

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 17, 2021 AT 4:30 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
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Clerk's Office

****THE COMMISSIONERS SAT IN THE AUDIENCE DURING THE WORKSHOP AND MAY BE HARD TO HEAR THEM ON PORTIONS OF THE AUDIO****

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Administrator Ed Dixon called the workshop to order at 4:35PM., asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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.

County Administrator Dixon read the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Chair Holt explained that with them sitting in the audience shows an openness to invite citizens and constituents. She said they were worried by them sitting at the dais, it intimidates citizens from participating in the meeting and coming to the microphone and speaking. It was the hope that sitting in the audience would give off a less "authoritative" feel.

1. Review and Discuss County Contracts

Administrator Dixon introduced the purpose of the workshop and said it was in hopes of being able to give the Board some clarity especially in contracts that automatically renew, called them evergreen contracts. He added that this gives the Board the ability to review contracts before they are due/renewed. He made notice of the inability to choose new contracts because of contract rollover before the county is notified. This workshop was an attempt to give light to that. He stated "we need to manage not only our future but our costs...When we have problems, we tend not to know how to respond..."

Commissioner Viegbesie pointed out the position the board approved of the Director of Government Operations should enhance government efficiency.

Mr. Dixon pointed out contracts need to be discussed with the attorney routinely.

Chair Holt brought up points of expiration dates and stated research about contracts need to be done before the expiration date was too close, otherwise bids could not be placed. She also would like to know what amounts the County was paying for the contracts.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there were any contracts that expired between January to June as they were not on the spreadsheet they were provided. Mr. Dixon said if they were not on the spreadsheet then he was not aware of them.

Mr. Dixon pointed out that one of the main issues is that the contracts are not stored in a central place where everyone on the Board can view them.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if all additional contracts have to come back before Board to be addressed and was told yes.

Commissioner Green asked what was the better remedy for the accessibility of the contracts would be.

Mr. Dixon suggested putting them on certain computer drives. Contracts get lost if management changes so the manager will continue to manage the contract but the Administrator's office would oversee it. He said a position was created that will discuss with the attorney the contracts and if they will need to be adjusted long before they are due.

Commissioner Viegbesie thought this information was really good but this conversation was not one they could have in a short workshop due to limited time. He added he would like to see how efficient/effective the contracts were.

Commissioner Green asks who made the decision if autorenewal contracts were renewed? Mr. Dixon said it was made within the contract.

Chair Holt remarked renewals should be coming from the attorney and wanted to look at Capital Regional Hospital contract.

Chair Holt mentioned the county uses one bank, should they look into using one bank or two? She said at one time, funds were moved over to another bank.

Commissioner Holt also wanted to build a new hospital. She pointed out that the Board was not a member of the Chamber but makes payments to them. Members get to vote but the Board does not. She also wanted to look at the federal dollars to provide larger transportation buses through grant dollars.

Commissioner NeSmith asks for clarification regarding the 20-year Capital Regional hospital contract.

Commissioner Green asked if this was a common practice among other counties especially of our size. Mr. Knowles explained it was pretty standard to do long-term agreements because of the infrastructure. He said one county had a 50-year agreement.

Chair Holt referred to the hospital contracts but noted Gadsden County only has an emergency room.

Mr. Dixon pointed out that the Board has due diligence when it comes to managing contracts, which they have not been doing.

2. Review and Discuss County Committees/Boards

Mr. Dixon introduced the above agenda item.

He said they started going through the different boards and stated the importance of the Gadsden County Industrial Development Authority that was a Legislative created Board. He said they had the authority to bond and what it gave them was an alternative group that did not tie up the County's pockets. It was another funding source that was able to leverage money to bring into the County for development on the industrial level.

He said the Construction Industry Licensing Board would meet as needed to generally discuss contractors, their conduct and their licensing. The Library Commission, the Gadsden County Planning Commission, which they often hear a lot about and they have made plenty of appointments to. The Public Safety Coordinating Council they tend to make little use of and generally meet annually. He said that Board also has some authority as well but the Board hasn't made much use of it either. He named other active Boards.

Commissioner Green asked for dates for when the committees, boards or people who were serving on the Board were about to expire or when the members were not active. Mr. Dixon responded they were in the process of putting a spreadsheet together.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE WORKSHOP WAS
ADJOURNED AT 5:50 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk