

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 16, 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 when – arrived late
Eric Hinson, District 1 – Not Present
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
Georgette Daniels, Asst. County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt called the workshop to order at 4:35PM. and said it was to discuss the Veteran’s Monument Engraved Brick Campaign and questions on agenda items for the meeting at 6:00. She 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. November 16, 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discuss the Veteran’s Monument Engraved Brick Campaign

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/Michael Jackson, Veteran Services Officer)

Assistant County Administrator Daniels came before the Board to introduce the item.

Michael Jackson, Veteran Services Officer, came before the Board to give a presentation regarding the item. He said the Veteran’s Office doesn’t have funds to help veterans it was suggested that bricks/pavers be purchased and placed at the monument as a fundraiser to help memorialize the veteran. He presented eight couple of samples to the Commissioners and said the great brick would tie better to the monument that was there.

He said a brick could be purchased for a family member. The money from the fundraiser has to go to a non-profit agency to control the funds, Veteran’s Services could not take control of the funds. The key would be to find someone to control the funds.

He said they wanted uniformity and standardization so each brick corresponds. He said the concrete that is there will have to come up in order to lay the bricks down.

Chair Viegbesie entered the workshop at 4:41PM.

He suggested they have a group of 15-20 of bricks to place at one time so they would not have to be done individually. They should have a standard size, logo, and script.

They want the funds to be able to go back to the veterans so they can help with things such as utility bills, etc. He said they wanted to standardize how to help veterans so the system would not be abused.

He said the bricks are warrantied for life.

Chair Holt asked if the project have to be bid out.

Commissioner Viegbesie said since it was one brick at a time, he was not sure if a contract with this firm or a bid would be best.

Mr. Knowles asked if the County would be paying for this? Mr. Jackson said the family would. Mr. Knowles said since the family was purchasing the bricks, he did not think it would have to be bid out.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the families would pay for the brick then this person would lay them. They need to talk about the pattern and how to lay them from the monument to the Courthouse. He added he did not think the procurement policy was necessary as the County was not paying but the families were.

Commissioner Green said this was a great project and had a question about the control of the funds. It has to be a 501c3 in control of the funds, but the funds will still be designated for the veterans despite a non-profit controlling it? Mr. Jackson said that was correct. Commissioner Green asked if he had any suggestions for one?

Mr. Jackson said he and his assistant have reached out to the Veteran's Service Office and most of them said the American Legion or the VFW in the County would be the one to set of fundraisers and bricklaying. He added they had not reached out to them yet as he was waiting to see what came from the meeting before reaching out to them.

Commissioner Green asked if there was a charge for the military logo to be on standardized brick? Mr. Jackson said it was included in the initial price.

Commissioner NeSmith said this was a tremendous task and opportunity event for our veterans. He asked if he had had the opportunity to speak to anyone in Crawfordville? They did one similar. Mr. Jackson said they have not but will make sure he does.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out of the workshop at 4:52PM.

Mr. Jackson said he did reach out to Hamilton County as they already have the bricks in place and as the bricks were purchased, the engraver would come. That company did not install them for you, the installation was left to the County.

Mr. Knowles said the procurement piece would be who does the installation. We would be paying for someone to install.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 5:53PM.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had anyone in house to lay bricks? Chair Holt said not a brick mason, that was skilled labor. They would put it out for bid as it is a specialty area due to holding water/landscape.

Commissioner Green asked out of the money being spent on getting the bricks, could we take money out of that to pay brick mason or were they setting aside funds for installation?

Chair Holt said this has to come back as they could not vote on it anyway. She asked why it had to be a non-profit?

Mr. Jackson said when they talked with the person at the Veteran's Services Office in Orlando they said it was a conflict of interest. He said he could get more in-depth information regarding that.

Commissioner NeSmith said they need to look at a design before procurement and what they want it, etc.

Commissioner Holt said it would depend on the amount of bricks sold.

Commissioner Viegbesie said there were three or four different patterns that were spoken about initially and suggested discussing this again as he will bring up other projects for veterans in the future as well. He asked that Mr. Jackson work with the County Administrator and come up with various patterns and the next workshop can be on that and take it from there.

Commissioner Green asked if it were possible to add names to the monument? Mr. Jackson said that was not really possible. There would not be enough space on the monument to do that.

Chair Holt said some people were uncertain about people walking on the pavers. They will have to make sure people understand that they will be walked on.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 5:02PM.

Mrs. Daniels asked for a recess to address technical issues.
Recess at 5:03PM.

The meeting re-convened at 5:04PM.

2. Answer Questions on Selected Agenda Items Regarding the November 16, 2021 BOCC Agenda (Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Ms. Daniels said Mr. Dixon had an engagement outside the office but was on his way.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the additional documents and was told it would be added to item 10.

Ms. Daniels said Item 9 will be pulled and put on the workshop on November 29th.

There will be a Public hearing on Budget Amendments on November 29th at the 6:00 p.m. meeting.

Commissioner Green rejoined at 5:06PM.

Commissioner NeSmith asked for clarification. Ms. Daniels explained the Workshop regarding the American Rescue Plan will be on November 29th then it will be on the agenda that night for a special meeting.

Chair Holt asked for questions on item 10. Commissioner NeSmith asked for clarification regarding that item and Mr. Knowles explained the documents were a supplement to the agenda item.

Chair Holt wanted information on item 11. Ms. Daniels brought up Mr. Stiell for items 10 and 11.

Justin Stiell, Senior Planner, came to the podium to address the two agenda items. He explained item 10 was a consideration request for approval of a 250-foot communication tower and for two deviations from setback requirements that are outlined in the code. He said the two items are being heard simultaneously because they are together. He said they were unable to meet all setbacks and they are requesting two setback deviations. He further explained the agenda items.

Chair Holt said regarding the first deviation from 375' to 250' of the cell tower, what side is that on? Mr. Stiell said that was in comparison to the height.

Chair Holt asked if they agreed to all conditions on option 1? Mr. Stiell stated yes. Chair Holt asked if there was any opposition from the public? Mr. Stiell said yes, primarily about the location to their homes. The potential for anything to collapse would be within the setbacks provided.

Commissioner Green asked if that was one of the major concerns for the citizens? What were the concerns? Mr. Stiell said they primarily did not want it near their homes, they were concerned about the fall, and the visual impact. Commissioner Green said they could not control the visual impact but were they ok with the possibility of the tower now? Mr. Stiell said there was one individual that has contacted continuously regarding the site being close to their hall. They will be at the meeting to make a presentation.

Commissioner NeSmith asked for the deviation regarding the various setbacks, what was the purpose of the deviation? Mr. Stiell said they did not have the space. The intent is to locate the tower as far away from high density as possible. They had to move to the southeast corner of the property but by doing that they could only reach less than the required setbacks. If they go any further they are encroaching more on other setbacks. Commissioner NeSmith asked where the closest towers were and Mr. Stiell said he did not have the location but it was more than 3 miles as required.

Mr. Stiell read the introduction of item 11. He said they were asking for property rights to be amended at the local level. Commissioner Holt asked how this would affect Item 10. Mr. Stiell explained it would have no impact on item 10 as these rights are federal and state recognized.

Mr. Knowles explained they were required to adopt this before the Comprehensive Plan changes. He further explained this has come before Planning and Zoning and before the Board as well. He said they were required to adopt this before making any additional comprehensive plan changes. The legislature decided this was something that needed to be done. Mr. Stiell explained to him it would pass with Planning and Zoning, pass with BOCC, then is submitted to DEO, they will send it back for formal and full ratification by this body.

Commissioner Viegbesie reminded the commissioners that had just gone through one tower of this nature at Potter Woodberry and Salem Road.

Mrs. Daniels came back before the Board regarding item 12. The ALS 360 Stryker Agreement is a contract with a company that replaces medical equipment. She also said it was already budgeted for it in this fiscal year.

Commissioner Green said based on a conversation he had with the Administrator, there will be an extra one provided in case they had one to go out on the ambulance.

Commissioner NeSmith said he also met with the County Administrator and was confused on the agreement. He asked if they were currently in an agreement? Ms. Daniels explained this was a new one. Commissioner NeSmith asked if we get equipment from it? Ms. Daniels explained yes and receive upgrades. It was a total package. Commissioner NeSmith asked if this was a standard agreement for this type of resources? Ms. Daniels said yes, in order to get the resources and without having to put out \$7-800k. Commissioner NeSmith asked when they initially entered the agreement? Chair Holt said it had been awhile, unsure of the date.

Mr. Knowles explained this was a new agreement; they were replacing old equipment with new technology.

Chair Holt said they could not afford to provide the equipment and upgrades, it was too expensive for small counties.

Commissioner NeSmith said regarding what they were receiving for the sums was there a list for everything we were getting? Ms. Daniels yes, it was in the agreement. She said the first year was prorated as we would not get equipment until the first year. Commissioner NeSmith asked why this agreement? Was this bided out? Ms. Daniels said this was a sole source.

Commissioner Green said these devices and equipment was high-tech and expensive. He added he hoped they did a price comparison and got the best numbers possible.

Chair Holt said she was concerned about the distance, ETA. They need the equipment for the chest compressions especially for the distance it takes to get to a health facility.

Ms. Daniels introduced item 13. She said each additional audit will be \$5000 each. Chair Holt asked if they were doing the normal audit for the departments?

Mr. Knowles said this is for single audits for federal funds and was supplemental. Chair Holt said we needed to get a full audit, we were overdue. If they were to do that, what would be the cost? Ms. Daniels said that would have to be calculated.

Commissioner Green asked if the \$5000 each come out of ARP or general funds? Ms. Daniels said it was allowable to use CARES Act funds because all restrictions have been met. It also was allowable from the ARP funding.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted clarification on the audits. Ms. Daniels said this was for 20/21 and additional work on CAREs and ARP. Commissioner NeSmith asked how long the contract was for with the other CPA firm? Ms. Daniels said she was unsure.

Ms. Daniels introduced item 14. She said there was a request for Probation for wireless panic buttons.

Ms. Daniels introduced the rest of the agenda items for the meeting at 6:00 PM and there was no discussion.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE WORKSHOP WAS
ADJOURNED AT 5:47 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk