

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 21, 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
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3 – appeared remotely
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5 – appeared remotely
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting, asked for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon said he would like to pull from Item 16 the Chattahoochee and Greensboro contracts for further discussion and pull item 17 from the Agenda. He said he would also like to add a Presentation from the Board.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Mr. Dixon said September was Hunger Action Month and have invited friends from Second Harvest and Farm Share. He said BCC was honored to present checks of \$25,000 to Second Harvest and to Farm Share. During the pandemic, they worked hard to ensure Gadsden Countians had food and drink.

Representatives from Integrity appeared at the podium and wanted to honor this month. These are funds from American Rescue Plan and the BCC agreed to give money off the top. Checks were then presented to Farm Share and Second Harvest.

CONSENT

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

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to rescind his vote for item 2 and recuse himself.

Mr. Knowles said since they have passed that item, they need to get unanimous consent for all those in favor to re-open and redo. The Deputy Clerk asked if that was for the entire Consent or only Item 2 and was told only Item 2.

Chair Holt said she needed to recuse herself as well.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO RECONSIDER ITEM 2 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 2 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND CHAIR HOLT ABSTAINED FROM VOTING.

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts-SHIP, HHRP and Emergency Housing Repair Program**
3. **Approval of the E911 Rural County Grant Award Agreement for E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance**
4. **Approval to Accept the Emergency Management Program Grants; Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Agreement AO198; Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement GO230; and Emergency Management Performance Grant ARPA Agreement GO250**
5. **Approval and Signature on the E911 Rural Grant Application fir E911 NICE Recorders Annual Maintenance**

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.

Mr. Dixon read the above statement aloud.

Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce-support Wild Azalea solar facility

David Gardner, Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce

Stephen Gibbs

Seminole Electric Cooperative

Marion Lasley

Avant Garde Investments

James Graven

Jim Roberts, Fire Department item

Larry Ganus, 2174 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL

Steve Gibbs, 2627 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL

Integrity, Check presentation

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell, Quincy, FL 32351 appeared before Board. He said he was embarrassed with the failure to post the budget on-line so it could be viewed two days in advance of the meeting and then how the budget meeting transpired. He applauded the Chair, Administrator and the other commissioners for handling the issue diplomatically and was hopeful that would be the one little mistake that will happen for a long time to come.

He said he had shared this with the Chairlady, there will be a Countywide prayer initiative and asked people to attend when it was in their neighborhood.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2021-031 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2021

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said stated it was a public hearing and was a grant budget amendment to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for fiscal year 2021.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and said was due mainly to donations and explained the grants.

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

7. Public Hearing-Approval of Ordinance 2021-010 Adopting Procedures to Acquire Property Interest in and Accept into the County Maintenance System Under Certain Conditions Certain Private Roadways Located within the Unincorporated Area of the County

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said stated it sought approval to proposed changes to the County's Road Adoption Ordinance. He said he hoped the amendment to the ordinance will give an opportunity to bring 5 miles into the public system every year at one mile per district.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and had one request to be heard.

Larry Ganus, 2174 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He stated hot excited when he first read this Ordinance. He said there was still a hang-up on being able to use this Ordinance in his community because it requires all property owners that abut the road right-of-way have to agree to be a part of this. There has been a problem in the past getting 100% of the owners to agree to it. The other thing is the limitation of number of roads and miles per district that could be admitted to the program during the year. His community has 2.6 miles of road on four different roads; the main road was approximately 1 ½ miles, which meant even if they got anything else together, it would still take 2 years to get through the program. In a situation such as that, it would be good if they could get the whole road into the program at one time. He asked they consider his suggestions.

Steve Gibbs, 2627 Frank Smith Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board. He voiced his support and appreciation for the changes made but felt there were some additional changes that could be made.

Commissioner NeSmith had questions when appropriate. His connection was then lost.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the residents of Frank Smith Road questions was what he had questions about. Would all property owners be required to agree and the other question was the one mile per district. If they go with one mile per district per year that would mean the road would be done half in the district and imagined there were other roads in other districts that had private roads that were over a mile on just one road. The third item was the sunset provision, if the road was not fully done, what would happen to the road?

Commissioner NeSmith was back. He asked the attorney if he had had the opportunity to read over this Ordinance and Mr. Knowles said he wrote it. He said regarding the recommendation made by Administrator that there be 100% participation, was there any statutory guidelines as to maximum or minimum number of homeowners that needed to be signed onto in order to transfer. Mr. Knowles said the maximum required for participation was property law as they could not take any parcel of property from owners. He said they were required under statute where they do have responsibility for maintenance. The one mile per year per district was Board direction.

Commissioner Hinson said he would like to extend the number of sunset years and miles. He added some districts have long roads. Commissioner Hinson said Mr. Ganus served on Planning Commission for many years and was very knowledgeable.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad they were having discussion for this item. He asked if possible, to table this item, take out the sunset provision and change to as long as there were funds to maintain the roads. He suggested with having heard the discussions and concerns, look at Section II of the Ordinance.

Chair Holt then read Marion Lasley's email aloud.

Chair Holt also said the mileage of roads among the districts must be equal in order to be fair.

Commissioner Hinson said this was near and dear to his heart because he looked at it as a public health concern. There was a road that was so "jacked up", EMS and the Sheriff's Department had to stop halfway and could not get down the road. Now we have COVID to deal with. He said he hoped the Board would consider moving this item forward.

Commissioner Green asked how they could find a determinable cost that it would take to maintain the roads? Mr. Dixon said as they pave the roads, they decided to bring more roads into the County system. That has not been done so in quite a while. They have capability, just have not done so.

Commissioner Viegbesie said in response to Commissioner Green's question, when Curtis Young was the Director of Public Works, costs will not be what they were then because of materials, etc. There is a document that identifies roads and costs and he realized it would be higher now.

That document should be tweaked and brought back and if it did not have to go back to Planning and Zoning, it would expedite.

Chair Holt said it was up to this Board.

Commissioner Hinson said property value goes up, have aging communities, have COVID going on, they need to move forward and not table this item.

Mr. Knowles said the changes he showed were changing 1 mile per district per year but did not have a specific number they were going to use and would be helpful; remove the sunset provision in Section 9; reiterate this was a maintenance and not a paving ordinance. He said as long as they were not changing the complete substance of the Ordinance, they could bring it back. Chair Holt asked if they could say up to 3 miles. Mr. Dixon asked for leeway to address more than a mile with some language. Also, they must say subject to funding.

Commissioner Green said the amendment was made for funding and that was why he had his hand up.

Commissioner Viegbesie said now not very sure of the distance for adoption, his personal recommendation was look at private roads and use the one with the longest distance. He also asked if this would be adopted with the first reading.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT WITH REVISIONS SUGGESTED AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

8. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Adoption of Ordinance 2021-006 (CPA 2021-02) to Adopt Chapter 11, Property Rights Element to the Gadsden County Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for consideration of adding Chapter 11, Property Rights Element to Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Holt announced this was a public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak and no-one wanted.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there were any new rights enumerated in this Ordinance that did not exist? Mr. Dixon said they did not have a choice, if they do not approve this language, nothing else they did would matter. Commissioner NeSmith said these were rights that the homeowner has anyway and this was enumerating them and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked how this would conflict with neighborhood Restrictive Ordinances that say they could not have certain things.

Mr. Knowles said that was dealing more with restrictions dealing with HOA's once someone purchased the land. These were requirements for small scale comp amendments.

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

9. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-Wide Azalea Solar Energy Facility (Florida Power & Light) Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2021-04)

Mr. Dixon stated Diane Quigley would be presenting this quasi-judicial item to the Board.

Mr. Knowles mentioned when the Commissioners are making quasi-judicial decisions, they were debating over policy and explained the things they had to make sure of. He also said if anyone has had conversations, it was not required but suggested they acknowledge the substance of that conversation to avoid the appearance of improprieties.

Diane Quigley, AICP, Growth Management Director, was sworn in by Deputy Clerk. She then introduced the above item. She stated it was presented for consideration of a conceptual/preliminary site plan to construct a solar power generation facility on 1,102.36 ± acres. It is for development of eight parcels totaling 1,102.36 acres with solar power generation facility to generate electricity.

She said Open House was held on April 12 and 13th and addressed some concerns at the meeting. It was recommended by Planning to be approved and was approved 7-1.

Chair Holt stated she has met with people from Gulf Power.

Commissioner Green acknowledged the same and Commissioner NeSmith did and said he was not aware it was a quasi-judicial hearing.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did meet with 3 of the applicants, asked questions and had conversations with a couple of the residents of the area.

Allara Mills Gutcher, The Planning Collaborative, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She stated that Wild Azalea has met all the requirements. She also said they have met all requirements of the Comprehensive plan, the land development regulations, and have gone above and beyond with the additional set-backs and buffers to help make this project something the community would be proud of.

She introduced letters of support.

Amy Goodwin, 700 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach, FL appeared before the Board and was sworn in. She stated their mission was to deliver clean, reliable energy to clients. At the height of employment, they will employ 200 workers.

Commissioner Hinson said he had read through the information and wanted to make a motion to approve Option 1. Chair Holt said they had to have public input first and asked for a 5-minute recess.

They recessed at 7:43 p.m.

Chair Holt reconvened the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Richard Williams, appeared before the board and was sworn. He stated he had been impressed that they were willing to go above and beyond what was required in order to do what needed to

be done to be a good neighbor and a good citizen to the community. He added from Opportunity Florida and economic development standpoint, they were glad to see renewable energy come to this area, especially in rural counties.

Commissioner Viegbesie said had been very impressed with the presentation.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

10. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-Gadsden County Solar (Florida Renewable Partners) Conceptual and Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2021-03)

Diane Quigley appeared before the Board and was still under oath. She said this was approximately 787.55 acres with a solar power generation facility to generate electricity. She stated it was approved with a vote of 8-1 by the Planning Commission.

She then read the options.

Commissioner Green made it known he did meet with the applicants as well as Commissioner NeSmith to gain additional insight to the project. Commissioner Viegbesie did also as did Chair Holt.

Allara Mills Gutcher re-appeared before the Board and stated she was previously sworn in. She said there was some confusion with the recommendation made by the Planning Commission.

Michael Linehart appeared before the Board and was sworn in. He read aloud a letter of support by Seminole Electric and had a short presentation for the Board. He added that the project will sit mostly behind existing vegetation.

Commissioner Green asked he give enlightenment of the possibility of students to learn how to do this and to travel.

Chair Holt asked if any sites would give reduction of rates to the citizens? Mr. Linehart explained they contract with Seminole Electric and had nothing to do with the rates.

Chair Holt asked if there was any public comment and there was no-one.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. MS. GUTCHER WANTED TO CONFIRM THE MOTION TO APPROVE INCLUDED THE DECOMMISSIONING CLAUSE RATHER THAN THE EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT THAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE STAFF REPORT.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AMENDED HIS MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 WITH THE REQUESTED CHANGES AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner NeSmith asked what decommission meant. It was explained it meant they were required to return the land to its previous use as it was or better.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. Approval of a Task Order with Joel D. Sampson Architect for Professional Architectural Services for the Interior Upgrades to the Historical Courtroom of the Gadsden County Courthouse

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a task order with Joel Sampson Architect for professional architectural services for the interior upgrade to the historic courtroom of the Gadsden County Courthouse.

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

12. Approval of the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management HO626 Agreement to install a generator at the Edward J. Butler Building

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said was for a grant from the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management to install a generator at the Edward J. Butler Building.

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

13. Approval of Area of Operation Resolution 2021-028 concerning financing of an affordable multi-family residential rental apartment by the Escambia County Housing Authority

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for approval of Resolution 2021-028 granting the area of the operation authority to the Escambia County Housing Finance Authority to issue Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds to finance an affordable residential rental apartment project located in Gadsden County, FL.

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

14. Iron Bridge Road Safety Improvements-Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item for approval to award the bid of the Iron Bridge Road Safety Improvements project to C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$415,765.08.

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

15. CR 161 (Point Milligan Road) SCOP Construction Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to award the construction of CR 161 Pt. Milligan Road SCOP project to CW Roberts Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$2,940,936.00.

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

16. Approval of Fire Department’s Inter-Local Fire and Rescue Service Agreements

Mr. Dixon said this item was to approve Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements minus Greensboro and Chattahoochee contracts.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt said she had a request from Jim Roberts to speak.

Mr. Roberts appeared before the Board and stated he represents Mt. Pleasant Fire Department. They are the lowest paid or lowest funded department in the County to the tune of almost \$4,000. Their agency has responded to over 160 calls to date and would like to have the opportunity to be part of the process. He said information was provided to the Board in February based on the request of the County Fire Coordinator to look at the funding. He said they were not sure how the formula was created and feels their department being funded much less than other departments were unfair to them. He asked the Board to look at future funding, the process and formulas that determine and be inclusive of the process. He also mentioned that their fire department meets on a regular basis and welcomed everyone to come and help them understand the process and asked to be a part of that process to make it a fair and equitable deal for all the fire departments across the County.

Mr. Dixon said that was not why made only for one year. He said they would all sit down and talk about the future of fire protection and how they are funded.

Commissioner Green asked if they were about to approve money that would be allocated to each fire department and they have another group that asked to be included to receive funding from the County and they have yet to entertain the possibilities for them. How will that be handled?

Mr. Dixon said they have a contract with the City of Greensboro, who was the recognized entity and were unable to direct Greensboro who would or would not do their own fire service. The City of Greensboro decides who provides fire service to the City of Greensboro, not the County. Their agreement was with the City of Greensboro until and unless the Board said otherwise. Commissioner Green said understanding that, how would they give an opportunity when someone has presented them with other alternatives. It was still up to the Board to give funding or not. Mr. Dixon explained they have pulled the contracts for Greensboro and Chattahoochee for further discussions and they would not be approved at this meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said he “got what you’re saying”. He added that they could not dilly-dab into cities or school Board issues, if so, they may open a can of worms. The City of Quincy has multiple fire stations as did Havana. They need to have a discussion on this.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he knew they were pulling the Greensboro and Chattahoochee agreements and did not see why they should not consider the fire services. He added that he thought he made a motion and would like to withdraw it at this time.

Mr. Dixon said they amended the Agenda to exclude Greensboro and Chattahoochee. Commissioner Viegbesie understood the entire item was pulled.

Commissioner Hinson said felt needed to make decisions first, he said they did not want to damage relationships and did not want to step on toes.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked her and the County Administrator and asked for the name of the fire fighter that represented Mt. Pleasant Fire Department and they informed him it was Jim Roberts.

Chair Holt said they just did the budget and only had a certain amount of money that was approved. She said if they wanted to get together and look at a study and look at things they need and what they could afford.

Mr. Dixon said in the next year will look at the whole system and asked now for a few more weeks to look at what happening in Greensboro and Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to be assured the two that were excluded that they were pulling out.

Mr. Knowles wanted to reiterate if they do not do this before October 1st, they may not have a fire protection contract that was active with Greensboro and Chattahoochee. Mr. Dixon said he did not think that would be a problem, there were some hiccups in the system and they were not operating as legally as they have in the past and wanted to make sure the hiccups do not become additional problems in those two cities. That was the reason for the additional time.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked what happens to the City of Chattahoochee and Greensboro and their funding? Mr. Dixon said they were not talking about withdrawing funding. They need to talk to the City of Chattahoochee as they were presenting a different picture than what they were used to. They were used to providing a truck and paying for that truck to operate and they were not presenting that picture anymore. We need to talk about how they plan to fit into picture.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENTS THAT EXCLUDE GREENSBORO AND CHATTAHOOCHEE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

~~17. Approval of Policy 21-001 – COVID-19 Vaccination Policy~~
Item Pulled

CLERK OF COURT

18. Updates
No comments

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

19. Updates
No comments

COUNTY ATTORNEY

20. Updates

No comments

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

21. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he first wanted to talk about EMS in Havana. He asked the status and said they approved this item on September 18, 2020. Mr. Dixon asked if the Chief left. Commissioner Hinson said he could drive back and he also had some other questions as well. Mr. Dixon asked Chief Walker to text him and ask him to return. Mr. Hinson said the meeting was on September 18, 2020 and they passed the purchase of a modular home and asked the status. He said while waiting, his next was the Small Business with the American Rescue plan. He said he has received a lot of phone calls, as he was sure every Commissioner had, about the process. He said a lot was turning in information the first day and never received a phone call they were denied or did not know at all they were denied. Some said they walked in the information, others said they emailed it in and from what they got, they were approved for the funding but they did not receive the funding. He said he knew the funding had been distributed and felt they needed to look at something. He wanted to figure out a way with one suggestion they had and was not sure wanted to get into that right now. He said some got approved that later was told they were denied. He said he was not sure of the process of the day-to-day operations. He said the money was already distributed and he was thinking since the Churches have a large amount of money...

Mr. Dixon interjected and said he was correct. The Small Business goes through a tiered approval, there was the initial approval and then a subsequent review that considers the PPP money and all those things. What they were experiencing and what most folks were experiencing, they were approved and then ran out of money. He said they will be coming in October with a new plan that he hopes the Board will support because there were other parcels that other Commissioners had also brought up. He said they were looking at the programs that people were not accessing the money and will bring back a plan. He said the businesses that were being funded had been sent to the Clerk's Office for checks. He added that they will come back to the Board for a bigger part of the money so they could continue to approve people in the Small Business and where they will be asking to put a bunch of the money.

Commissioner Hinson said with Small Business, they need to be more lenient with them. They still had lease still ongoing and have bills still to pay.

Chair Holt asked to workshop this matter and Commissioner Hinson agreed.

Mr. Dixon stated Chief Hood was on the line. Commissioner Hinson said he was trying to find a way, the date was September 18, 2020 when they had the meeting where the location of Havana EMS was approved. He asked the hold-up and why they were not in there in the new facility. He said Havana was about to start building, the current EMS trailer was about to be torn down and they have a small window.

Chief Hood said this was approved before his tenure, but Commissioner Hinson was correct. In speaking with (former Chief) Keith Maddox on this issue, it was brought to his attention that Planning and Zoning wanted a holding pond, a driveway, a handicapped parking spot, etc, and would be in the realm of \$75,000. He sent emails regarding this issue that was presented to him when he took over and Commissioner Hinson was correct, the trailer will be moved and was told they needed a budget of \$75,000 for the completion of the site. Chair Holt asked what site and Chief Hood said the relocation of their new site.

Commissioner Viegbesie said this was during Dr. Grant's interim; they purchased acreage to relocate the Havana EMS, purchased a mobile home and funding was all approved, about \$200,000, for both septic tank and (inaudible) as well as the fencing of the property and did not know why it was now \$75,000. It should be up and running. Actually, he brought this up to the Administrator because of the broken-down mobile home. From his understanding, the money was there.

Mr. Dixon said they will have a better look at this tomorrow, he did not know where it was in the chain. He said he did not know the status of this project exactly but will report tomorrow.

Commissioner Hinson said like Commissioner Viegbesie said, the goal was to spend \$30,000 for the modular home, \$50,000 for the land and they still have \$120,000 to play with. He said the goal was to build a building, to have a nice facility. They could move in tomorrow as the modular home was there. They just need to be moved in. Mr. Dixon said if it can be done, it will.

Commissioner Hinson pointed out it did not take holding pond for a modular home. He said he would like to know who said that. He also would like to see exercise machines, etc., put there. He thanked them for looking into it. Commissioner Hinson said if they move EMS tomorrow, it would be a travesty to Havana. Commissioner Hinson also asked him to find out who said that and put it in writing because he wanted to know. Chair Holt stated he will have that in his report tomorrow. Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to know because someone put it on hold.

He asked about FCI, what was the response to the letter and the outcome. Mr. Dixon said they had been unable to meet with them yet, there had been no time. Commissioner Hinson asked if anyone responded back to them. Mr. Dixon said they responded last week. Commissioner Hinson asked he send them a response as well.

He said he felt they had a great meeting today and thanked the Board for presenting the items to Farm Share and Second Harvest.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the Board for completing the budget and getting it in on time and thanked the community to allow him to travel. He recommended they meet with the Legislative Delegation to give them plans going into 2022.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green said Greensboro had already addressed, along with the Small Business.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR MS. CATHERINE SIMMONS AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

He thanked Commissioner Hinson for his assistance for Highway 27 Grill. He wanted to ask if they could go ahead and make a workshop for the evaluations for the County Attorney and the Administrator.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comment was on point-they were yet to develop a performance evaluation form.

Commissioner Green asked if it was proper to take a vote on the Proclamation.

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

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said he had two to three things:

Census

They should maybe look at redistricting, when he looked at district by district voting list, it was so skewed to one particular district. There were 30,607 voters; 8,308 voters in District 1; 6,703 in District 2; 4,688 in District 3; 5,053 in District 4. He said District 1 has almost twice the number of a particular district and did not think that was a fair demographic distribution of voters.

He suggested they consider partnering with the elderly program for some type of learning services at the library, maybe bringing the youth and elderly together.

He said he will send to the Administrator and Public Works, a list of trimming limbs on specific roads. There are some that almost hit a school bus.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Mr. Knowles said he could resend the information from the gentleman he spoke with at the University of Florida. They informed him they do not necessarily have the capacity to do that. He added it might behoove them to workshop it. Chair Holt said they needed to make sure they have the funding for that.

Commissioner Hinson said he forgot to mention, he noticed he had a family member that was part of the of the SHIP program they approved earlier and wanted to rescind his vote for that item.

****Questions were asked-Please see comments in the Consent Agenda section.****

He said talked to the Robert F. Munroe principal and they were having issues when leaving the school. He asked if they could come to some type of resolution to help resolve the traffic issue. He stated he understood it was a State issue because of being a State Road. He thought they could talk about a traffic light or another entry.

Chair Holt said she was one of those citizens and the problem was they need other entrance. They need to have a conversation with the school.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was very familiar with the surroundings where it was located. He said he will raise the issue with CRTPA at the next meeting. Mr. Dixon said he will reach out as well. Commissioner Hinson said a back entry might be the way to go.

Commissioner Green felt that was part of the overall plan of the school, they are doing it in phases.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk