

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 17, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1 – appeared remotely
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., asked for a moment of silence, and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no amendments to the Agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Quincy CRA Presentation

Rob Nixon, Manager of Quincy CRA, appeared before the Board to give the Board an update and to present the most recent audit report. He said there were no material findings from the audit and pointed out that they were in compliance with 218.415, Florida Statutes. He then explained a number of programs they were involved with.

Mr. Dixon asked him to describe the CRA districts, what it encompassed and where the money came from that the Board provided. Mr. Nixon stated it stretched from Strong Road to Barack Obama Blvd. and Highway 90 South to the border of Quincy and explained the funding.

Commissioner Green asked the amount that the County gives to CRA? Mr. Nixon explained it was calculated based on the revenue, recently it was \$300,000 approximately.

Chair Holt said they appreciated what they were doing and asked about where the funds were used. Mr. Nixon said the funds were used strictly in the district, they could not be used outside of the CRA district.

1a. Robbie Jones - Agritourism

Robbie Jones appeared before Board and his presentation was not ready and the Board skipped to Citizens Requesting to be heard and will come back.

Robbie Jones re-appeared before the Board.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 6:34 p.m.

Lena Juarez, Executive Director, appeared remotely before the Board. She said Florida Agritourism Association was developed in 2013.

Lisa Ard appeared remotely and spoke on agritourism and presented a slide program.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 6:37 p.m.

Ms. Ard explained agritourism and said it was activities on the farm that the public can do to experience the farm and it needed to be a working farm. (Florida Statute 570.85)

To view more of the presentation, please see the audio/video of the meeting at www.gadsdenclerk.com under Archived Meetings.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

2. Ratification Memo

3. Approval of Minutes

- April 6, 2021 Pre-Meeting Workshop
- February 11, 2021 CARES Workshop
- March 16, 2021 Pre-Meeting Workshop
- May 18, 2021 Workshop
- July 6, 2021 Emergency Meeting
- July 27, 2021 Emergency Meeting

4. Approval of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP/HHRP) Annual Reports

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 11:00 a.m. August 17, 2021. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL- agenda item: general

Bishop Green appeared before the Board and had two concerns. He said the first was a thank you to the Board for their heartfelt concerns for the needs of the citizens. Second, he said Gadsden County has an endangered species – the County’s young people. He asked the Board to include the future, new leaders and young people as an integral part of the County.

Robert Presnell, 508 Smithtown Road- City of Chattahoochee fire truck funding in the 2020/21 BOCC Budget

Mr. Presnell appeared before the Board representing the City of Chattahoochee. In 2019, the City had to replace a pumper fire engine. It took some time to come and when it did, he had become employed with the City. He said they made an inquiry and it was the middle of budget year so it was a no go, was told to wait until the budget process and it would be put in. The amount that was agreed upon was \$150,000 and would have been effective last October 1st to be included in this fiscal year’s budget. In accordance with that agreement, the Council paid cash for truck of \$350,000 anticipating a reimbursement of \$150,000. After Christmas, he phoned the Administrator, wrote a letter with the history and it did not work out. He said he kept communicating with Commissioner NeSmith, he recommended he bring the mayor over for a meeting and they did that and were still at the same place. He said the BOCC included it in their budget through their process last year and he was asking that those funds be released. He asked if there were issues, the City was asking them to clear any obstacles there might be. He pointed out the end of the fiscal year is September 30th. He said he had requested to be placed on this Agenda and was told it was moved to the first meeting in September. He stated he had a conflict with that meeting as they meet on that date and was why he was present tonight. He stated the Council takes this very seriously, they put a lot of money in their fire service and most of what they provide is in unincorporated areas of the County and they are a full-service fire department. He further stated he was told 6-8 months ago that payment was being processed. He added he felt it was their intent and was not sure where the problem lied, if there was something they needed to do on their end, they would be glad to do so.

Mr. Dixon said they are scheduled for the next meeting.

(They then returned to the Agritourism presentation.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Dixon took a moment before starting the Public Hearing said they were going through some change-overs at the County and Chief Maddox and Chief Murray have taken new positions elsewhere. He introduced Kris Hood who will take reins with EMS. He then appeared before the Board, introduced himself and said a few words.

5. Public Hearing-Legislative-Approval of Resolution 2021-030-Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2021

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2021-030 for Grant Budget Amendments. He stated these budget amendments were not required to be advertised as they related to internal fund transfers, donations or grants and asked they be approved.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Chair Holt then stated since this was a public hearing, she needed to see if there was anyone that wished to speak on this matter and there was no-one.

Chair Holt asked for the motion and second again.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

GENERAL BUSINESS

6. Approval of the Agreement for Billing Services between Gadsden County, FL and EMS Management and Consultants, Inc. (EMS/MC)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said this was for approval to renew the agreement for billing services between Gadsden County, FL and EMS Management and Consultants, Inc for a period of one year through a partnership with Ft. Myers Beach and was piggybacking a contract that has been in place. He stated they have looked at other opportunities and none have fit the bill or give sufficiency and savings that they were experiencing with EMS/MC.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly, this vendor was brought in during Ms. Jackson's administration and they have done a great job and they needed to continue with their services.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7. Medical Director Contract

Item Pulled

8. Approval of the Fairbanks Ferry Road SCOP Construction Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to award the construction of Fairbanks Ferry Road SCOP resurfacing project to Peavy & Son Construction Company, the low bidder, in the amount of \$1,914,628.50.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he would have liked to have seen the tally sheets for the vendors that applied so he could see the comparison. He also asked that there be no change orders at any point before the contract was completed. Mr. Dixon stated as much as he would like to say no, they do not seek any change orders, they were very upfront with all vendors regarding change orders and did not expect any at this point.

Chair Holt said she had the same question as Commissioner Viegbesie and the reason was she usually asked for them anyway. She said they do need to look at the tally sheets so they have some idea and also need to change up people evaluating bids every so often.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

The Board was informed that Commissioner Hinson had lost his connection.

9. Approval of the Potter Woodberry Road CIGP Construction Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the construction of Potter Woodberry Road CIGP resurfacing project to Capital Asphalt, Inc. in the amount of \$595,915.00.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. Approval of 2021 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with Florida DEP

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of a funding agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and The Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Solid Waste Program.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

11. Approval of Task Order with Joel D. Sampson Architect

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of a task order with Joel D. Sampson Architect, Inc. The task order would include design, construction plans, detailed specifications for bidding, coordination with the County of the Guy Race Court Annex roof repairs and the W A Woodham building roof replacements of the lower roof areas and metal storage building roof. He added this would be money spent from insurance that will be recouped from FEMA.

Chair Holt stated the roof did not change so why was an architectural design needed. Mr. Dixon explained some things like roofs require architects to... Chair Holt stated she knew and was going to start asking for things to be bid out instead of just having things “in-house”. She said they would move this but look at being more competitive.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith said even with being reimbursed from FEMA, this could still be bid out? Chair Holt responded it was not just the amount, you would not get new things in and new contracts if not bid out.

Mr. Dixon explained Mr. Sampson was the architect of record, he was chosen as the go-to guy just as Dewberry was.

Chair Holt said it was not that he was not doing a good job, but once you put things out, people up their game and you start getting good ideas.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

August 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner NeSmith asked if it was a written agreement or a process that was adopted or accepted. Mr. Dixon stated he believed it was competitively bid and he was now their architect of record.

Mr. Knowles explained they have an agreement for continuing architectural services and was the master agreement and this item was like task orders or sub-agreements for Mr. Sampson.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

12. Approval of the Chattahoochee Library Roof Replacement Re-Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the 21-09 Chattahoochee Library Roof replacement bid. He added this was not a re-bid, it was a bid for a roof replacement that sustained damage from Hurricane Michael. This was for approval to give the bid to Professional Roof Systems.

Commissioner NeSmith asked in light of what Commissioner Viegbesie said earlier, could they look for efficiency as well as effectiveness and the lowest bid was not always the best contract. Has the County done business with Professional Roof Systems before this?

Allan Meeks, Facilities Manager, appeared before the Board. Mr. Dixon said they were acutely aware of the Board's desire to get the best bid, not just the lowest bid.

Chair Holt said if she was looking at this company as opposed to any other company, what was the difference in materials, because one bid was \$68,000 and one was \$31,186.00. She said she also did not see where they gave points for local contractors.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:27 p.m.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked, in line with Commissioner NeSmith's concern, \$31,000 and \$68,000 were responses to the same specifications in regards to the job to be done.

Commissioner Hinson arrived at the meeting at 7:28 p.m.-he was previously attending by Zoom.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they were all in line with the same specifications.

Chair Holt said the first thing she wrote was materials and labor. If she was looking at doing a roof, the materials were the first thing she would look at and there is a \$37,000 difference. Mr. Dixon said more prominent was the majority of bids were in the same wheelhouse.

Mr. Meeks explained they bid on 30-year warranty shingles, architectural, 130 mile an hour wind rating; Grace ice and water shield to cover the roof that would enable them to have a second barrier there in case they have shingles blow off in another storm. All had bid that.

Chair Holt said if the requirements were the same, the materials should be the same and the square footage would not change.

Commissioner Hinson said another situation he had heartburn about, East Gadsden and Havana Magnet School, cannot get phone service because of this type of roof. They need to make sure

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

August 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

the roof will not interfere with the internet. Mr. Meeks explained this was asphalt shingles and not a metal roof. Commissioner Hinson asked if this was a bid or RFP and Mr. Meeks explained it was bid out. Commissioner Hinson said there was a difference in the two. If they had a RFP, the vendor could explain the difference in the shingles, etc.

Commissioner NeSmith said the information that just came to his attention, with bids, they have to accept the lowest bid? Mr. Knowles stated they did not have to and read from the Procurement Policies. He added that they needed to look more deeply at their Procurement Policy as it has not changed in a while. He further stated they need to workshop and look at and there was nothing saying they HAD to take the lowest bidder.

Mr. Dixon said they just approved a task order for the architect and he develops the scope of work that needs to happen at these facilities. It is then put out for bid and is the same scope of work everyone bids on.

Commissioner Viegbesie said what he was hearing was this was a competitive bid. If the practice is going with the lowest bidder and they change that in their Procurement, that could open the County up to litigation in his opinion. He said that was the best practice to go with and his position was he would not support a change order.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure he understood Commissioner Viegbesie that he will not support change orders if it comes before the Board.

Mr. Knowles read from their Procurement Policy.

Chair Holt said if they put cheaper materials on the roof and the shingles blow off and the barrier is cheap, it will not last. The bidder needs to know up front that it should be held to up to certain standards. This was not something to be taken lightly. There is leeway in the bidding process. She further stated it was not acceptable to accept the lowest bid but instead the best quality bid.

Hinson said in the past they had contractors appear before Board in case the Board members had questions. He said they want to have good structures and if they can provide the same thing, he was willing to go with the lowest bidder. Why not bring everyone back?

Chair Holt asked Mr. Dixon for his response. Mr. Dixon said they will do what the Board asks, but they put out the scope of work and in this case, to assume materials were insufficient would not be proper. If they bid, it was what Staff put out that they thought would be sufficient and if they would like, they will do a bigger and deeper dive into what comes before them, they will do.

Commissioner Green asked in the future if they could have more details. If they table this, would it delay? Mr. Dixon said their biggest problem was not delays but costs that would affect them.

Mr. Dixon asked on the contract, was the materials the same? Mr. Meeks said they all had to meet the same requirements as far as the wind rating and the 30-year warranty.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they had a conversation earlier, where they had to pull the roof off and make alterations. Why rush? He thought they should table this, have a workshop and then come talk to explain.

Commissioner Green asked when they say workshop, just have them come before them when the item comes before them? He said he did not want to have a workshop just for this one item.

Chair Holt said she had no item voting for these items tonight so they could get this done but they need to revisit their procurement process and tighten it up. She said for them to move this and to workshop the bid process.

Commissioner Viegbesie was going to say what she alluded to. The only one item they needed to work on was the procurement. They had a lot of things coming up.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner NeSmith said he met with the Administrator this week regarding some work that was going on in District 3 and 4. He said he wanted to make sure whoever did the work, that they do so by maintaining a standard of excellence they discussed. He added the issue was not the quality but how it was applied.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

Mr. Dixon said they will also have the Building Official sign off on the jobs as well.

Mr. Hinson said he made a motion to table and it was not followed through. Commissioner Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson did make a motion but there was no second and it died for lack of second.

Chair Holt asked if there was a motion for reconsideration by who made the motion and a second.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE SAID FOR PEACE AND HARMONY, HE HAD NO PROBLEM AND HE WILL RECONSIDER THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO INITIALLY TABLE THE ITEM BUT THEN CHANGED TO MAKE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

13. Senior Services Roof Replacement Re-Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was a re-bid of a roof replacement on the Gadsden County Senior Services building.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

14. Approval and Signature on the E911 Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of the E911 Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15. Approval to Amend Ordinance 2014-002

Item Pulled

16. Approval of Granicus Contract

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Granicus Website/Agenda Management contract. He stated the Board approved for the website to be paid for through CARES Act residual fund and it presents an opportunity to install the Gov delivery system and will help with county services, filling out forms, applications and making payments to county departments individually including Building, Planning, Human Resources, Public Works, SHIP program, Animal Control, Department of Management Services, Mosquito Control and Library Services.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson said this was for a 4-year contract and Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Hinson asked if money was coming from CARES or General Revenue and Mr. Dixon stated from CARES residual dollars and will be a budgeted line item. Commissioner Hinson asked what was the motivation for 4 years because things change every year. Mr. Dixon stated it would allow them to upgrade the system as they move through and they have to invest in a package they believe will be a good enough package to take them into the future. This would allow them to go into lockdown if need be and allow them to remote work if need be. He added they had not been good stewards of upgrading and have had to make large purchases to get them to a level where they could move their technology forward.

Commissioner Hinson said as he started thinking now, technology changes every six months or faster and did they want to commit to someone for 4 years and they might be stuck. Mr. Dixon said he agreed that technology changes and does so quickly, but they needed to believe in someone enough that would take them into the future and could adapt to future changes that will come and believe that is with Granicus.

Mr. Knowles said there are termination provisions within the contract if they are not satisfied with services.

Commissioner NeSmith said for clarification, if they terminate the contract, would they still own it and Mr. Knowles said they would still own the data.

Brittany Catalozzi, Granicus, appeared remotely before the Board.

Ms. Steele explained it was not one website, there will be 13 websites. Each department will have their own website.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 8:08 p.m.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. (Commissioner Viegbesie was not present when the vote was taken but upon his return, stated he wished for the record to reflect he was in favor of this item.)

17. Approval of the Quincy Airport Authority (QGAA)

Mr. Dixon introduced the item and said this item was tabled last meeting.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THEIR RECOMMENDATION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR HOLT SAID WHEN SHE WAS CALLED SHE SUGGESTED A COMMISSIONER SERVE ON THIS BOARD AS THEY NEED TO KNOW THE GOINGS ON WITH THE BOARD. SHE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0. (Commissioner Viegbesie was not present when the vote was taken but upon his return, stated he wished for the record to reflect he was in favor of this item.)

18. SHIP/HHRP Emergency Housing Procurement Process Waiver

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it sought Board approval to waive the County procurement procedures and the new home limit for an emergency housing replacement project and to award the SHIP/HHRP Housing Rehabilitation Project to the selected contractor. Mr. Dixon stated the living conditions were in such a degraded state they felt to wait another day to help these citizens would not be worthy.

Commissioner Green said he was aware of the situation and asked what were the repercussions. Mr. Dixon stated it was the Board's right to do so.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 8:11 p.m.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD COMMENTS.

Commissioner Hinson commented he wanted to make sure everything be done in line as this was Federal dollars. Mr. Dixon said they will make sure everything done in-line but with time constraints and money constraints would not allow them to move quick enough to help the citizens in a meaningful way. Commissioner Hinson said this was heartburn for a lot in the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie stated he had stepped out when they voted on the Granicus item and he would like for the record to reflect he was in favor of the two items.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

19. Approval to Procure/Purchase the Mobile Health Unit Funded by the Legislative through a Cost/Reimbursement Plan

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to purchase, in a cost reimbursement, a mobile health unit that was funded by the Legislature.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH ASKED FOR DISCUSSION.

Commissioner NeSmith said to the Administrator they had a chance to meet earlier in the day and asked if this item was for appointment to the Gadsden County Health Council and Mr. Dixon stated no, this was for a purchase.

Commissioner Hinson stated that under the Health Council's Goals and Timelines, it stated:

Year 1

1. With funds received from the State of Florida the Gadsden Community Health Council will purchase a mobile health unit outfitted for our purposes along with operational supplies.
2. Contract with medical and mental health professionals to provide services.
3. Continually evaluate the effectiveness of the mobile unit and services.

Year 2

1. The Gadsden Community Health Council will request additional funding from the State of Florida in the amount of \$192,044. The Gadsden Community Health Council has received a total of \$75,000 from the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners' CARES and the Gadsden American Rescue Plan towards the operation of the Medical Mobile Unit for year 2.

Commissioner Hinson asked if that was \$75,000 from CARES and \$75,000 from American Rescue. Mr. Dixon stated it was just from the American Rescue. Commissioner Hinson stated they also did \$75,000 from CARES.

Chair Holt said that was used to get people to get the CARES because they could not get people out there and signed up. They were missing all kind of opportunities.

Commissioner Hinson explained he was saying in general, they gave \$170,000 total. He went on to read:

Year 2

1. The Gadsden Community Health Council will request additional funding from the State of Florida in the amount of \$192,044. The Gadsden Community Health Council has received a total of \$75,000 from the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners' CARES and the Gadsden American Rescue Plan towards the operation of the Medical Mobile Unit for year 2. There are plans to request additional revenue from the County ½ cent sales tax.

Year 3

1. The Gadsden Community Health Council will request additional funding from the State of Florida in the amount of \$170,000. The Gadsden Community Health Council will also request funding from the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners' Gadsden

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

August 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

American Rescue Plan and from the County's ½ cent sales tax towards the operation of the Medical Mobile Unit.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was any attachment from Department of Health confirming reimbursement for the unit?

Mr. Dixon said he did not have it at the meeting but would get it to them and stated they received approval from the Legislature and the Governor's Office for the budget. There is a document and he will make sure to forward it to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson asked if he could contact the Gadsden Community Health Council so the Commissioners would know exactly what they were doing. He also wanted to have a presentation from the Gadsden County Health Council mapping out the usage of the mobile unit and services that would be provided to the citizens to have a clear picture.

Mr. Dixon stated Rev. Hanna was there but would get them to come and make a formal presentation. Commissioner Hinson asked if he was the Chairman and Mr. Dixon stated Howard McKinnon was the Chairman.

Commissioner Hinson stated the only reason he had heartburn, not because of this, they had the same heartburn with the Fire Department. They do not own it even though it is a non-profit, but they do not own it. He added he did not mind getting it and the County own it and Mr. Dixon said the County would own it. Commissioner Hinson continued and stated "During last session, the Gadsden County BOCC and the Gadsden Community Health Council were awarded \$400,000 by the Florida Legislature and Governor Ran DeSantis to purchase, outfit and staff a mobile health unit. This unit will be operated by the Gadsden Community Health Council along with the assistance of the Florida Department of Health Gadsden. The FDOH and the Gadsden Community Health Council request the County to procure/purchase the mobile health unit through a cost/reimbursement plan, ie, the County would purchase the unit and the FDOH would reimburse the County its cost one hundred percent. The State's procurement process requires the vendor (in this case the County or Gadsden Community Health Council) to procure the mobile unit (and equipment) and then send an invoice and evidence of payment to the state (in this case the Department of Health). Once received, the Department will reimburse the purchase(s). The requirements for invoices and processing the invoice are outlined in the following reference guide for State Expenditures attached." Commissioner Hinson asked once reimbursed, if the County would still own it and Mr. Dixon stated yes, the Council wrote the request/grant but the gift was to Gadsden County.

Chair Holt stated the County set up the Health Council, they were under the County. She stated they were not purchasing a mobile health unit for anyone other than the County and if it needed to be specified a little more, they could do that. They could not be responsible for something they purchased for someone else, it had to be for the County.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the County would own the mobile unit and Chair Holt stated yes. Mr. Dixon explained the reason they went that way was something they were now experiencing in having a delta virus breakout across the State. The Department of Health hands are tied and unable to move because the Governor's position was different than other health experts. The

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

August 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

freedom the mobile unit would have is to do the County's bidding as opposed to do vaccinations and testing, regardless of what was happening with the State.

CHAIR HOLT STATED THERE WAS A MOTION AND SECOND FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE MOBILE UNIT AND CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

20. Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and mentioned he had sent emails and spreadsheets and wanted to follow up on undisbursed money from the ½ cent Indigent tax as a result of the new contract with CRMC. He pointed out to the Commissioners they have about \$703,000 not disbursed. He wanted to reinforce the Board had not dealt with how they wanted it distributed.

Chair Holt said that was a good thing because of what they were experiencing with COVID, etc.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the money could be used for transportation? Because some people have issues and had no way to get back and forth and transportation was needed in Gadsden County. Mr. Thomas said it has to be indigent health care tied to the Ordinance, the health plan and that statute, which may need to be revised or looked at. He stated the original health plan focused a lot on the hospital and now with the new contract, that was money that used to go to the hospital to defer indigent health care costs that was not going there now. He said that probably needed to be discussed as to the priority at this point.

Commissioner Hinson asked for him to explain "indigent" and Mr. Thomas explained it meant the money was not available for medical healthcare. It was used to reopen the hospital. Commissioner Hinson said people said they could not get in because they did not have the \$10.00 necessary.

Mr. Dixon said they were trying to look for a more holistic, bigger picture and opportunity instead of a "quick fix" and a workshop was coming.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. Updates

Mr. Dixon said it had been a long month and a couple of long months to go. He said opportunities are out there with grants they see coming down the road to provide more permanent health care. He said they were looking for more permanent opportunities and not necessarily the Emergency Room.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Updates

Mr. Knowles asked that he be skipped, he was trying to find information for Commissioner Hinson.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

23. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson felt they need to have someone from the Health Department to show at every board meeting to give a brief overview of what was going on. He said they received a letter last week and they had 141 people that died and had some in Havana that passed away. He said they had a back to school drive Sunday and had 300-400 people show up.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said he did not want to interrupt his question for the Clerk.

Commissioner Hinson said the question was for the County Administrator but sometimes it is said the Clerk has to answer and wanted to make sure it was gotten straight. Peavy and Son sent an email and said they have not been paid, then there's the issue with Figgers Communication and the City of Chattahoochee. Mr. Thomas said in general, they cut checks for Board vendors every week, but we have been frustrated too because things have been held up and not gotten to Finance and sometimes vendors call Finance. He said they have to make sure things are signed off on by the County and then Finance has to receive it. He said he sent an email not long ago about a situation with the Bank of America card because it was held up and not did not received in Finance until after the due date. He said they pay bills every week and the deadline is by Tuesday noon. If there is no problem with the item, checks are cut every week. The thing with Chattahoochee, he only recently heard about the agreement, but have not seen anything. He asked the Finance Director and she's not received anything. He said based on what the City Manager said and was unsure if it was a verbal agreement, but said it was worked out in the middle of the fiscal year, they saw money was budgeted in an equipment line item in a previous fiscal year that was unspent but Finance never received anything to pay. By law, they have to pay within 45 days and try to pay sooner. He said he has heard this from previous Administrators that the Clerk was not paying bills and turned out they were being held on a desk and was frustrating. They pay bills every single week. He said to get it to Finance by Tuesday in order to get checks cut. They pay between \$3-4 Million a month. With the City of Chattahoochee, he was not sure which County Administrator they were dealing with, Finance has not received a bill to pay. He added that usually there are Interlocal Agreements and they do a Fire Agreement each year with each municipality and this must be on top of the regular fire agreement. Finance has not received anything. It's a matter of the Board deciding that was what they wanted to do. Commissioner Hinson asked about Peavy & Sons and thought it was worked out. Clerk added in their Public Works Department, they have had a major turnover. He came to them approximately 1 ½ years ago and told them that Department of Transportation was threatening to cut off road paving grants because they were concerned about the paperwork and inability of staff to properly handle it. The point was, Finance pays bills every week and there are a lot of grants out there they need to manage them in a timely fashion, get everything signed off in an appropriate way and get it to Finance.

Mr. Dixon said the Clerk was right, since he has been here, they have had to move and he has said numerous times, they do not have staff in the proper place. He thinks they have gotten on top of those issues and was better than it was. The Clerk's Office has a very diligent and stringent process. He added they will look into the Peavy issue. He asked Ms. Daniels and she

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

August 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

said they claimed they did additional work and it could not be verified and had controversy about additional work they claimed was done. Mr. Dixon said they will follow up. He also said the Clerk was right about the City of Chattahoochee, he had not seen any documentation. An agreement with a staff member was not an agreement, it has to be with the Board and there was no Minutes to that degree. He said the Board did not agree to it. As he told Mr. Presnell, there is an option, he could go before the Board and if they agree, he would send it over, otherwise he will not send over.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Figgers Communication. Mr. Dixon said they met two weeks ago, and sent over paperwork to be paid. In the meeting, clearly by their actions, was dissatisfied when they talked about the roll-out of the program and have not heard from them since. Commissioner Hinson stated they may be back into a situation like last year.

Commissioner Hinson said when he emails the County Administrator, he never receives a response. When he asks to have an emergency meeting because of pressing issues, he never gets a response. Chair Holt suggested he get the information and bring it to each other. Commissioner Hinson stated he would bring it to the next meeting. He said because they disagree with them, does not mean he did not like them. He said a County Commissioner has emailed and texted his employee that he hired and the employee refused to entertain him at all.

Commissioner NeSmith said when he has vendors call, if they have issues that are important, if he has to sit down with the County Administrator, he does so in his office and they talk it out. There are other avenues also.

He added there were three issues-one in particular, he wanted they did not forget the guidelines that govern the Board that the County Attorney was working on and it was not tabled. They also need to complete the performance evaluation.

He said he received the 2020 Census information, in Jefferson County in 2010 there was 14,761 and in 2020 there was 14,510 and population reduction of -1.7%; he said Wakulla had an increase of 9.7%, Leon had an increase of 6.1% and could not remember the percentage increase for the State of Florida. He said according to the 2020 Census, there were 43,826 persons in the County and was a reduction of 5.5% and was unacceptable as the State was growing, counties around us was growing and we're getting smaller. He asked that they have a workshop on this matter and said it was a "five alarm fire" and needed to be addressed immediately.

Chair Holt said it was a great idea to have a workshop. She added that the committee got together to do the census and when COVID came, the committee fell apart. She said also if people could not find jobs here, there were not going to stay.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green said he saw the numbers and it startled him but assumed it had to do with the lack of having people go door-to-door due to COVID and it was a very limited amount of people working. He said he did not think the numbers were correct.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

August 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

He wanted to make sure they were being cautious with the caution lights and buses that were running.

He thanked Ms. Whaley for being pro-active with regard to the storm.

He added that COVID was real as well as the Delta variant. They need to take precautions.

He asked at the last meeting for an Agenda item for the security of the building and also asked if they could have a contact number for Talquin. He stated they could not control when lights go out but if they could have a contact person when there is a problem with power. He said also the security of the building.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said to Commissioner NeSmith great minds think alike. The population issue needs to be addressed. He said he was the census leader for 2010 and he was concerned about it. If they continue to have a decrease, they need to be aware what it will do to their revenue sharing funding. They need to look at projections.

He suggested they should be thinking about forming a Recovery and Resilience Coalition with surrounding counties as there was power in numbers. He said with disasters that were happening, they could not handle them themselves and asked if they could explore.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt said she was looking to get more local people on the ground to answer phones with the distribution; there seemed to be a little distance and people were not aware of some of the things and could get people that could meet the public and deal with local items to help with Integrity.

She said she felt sorry for kids going back to school and there were no mandatory masks. She requested they have documentation requesting that all County employees were required to have vaccines.

She asked about the Courthouse COVID monument and how it was going. She asked that parents please protect the children and have them wear masks.

She said with the Issue of providing, they have agreements with cities that they have always had. She said they could not do what they want to do with public money, they must have something in writing.

She said she has been asked by several people for them to curb what was being said, and was told they were talking too long. They need to choose their battles. She added they work for the people, not for themselves.

Receipt and File

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
August 17, 2021 – Regular Meeting

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:20 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk