

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 5, 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
 Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt asked for moment of silence at 6:01 p.m. and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Item 1.

Commissioner Green asked to pull item 10 and felt they should have a workshop on the matter.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR ITEM 10 TO BE PULLED FROM THE AGENDA AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE ASKED A QUESTION.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if an item is pulled, it generally was not discussed.

Mr. Knowles asked for clarity. Item 10 was a General Business item and the Consent Agenda was typically where they would pull items for further discussion. He felt what Commissioner Green was asking was for that item to be workshopped or removed and heard at a later date. Chair Holt said they would be removing item 1 and Item 10 and Item 10 would be scheduled for a workshop.

Commissioner NeSmith asked for clarity; Item 1 was pulled and was told yes. He asked if they had voted on the Consent Agenda and was told no. He asked if Item 10 was pulled for discussion and was told no; Commissioner Green asked for it to be removed from the agenda and scheduled for a workshop for better understanding. He asked if the timing was the proper and Chair Holt said approving the Agenda always comes before the Consent Agenda. Mr. Knowles explained when they pull a Consent item, they were asking for it to not just be heard, but heard and explained outside of Consent. Commissioner Green was saying it required a policy decision and he would like more information and wanted it workshopped at a later date. So, they were approving the Agenda on one hand and if they wanted to pull an item, it needed to be added in this motion. Commissioner NeSmith asked if it was proper to be done now and was told yes. Chair Holt said the other way was if they wanted to approve or amend the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Hinson said why he said rescinded his second, there were other things on the agenda and they had at least a week to look at and was about to vote. They had enough time to look at the

item, look at the numbers and what they were voting on. He said people came to discuss this item tonight and felt they should it vote up or down.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Green if he wanted it removed from Agenda in order to workshop it and he stated absolutely. Commissioner Green said it was a substantial amount of money being requested and his motion still stood. Chair Holt said Commissioner Hinson made the second. Commissioner Hinson said when a Commissioner has heartburn with anything, he would like to postpone and wait until they felt comfortable and asked for a date and time certain. Mr. Dixon asked Mrs. Bradley the earliest time for a workshop and she responded they would have to advertise. Mr. Dixon asked if anything was scheduled before the next meeting and she said they had two workshops before the next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith said he would support Commissioner Green's motion but there was also a speaker here and thought he could speak. He was told they were pulling the item and there should not be any discussion.

Commissioner Viegbesie said if Commissioner Green wanted to pull the item, and he felt that was a good direction, the speaker could speak as a non-agenda item.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1- ~~Hurricane Irma Supplemental Claims Update~~**
Item pulled

CONSENT

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

- 2. Ratification Memo**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - **August 17, 2021 Regular Meeting**

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 aloud the above statement.

Wilbert Butler, 901 Riggins Road, appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Hinson interrupted and asked that he wait until the next meeting (October 19th).

Mr. Butler said he felt the Board may make decisions regarding money before the next meeting and that was his concern.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he did not think delaying this would affect the money decision.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Approval of State of Florida Purchasing Card Program Contract

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the State of Florida Purchasing Card Program Contract allowing state agencies and local government entities in the State of Florida to utilize the purchasing card program of the State of Florida.

Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator, appeared before the Board. She explained this P-card program that they were currently utilizing was with Bank of America and this was renewing the contract.

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

5. Approval to Confirm the Public Works Director

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said in their search for a new Public Works Director, he would like to have to the Board confirm the appointment of Mr. Jeremiah Lee as the new Director.

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

6. Approval of the Annual Contract between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the Operations of the Gadsden County Health Department

Mr. Dixon said this item was the annual contract between the GADBOCC and the Florida Department of Health for the operation of the Gadsden County Health Department for the contract year 2021-2022.

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

7. Approval of the Mutual Aid Agreement between the Gadsden County Fire Service and Decatur County Fire and Rescue

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of the Mutual Aid Agreement between the Gadsden County Fire Service and Decatur County Fire and Rescue.

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

8. Confirmation of a Planning Commissioner Jerry Wynn for Commission District Three

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for consideration of confirmation of Mr. Jerry Wynn as a District Three representative for the Gadsden County Planning Commission.

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

9. Request for Board Direction on Contracts

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and asked for Board direction on some of the contracts that were either up for renewal or had expired.

Chair Holt asked for contracts to come back so they could review all of the contracts. She added they should give some deliverables and not just a description of what they want to do.

Commissioner NeSmith said they were grouped together and he was not familiar with some of them. Mr. Dixon said this was not for approval, Staff just wanted to get information to them. Commissioner NeSmith then said he was affiliated with the business that does business with the Chamber of Commerce and asked if he needed to disclose that. Mr. Knowles said he would need to disclose that but not today.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he was glad she mentioned about deliverable data and some of the contracts were already expired. He also felt they needed to consider Lawson & Associates as the Session starts in January. He thought it appropriate to pull that contract and decide because of time sensitivity.

Chair Holt said what she wanted to know from vendors is what they did from the beginning of the contract to the end and they needed documentation.

Commissioner Hinson added with the Senior Services and thought they needed to fund them as soon as possible. They needed to approve that so they could receive their money no later than November.

Commissioner Green said with Lawson, the contract ends in December and asked what direction they were going to take. Mr. Dixon said now was the time if they wanted to take a direction, it would probably take 1 ½ months. Legislative session starts in January and Boards start in October and November. They were not as far behind the 8-ball as they were last year. Commissioner Hinson said it was great to have more than one, especially on the federal level. He added that Lawson & Associates helped get the fire truck, Lamb park, and named others.

Mr. Dixon said whatever direction given, they could renegotiate the contract.

Commissioner NeSmith said that was an extensive list Commissioner Hinson gave. He asked if the County provides the lobbying firm a list to go after?

Chair Holt said the members that were here yesterday have to provide the list to the House and Senate and the lobbyists push the list through.

Commissioner Viegbesie said since they were discussing the services of Lawson & Associates, he also had a list since he talked with him yesterday. When he sent the list, he was impressed. With the Congressman being at a national level, it gives them an advantage to provide more deliverables. He added if the motion was appropriate with time sensitivity, he would like to do so.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND OR RENEW THE SERVICES OF LAWSON & ASSOCIATES TO CONTINUE THE SERVICES THEY WERE PROVIDING AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.

Commissioner Green said he would like to agenda this item for Spring the following year.

Commissioner Hinson said they did not have to have one, they could have two or three. This was just for State level and they need federal level.

Chair Holt called for the vote.

Mr. Dixon asked before carrying the motion, if they could end the contract in the Summer so they could begin a new contract before Session began. Commissioner Hinson said he did not want to end it less than a year, he wanted to end it at the end of 2023. Mr. Dixon said he was asking for a little lead time before the next fiscal year and was asking that the contract not end until December.

Chair Holt said they needed to carry the vote.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the “call to question” was not designed to end the debate and the “call to question” needed to be voted on.

Chair Holt said they voted and it was 5-0.

Mr. Knowles wanted to add some clarity and explained the “call to question” and said it should be voted on separate and apart from the actual motion.

There was then confusion around the dais as to what was voted on.

Chair Holt asked Commissioner Viegbesie to rescind his motion for approval of the item and they could start over.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

Chair Holt said they would now vote on withdrawing the motion.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO RESCIND THE MOTION AND SECOND.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE SERVICES FOR LAWSON & ASSOCIATES AND THE COUNTY SHOULD START THE PROCESS OF SEEKING AN RFP OR RFQ IN JULY 2022 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his intent is for the contract to be renewed and continued until December 2022 and the RFP/RFQ process would start in July 2022.

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

- 10. Funding Request from the Havana Community Development Corporation, Inc.**
Item pulled to workshop

CLERK OF COURT

- 11. Updates**
The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

- 12. Updates**
Mr. Dixon said they will meet again on Thursday, October 7th at 4:30 for the Administrator and Attorney's Evaluation workshop; Saturday is Midway Day in the community of Midway; He said they plan to meet with FCI the next week on the 12th; and they reached out to RFM and Dr. Gaffey responded and asked for any help the County could give, however they do not plan or envision on doing the second driveway for up to two years. He said the Parents that show up early were the ones causing problems and blocking the highway for the residents.

Chair Holt said she thought they needed to look at that before two years. Otherwise, traffic was backing up on Highway 90 and was lasting a while and there could be several wrecks.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

- 13. Updates**
Mr. Knowles said in response from the Board, he reached out to Richard Doughty at the University of Florida regarding the census. He said the CQR (Count Question Resolution) and special census data would not be available until the next year. He did mention to him that they were trying to allocate funds. He said with doing a little research, it did appear that a special census could be hundreds of thousands of dollars and would be a decision that would need to be made by the Board.

He said in response to Commissioner NeSmith's question earlier, all motions require a second.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

- 14. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he noticed there was a lot of development in the County, especially in Chattahoochee. He said off Highway 27, he heard they were building a Family Dollar Store. He called Planning and Zoning and was told off 27 and 270 there was development going on and heard a Family Dollar was going in. He asked to be informed on what was going on in his district.

Food Cards

He said he had a phone call today and a Church was denied. Mr. Dixon said they must have used the same address.

He asked for a workshop on the American Rescue Plan.

He said he was thankful and grateful that FSU had a chance to win and hopes everyone roots for FSU because of the economic impact on Gadsden County.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said they need to stay vigilant about the “Love where You Live” campaign.

He said he looked for favorite sign coming west on Highway 90 and the sign was gone and was replaced with a Trulieve sign. Mr. Dixon said he could check on that.

Mr. Dixon said Public Works was dedicating 2 weekends a month to the “Love Where You Live” campaign. Mr. Lee said they were working on the schedule.

He thanked Chair Holt, Mr. Dixon and Public Works for the clean-up campaign in the Friendship community and stated they picked up a lot of trash.

He thanked Commissioner Viegbesie for supporting the Sawdust community outreach first clean-up.

He asked to partner with Midway to add lighting in the area coming into Quincy.

Commissioner Hinson asked if that was a State road and Chair Holt said yes, but it was a long story, they do not have utilities in that area. Mr. Dixon said they were hoping to work with solar.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they were talking about lighting and if the Administrator could take note and make it a policy issue from BOCC to FAC to push for a state policy to provide lighting in rural areas. Mr. Dixon said the thought that would become doable with solar.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green congratulated Mr. Lee and asked them to check out Jim Lee Road, they did construction a few months ago.

He requested a copy of the Ordinances as he knew there were a lot of outdated ones.

He asked for names on the Veteran monument. Commissioner Viegbesie said there was no provision for memorializing names. Michael Jackson, Veterans Services Director, was working on brick pavers where families could get a brick to honor vets on the grounds.

He thanked Administration and Staff for getting the Agenda package way before time and added he believed Midway Day is next Saturday.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a Proclamation or Resolution for Jarvis Rittman.

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

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie said something would be coming from CRTPA. FDOT wants to do a signage change from the stop sign to a yield at the junction of MLK and Highway 90 in front of the City Hall in Midway. He said he would email the Administrator the name of the contact person and their phone number.

He said he now was making a personal request, he has an interest to run again for the FAC Second VP in 2022 and was requesting a Letter of Approval and Support for his candidacy.

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

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt said the Planning Commission was revitalizing the downtown area and said they had items coming up in their book they were looking at doing with some of the infrastructure money they were to receive. She mentioned some restructuring they were planning in the Campbellton area.

She said they need to look at work programs, she wants to help inmates get career training.

She mentioned people have been asking about funding assistance for minority farmers.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 5, 2021 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:24 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk