget issues will be a public hearing and tonight was to finalize as many outstanding issues as they could. He stated at the last meeting everyone wanted staff to reach out to Constitutionals for an explanation of their budget requests and heard back from the Clerk of Court and the Supervisor of Elections and that information was included in the packet. With the exception of the Property Appraiser, which was already finalized, there were no other requests returned. He stated he would turn the meeting over to the Budget Manager and let him walk through the Constitutionals and after he gave the re-cap of the draft budget, the Board would walk individually through each Constitutional’s Budget and request direction from the BOCC.

Chairman Viegbesie said he would also interject into the conversation for people to keep in the back of their minds that in Gadsden County two bridges were busted and they were in the heart of the Hurricane (season) and Hurricane Dorian is on the way and it was only September and
Hurricane Michael came October 10 and there was a long way to go. He stated that while this Budget was what the BOCC was discussing, they needed to understand that right now, more pressing issues for Gadsden County were had. They need to have a balanced budget as well as still have a viable and healthy way to sustain our County.

Mr. Price stated in the packet was a handout that showed the revenue and expenses. (technical problems with the slide) He further stated the fiscal year 2019 against 2020 showed the difference in reduction in some items and some increases.

Commissioner Hinson said when looking at Revenues and Expenditures it was not spelled out clear and he had questions and it was sometimes good to have things spelled out so the BOCC knew what was being talked about and be clear for when the Board needed to make decisions. Mr. Lawson said Mr. Price could explain that rather quickly.

Mr. Price said he showed major revenues and expenditures, EMS was the major function for that and there were also building permits. He stated he did not list them all but would do so in the future to spell out more details for a better understanding. He stated the Indigent Tax, Small County Surcharges along with TDC taxes went up. The $2.4 was payroll cost and EMS was being paid for being dually certified and that was part of the increase and the debt service for the Motorola Communication System. Mr. Price stated he could get anyone on the BOCC what they needed after the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked about expenditures for the BOCC and payroll costs and Mr. Price said there was an increase in Payroll last year and 1/3 was new positions, 1/3 was raises and additional duties given to people and 1/3 was EMS data base-line increases. Commissioner Hinson asked how much was for increase in wages and new positions. Mr. Price stated $1.5 Million last year. $556,000 for raises/ benefits, new or enhanced positions was $426,000. Commissioner Hinson asked again if raises and new positions last year were $1.5 Million and Mr. Price answered yes. Chairman Viegbesie asked if that was for benefits and all and Mr. Price said yes.

Chairman Viegbesie asked for further clarification that the increase was from last fiscal year to this fiscal year and the $2.4 Million was for benefits and all others things that go with the positions and newly hired positions and Mr. Price stated yes. Commissioner Hinson asked how much was given as a raise. Mr. Price said $1.5 Million was raises and benefits and the $2.4 included operating supplies. Commissioner Hinson said there were one hundred and some positions increased.

2. **Constitutional Officers FY20 Budget Requests**

Mr. Price stated there was a letter from the Clerk in the packet where he was able to adjust accordingly. He took a % of Finance and a % of IT budget and came up with a new figure. The Clerk was currently receiving $891,394 and hoping to get $944,517 with the 5% cut it would be $917,168 and those numbers were worked out by the Clerk and he agreed.

Commissioner Holt asked what the need was in the Departments. Mr. Price said there was a letter in the packet from the Clerk that described the need such as FRS increase, insurance increase, computer software/hardware updates and retirement payouts. Commissioner Holt
asked if there were other positions other than replacement and Mr. Price said no. Commissioner Holt asked if they have their own IT or if they use the BOCC’s and Price said correct, they use their own.

Chairman Viegbesie said that in one of the workshops, the Auditor pointed out one of the deficiencies the Clerks Office had was that they were in need of one person who handles account receivables and the Clerk said he was going to be recommending that AR and those positions were $15/hr. and pointed out that was part of the increase.

Mr. Lawson asked if everyone was good with recommendation for Clerk.

Chairman Viegbesie asked if the BOCC needed to vote on each item or wait until end of the meeting. Mr. Weiss said either was okay, the intent was to try to get finality and the budget was not final until they vote on the Final Budget. Chairman Viegbesie was asking because he just got the opinion from Mr. Lawson to vote on each so the BOCC knows they have been voted on and the BOCC could move on.

Commissioner Holt said as of right now, how did it look for the Constitutionals if the BOCC agreed with the Constitutionals. Mr. Lawson said whatever the BOCC decided on would have to draw down from the Fund Balance in order to balance the budget.

Commissioner Holt stated it was difficult to vote individually because she did not know how much was getting thrown out.
Mr. Lawson said if the BOCC approved what was there he could tell them exactly but any change would affect it. He stated right now, the budget was built on a 5% reduction.

*Commissioner Taylor appeared at 4:30 p.m.*

Mr. Price stated the Fund Balance was currently at $2.2 Million.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted to get all questions out of the way and come back and vote one at a time.

Commissioner Hinson said couple of years ago at a workshop, if they voted on a 2% increase for the Attorney and asked if it was set in stone.

Chairman Viegbesie said that was why he asked for the opinion of the BOCC to determine if there was a better way. If the packet was going to move the BOCC along quicker then he would agree to that but he was hearing that people wanted to go through the whole thing and vote.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to be able to tell what they have now, what was spent and what was required and recommended by the State of Florida.

Commissioner Morgan said he could not hear balances. Commissioner Viegbesie said he was suggesting, if the numbers presented to the BOCC with the Clerk, if BOCC thought it was ok to vote to leave it the way it was and go to the next until they got to non-profits and restricted but it sounded like they were leaning more to discussing them and voting on the whole thing as a total package depending on what effect it has on the Fund Balance. Commissioner Morgan
asked what the current unrestricted fund balance was and Mr. Price answered approximately $3 Million. At the end of the last fiscal year there was $4 Million unrestricted and budgeted $850,000 of that for Hurricane Michael so it was closer to $3.2 Million.

Commissioner Morgan asked if the BOCC adopted what was proposed with no changes, that would bring it down to less than $800,000.

Mr. Price said the Property Appraiser’s recommendation was $997,244 and there was a justification sheet in the packet for that.

Commissioner Holt asked if that was due to a shortage from last year. Mr. Lawson said he when met with the Property Appraiser, he indicated that a majority was because he wanted to overlap a position for a year. He wanted to train a person who was taking over for a retiring employee.

Chairman Viegbesie asked if that was for benefits too. Mr. Lawson said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said it should be a 5% decrease from 2019 budget and not from the requested budget.

Chairman Viegbesie said the point he was making was the point Commissioner Taylor emphasized in the last workshop before a special workshop was called, making everyone understand the 5% decrease/reduction was not from the fiscal year 2019 but from the request from 2020. The point was clearly made by Commissioner Taylor at the end of the last workshop and she emphasized it again at the end of the last workshop. He further stated the 5% was across the board for every Constitutional. The only person who did not get what they asked for before was the Tax Collector.

Commissioner Hinson said illusion creates confusion and some people get delusional and he thought the BOCC should wait until after hurricane season was over (sometime in November or December) and come back and look at the budget. Why give millions of dollars we do not have away when there are bridges and other things to take care of.

Commissioner Holt said to look at the justification sheet from the Property Appraiser, she stated an employee had to work for years to get certification.

Mr. Price said the Sheriff this year created Court Services, and in doing so created three subsections and at the end of the day the recommended budget was $7.7 Million for them after the 5% reduction.

Mr. Lawson said the Sheriff’s budget was the largest of the Constitutionals and if the BOCC thought the request was too much they could give direction on how to adjust. He further stated the reason for the increase was he had been losing staff because of payroll.

Commissioner Holt asked if the $800,000 would increase right now with the 5%. Mr. Lawson said yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked how someone came up with this, last year his budget was $7.6 Million and we are talking like it was cut, but it is now going to 7.7 Million which was an increase
and he further stated that for the Sheriff and a couple other folks, the BOCC had to make sure they were funding 100% but it was still an increase from last year.

Mr. Lawson said even if the BOCC did not cut 5%, the budget would increase because of benefits, retirement, and health insurance went up so the budget would increase anyway. He stated the BOCC suggested a 5% reduction from their request.

Morgan asked about the $800,000 required to balance the budget, the BOCC, did they take a 5% cut and Mr. Lawson said all departments took 5% cut from requested budgets.

Mr. Price stated in the packet was a letter regarding the mandated items coming down from the State. He stated the Supervisor of Elections had a lot of debt and that was her justification for not taking the cut but the recommended 5% decrease was still in place for her. The County believes she could still fine tune in other places. Supervisor of Elections is asking for $738,439.

Mr. Price stated concerning the Tax Collector, this one was different because of what he has and even with his 5% decrease he is actually taking a cut. The tax Collector is asking for $585,530.

Commissioner Taylor said going back to the Tax collector, she did not think it was fair to take 5% if he was not asking for an increase. He was asking to maintain what he had used to operate his budget and asked the County was cutting out any service or an individual. Mr. Lawson said the Tax Collector recommended it and said each year he returns approximately $40,000.

Mr. Lawson stated that was all of the Constitutionals and next were the Non-Profits.

3. **Non-Profit/Human Services Community Organizations FY20 Budget Requests**

Chairman Viegbesie said there were Speaker Request forms for items on the Agenda and recognized Amy McBride.

**Amy McBride, 917 Schwall Rd., Havana, FL, Non-Profit Grant Request,**

Amy McBride came before the Board and explained she was representing a Non-Profit that just received its 501(c)(3) recognition in July and would like the money was she has a passion for Havana. She said the Bank in Havana had been left out in a lot of Grants and Amenities for the city. She further stated there were children playing basketball and hoverboard in the street and another young child who was killed playing in the street. She stated she would like to have a recreation center for Havana. There was no pool, theatre, skating rink, and no basketball court. The bathrooms that are available are always overflowing and not in very good condition and no one checks on them. She is asking for money for the children of Havana. She said she was a licensed Ham Operator and would like to teach a course on that. It would not cost much to start it up but she would need a place to train and the benefits from it were great.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the Grant Application period for Non-Profit had expired and he did not know if the BOCC could factor that into the budget for this discussion. For the Ham operator, Chairman Viegbesie stated it looked like a Vo-tech and he suggested she go to Gadsden Technical Institute (GTI) and have them put that into the curriculum and they can provide to the citizens to become employment ready for that particular field since it was a skill and service that was widely used.
Commissioner Hinson asked her how much she wanted to ask for. She stated since she did not have a grant pack, she did not know what the minimum or maximum she could ask for but for the Ham operator the exam is $40 per student. Commissioner Hinson said Ms. McBride had made a tremendous difference in Gadsden County and he was adding to his request to support her with County dollars.

Chairman Viegbesie made a motion for Resolution for Ms. Amy McBride.

Commissioner Taylor said she reminded her of herself when she appeared before the City of Quincy and wanted them to help with a Summer Program for children who fell through the crack. They turned her down that night and she said she did not quit and ran that camp for almost 20 years. She further stated the application being submitted after the deadline was her concern. She suggested the BOCC look at some of the other Non-Profits during November and if there was more money then, she would support it and wanted Ms. McBride to know that her no today was not a permanent no. She hopes that when they come back to revisit this Non-Profit the BOCC could invest in to the summer jobs and emergency housing that she knew would not get money either.

Commissioner Holt said the BOCC will need data and financials for the organization and then you get a support letter from the BOCC and you will know what other federal programs you qualify for but all those documents were required.

Commissioner Taylor said to Chairman Viegbesie was the one that came through with Summer jobs at $50,000 and appealed to him to continue his support.

Chairman Viegbesie said he was just one person and the BOCC would be looking at the budget and the BOCC need to keep in mind there are 2 busted bridges in County that need to be repaired and the County was currently under threat of hurricane and in the middle of hurricane season. He stated if they could give Ms. McBride $50,000, he will but if not, he would still be willing to argue for partnership between the BOCC and the private entities that we send the youth to. The $50,000 comes out of taxpayer’s money and now the student will be sent to a private agency to work for them and pay them with taxpayers’ money when their private agency can come into partnership with us and generate a lot more opportunities for our youth.

Commissioner Taylor said he was right on what was in front of the BOCC. She asked if there was an identified funding source for bridges.

Mr. Lawson said not in this budget and he stated he was going to ask to request Commissioners to relinquish road paving monies for bridges. There was a second bridge closed that happened to be on DOT’s list to replace next year.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there was anyway to do the bridge and have DOT reimburse or did the County have to wait until next year for funding.

Mr. Lawson stated the DOT bridge had already been bid and by the time all the paperwork gets through it would not be started until next year. He stated concerning Hutchinson Ferry Bridge that he had asked Finance to identify any money that was had this current year so they could expedite trying to get the cost for the bridge covered and all the County had right now was what each Commissioner had for road paving money, other than that they would have to go back and
add something to the budget to assist with it because it will cost about $1.52 Million to replace it.

Commissioner Taylor asked the Commissioner if they would be willing to ask the money could be replenished.

Chairman Viegbesie said what the BOCC had to focus on was the fiscal year 2020 budget and when that item came on one of the future meetings it would be discussed how that would be handled. He stated what we have here is how will split the little pie we have to function this government. He stated the need for this conversation was appreciated.

Commissioner Holt said the State of Florida refused to continue funding bridges in Florida and the County only had SCRAP and SCOP to help. She stated looking at the Budget recap sheet, she agreed to that one but she is ready to move to the required and not required funding and asked if the non-required was included in the budget or not and Mr. Lawson said no and asked if the BOCC was ready to move on. Commissioner Holt stated she had to know because it was hard to make a decision on Non-Profit.

Commissioner Hinson said Hurricane Michael exposed a lot of things to him. He said the City of Tallahassee has Blueprint 2020. The idea is to help create a tax base to support those things strictly tax based like a .06 cent gas Tax. Chairman Viegbesie said it would go strictly to roads. Commissioner Hinson said do what Mr. Presnell suggested years ago and increase gas tax but the BOCC needed a super majority vote to do so and it would help with bridges, roads and transportation and he thought the citizens would get behind it this time.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the BOCC discussed this his first year and recommended it and Commission killed it. He stated there was an election in 2020 and if someone on the board suggested a .01 cent sales tax increase in Gadsden County to be used for the roads that would save everybody and see if you are re-elected next year but the point right now was preparing this budget.

Commissioner Holt said all any one of them on the BOCC had to do was put it on the Agenda, vote on it and decide whether they want a gas tax.

Commissioner Hinson said he was fine with everything from 2019 or keep the Boys and Girls Club and Legal Aid for 2019 and everyone can get cut if that was what the BOCC wanted. It was such a small amount and it needed everyone’s support.

Chairman Viegbesie acknowledged Nick Maddox of the Non-Profit Boys and Girls Club.

Nick Maddox

Nick Maddox, 3987 Bobbin Brooke Circle, appeared before the Board and asked the BOCC to consider the same amount as last year for the Boys and Girls Club. He stated they provide services in Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee and will try to work with Ms. McBride with the HAM training. He said in reference to the Summer Jobs Program, he had conversation with Assistant today, as elected official with CareerSource. He sees the need in Gadsden County and reached out to Jim McShane and asked the County work with him. He further said the Gas tax was a hard thing to levy but if citizens see the need it could not be commission led it needed to
be a partnership with citizens and Chamber. He stated regarding the Bridge, he gave Chairman Viegbesie credit for his efforts on CRTPA Board regarding bridges. He further stated this was the one time he believed that the County had even more of a point to send a letter to the CRTPA asking them to send a letter to the Governor to the division of FDOT to require them to pay more attention to the bridges in Gadsden County. He further stated the United Way process was different from the CHSP process in that Citizens could sit on the Board and make the decisions about where Non-Profit funding goes.

Commissioner Holt thanked him for all the knowledge.

Commissioner Taylor said she understood they were $800,000 shy of balancing the budget. There were revenues expected to come in. If they look at eliminating 3-4 items and come back once they receive some FEMA funds, maybe the BOCC could look at things then. She proposed with the non-profits, eliminate funding until January or February. With Economic Development, bring it out for now. With the increase the Constitutionals asked for, ask them to go one more year with no increase and there’s the $800,000.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Manager on Career Source, Salvation Army and United Way could contact Mr. Maddox and their staff. Mr. Maddox said specifically on the CHSP process, his staff had already said they were committed to assist in any way that Gadsden County needed in creating that process.

Chairman Viegbesie said he forwarded a template for human services funding that he requested from Leon County to the Interim County Administrator so they know how Leon County did it if they were going to use it as a template to provide funding to the Non-Profit.

Commissioner Holt asked what CHSP process was. Mr. Maddox answered it was a Human Services Partnership. Years before he was commissioner, with the non-profit funding the board used to tell which ones would likely be funded and what they came up with was CHSP Process. In January of every year they set the maximum discretionary account amount and ten citizens come together to vet each non-profit in Leon County and they decide who gets funded and at what level based on the request set forth. After the recommendations are complete, they are made to the BOCC in Tallahassee, they are voted on and that was the way the Non-Profit funding starts. He further stated if you are human service organization that provides direct service, you cannot go directly to a County or City Commissioner to ask for funding. You must apply to get funded. There was now a 2-year funding process. It was the community making the decisions on who to give the dollars to.

Commissioner Holt said some Non-Profits have asked that Gadsden County do it the way he explained and she would prefer it be done that way as well.

Commissioner Taylor said she sees the BOCC is $800,000 shy of balancing the budget and she knows we are expecting revenues to come in but an only use what is on hand at this time. She stated they could go into the reserve but that would put them under the amount recommended by the State as well as the Auditors. She asked the Commissioners to eliminate 3-4 items and come back when the FEMA Revenue comes in to get out of the anticipation zone. She further stated she thinks the BOCC should eliminate all Non-Profit funding until December/January. She is asking the Constitutionals as well to have one more year with no increase and that would cover the $800,000.
Commissioner Morgan said he will go with what Staff recommended and think about implementing the system Mr. Maddox spoke about considering Non-Profits.

Commissioner Holt said that was also her recommendation and she stated with the organizations discussed, the BOCC needed to sit together at a workshop and see what the economic plan is. She was not willing to pull money out of GCDC or the Chamber.

Chairman Viegbesie asked which column she was looking at, the 3% or 5% cut. Commissioner Holt stated 3%.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Taylor was looking at the future and if the BOCC was going with funding Non-Profits with what was funded in 2019, that will reduce expenditures by $1,000+ and would be $115,588.

Chairman Viegbesie stated the suggestion from Commissioner Hinson for the BOCC to know that at least one page was taken care of for good. If they go back to funding and Non-Profits at the fiscal year 2019 that would reduce overall expenditure by Over $1,000 and there should be no funding for the We Care Network and everyone else gets what they got last year and that was the suggestion.

Commissioner Taylor said the logic here was instead of spending $116,970, the BOCC is going to spend $115,588 but everyone could be funded and spend $114,458 which is a number less than all of it if you are going to reduce the funding. She could agree to 5% less and everyone would get a little.

Commissioner Hinson asked if We Care received any Indigent Care and Commissioner Holt answered yes. Commissioner Taylor said they would not get it this year. Mr. Lawson stated they would get the $27,000 that they get from the Health Department annually because that was part of the Indigent sur-tax money.

Commissioner Morgan stated he was good with either option and the Board had bigger fish to fry. Chairman Viegbesie said either one worked for him as well but he would rather it be the last suggestion which was the last column and he did not want to take from Boys and Girls Club.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out 6:10 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said with the We Care Network, there is a Neighborhood Health that did not receive any indigent care help. He wanted to be fair across the board.

Commissioner Holt made a motion for the column that said “Less 5%” with a second by Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Taylor returned at 6:11 p.m.
Commissioner Morgan asked if the BOCC could add to the motion to adopt the policy Mr. Maddox suggested and the person who made the motion was not willing to make an amendment to it. Chairman Viegbesie suggested he bring it up at the next meeting.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE REPEATED THE MOTION-TO APPROVE THE MIDDLE COLUMN FOR THE NON-PROFIT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. THE MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HOLT WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Required Expenditures-**
Mr. Price stated not much had changed for the required expenditures.
Commissioner Hinson asked how much the Auditor was paid 5 years ago. Mr. Price said the Auditor was $127,000; Attorney-$149,000.

**Non-Required Expenditures-**
Chairman Viegbesie said his opinion was the $800,563 that was drawn down to balance the budget included funding the Boys and Girls Club; $96,187 GCDC at $136,800; Chamber at $68,400; Gadsden Health at $60,000; Seniors at $102,000; and his only heartburn was the Summer Youth, the draw-down would cause the Summer Youth to go to $47,500 and he wanted to keep it at minimum of $50,000.

Commissioner Hinson said personally, he believed the Health Department did not have nurses and received funding from State and asked how much to give through Indigent Tax which was $200,000 approximately, and to be on safe side, and stated you cannot give money away anymore. He did not want to entertain this until a proposal was brought on how create revenue for the County and until that happened, he agreed with Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Morgan asked what Commissioner Hinson was proposing in a nutshell. Chairman Viegbesie said it was to not fund any Economic Development and Gadsden Health Department for now until mid-year after hurricane season and see what the BOCC can do after.

Commissioner Holt said she would like to see what the Health Department was doing with $60,000 before she cut their money. She stated she had been trying to cut the Chamber for 20 years because they never come here with plan and she is more than happy to cut that $72,000. When she went to Hattiesburg, they said you need to keep tax base going and if you cannot keep it going after a disaster, you are in trouble. If cut that will be at $270,000. This is not enough money to fix a bridge. She stated the best scenario is need to take Commissioner Maddox’s suggestion and go after funding, approach State, tell them do not have money to do this. She stated again that concerning the Chamber that it was a club and you do not fund a club. Chairman Viegbesie said regarding Commissioner Holt’s comment on funding the bridges, he suggested fellow Commissioners come to next CRPTA meeting and he will acknowledge them and they can join in the crowd for the need for FDOT to fund our bridges. He then asked the attorney if that would be a violation of the Sunshine Laws if the Commissioners go to the meeting. Mr. Weiss said as long as they did not debate items that were before them in this County. He stated it was a fine line and conservatively we would notice it at a BOCC Meeting and you could all go and say whatever you want.
Commissioner Holt stated if you do not debate it or discuss it; you have not broken the Sunshine law. You say what you have to say and leave. She said she was ready to move on to the bridge funding and if they have to go after the .06 cent gas tax then lets try but she said personally, she thought it was time to pull a rabbit out of a hat and go for it, it would not hurt to try. She asked Mr. Lawson if the total on page 12 was or was not included in the budget and Mr. Lawson said it was included in the budget with 5% reduction. Commissioner Holt said she was good then and they were shooting for $800,563.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was not that they did not want to be a part of GCDC but the County was in a bind. They need to be helpful and show the BOCC where they help with revenue.

Commissioner Holt stepped out 6:32 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor said the $60,000 for Health Dept. could be absorbed with the $400,000 that CRMC has sitting on the table right now. She said she was never ever been fan of GCDC, and Commissioner Holt was not fan of Chamber.

Commissioner Holt returned at 6:34 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor said when you fund an entity, and have no rules or expectations, all you are doing is waiting on a report and if you listen to the report carefully you hear the same drum beat. She stated Clyde Collins said to her 2 weeks ago, the economic engine is within the comforts of the Wakulla County Commission. They have a Publix coming to Wakulla. She thinks there needs to be an engine within the bodies of this government. She said she was talking about $144,000 for a part time economic development. She thinks there needs to be a funding source for Economic Development but it needs to be an engine within our County Government but by an accountant. 8 hours a day/40 hour a week looking to increase our economic development. She would like to keep everything as it is and eliminate Gadsden Community Health Unit for $60,000 and eliminate Economic Development.

Chairman Viegbesie said his take was not going to require eliminating any of them. GCDC $136,250; Chamber $68,150, and add what was cut from there to the Summer Youth to make $50,000; Health Dept. eliminated; He will not support the Summer Youth going less than $50,000.

Commissioner Morgan said he had no issue with numbers the Chair presented; one change regarding Economic Development, because of information from CFO of Trulieve, he felt he needed to flip Chamber and GCDC funding.

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to see the Chamber and GCDC work together and show how they bring in revenue to this County. He stated Midway could bring in a lot of money but the economic engine is asleep and not trying to bring infrastructure here.

Commissioner Taylor stepped out 6:45 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not in favor of voting for the Chamber or GCDC but maybe come November or December he would.
Commissioner Taylor returned 6:46

Chairman Viegbesie said there were so many versions of the budget and the BOCC had to find a compromise.

Commissioner Holt said to look at it with 5% like with other pages. Chairman Viegbesie stated it was already taken out.
Commissioner Holt said when she spoke to the people of Trulieve before they did the medical marijuana, they were going to do it anyway, it did not matter about the Chamber. It was not something they needed.

Commissioner Taylor said she would wager that better than 95% of businesses here were coming anyway because Tallahassee was busting at seams, but see if they could compromise and agree. She stated with the $60,00, she agreed with Commissioner Hinson. She told Commissioner Holt that when she stepped out, they thought about the $400,000 CRMC was leaving on the table for the Indigent Care and maybe that $60,000 can be covered for the ½ cent sales tax. If it was taken from the general revenue it can be taken from the Indigent Care so they will get $260,000 out of Indigent Care as opposed to $200,000. With regards to the Chamber and GCDC, she was willing to say fund them both at $60,000 a piece and look at an increase if they come back before the board in November.

Chairman Viegbesie stated that would make the draw down $650,000 as opposed to $800,563.
Commissioner Morgan stated he had no problem with that.

Commissioner Hinson stated he thought even with the increase, he thought everyone should be revisited in November as well. He stated with the hurricane, there was an emergency here now. He asked if the Constitutional Officers were paid the same as last year, how much will the County save.

Mr. Price said he ran some numbers that if he took what they are getting paid now and take 5% it was $538,000.
Commissioner Hinson said it could also be revisited in November and everyone can get what they wanted then. He stated the County should be taken care of first.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MODIFICATIONS FOR FY 2020 WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT.
$60,000 TO CHAMBER AND GCDC EACH; ELIMINATE GADSDEN COMMUNITY HEALTH UNIT; $102,000 TO SENIORS; $50,000 SUMMER YOUTH; $96,187 TO BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. (COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED)

Commissioner Morgan said could not hear amounts and they were repeated before the vote.

Mr. Lawson said they will follow this budget and will be prepared for the first Public Hearing on September 12th.

4. Board of County Commissioners Priorities and Directions
Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Price to look at other options for the bridge.
Commissioner Holt spoke towards Mr. Lawson, because she knew the BOCC was not going to meet again before the hurricane hit, and told him the main concern was the communication system went down last hurricane and the County needed to check with Motorola to see if our communication system goes down again, what alternatives can the County get from Motorola or TDS to make sure the County is back up and also check on generators for traffic lights and communication towers.

MOTION TO ADJOURN
With no further business to be heard, Chairman Viegbesie called the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

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ANTHONY O. VIEGBESIE, PH. D., Chairman

ATTEST:

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NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk