

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 4, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 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 Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He said, for the record, Commissioner Green was in route.

Pastor Charles Morris appeared before the Board for the Invocation, then the Chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Item 5 and move it to 14b as it was not required to be a Public Hearing.

Commissioner Green appeared at 6:08 p.m.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

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

Th

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - October 23, 2021 Emergency Meeting**
 - November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting**
- 3. Approval for Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Tillman Road Cleaning Squad for Tillman Road**
- 4. Public Officials Bond Review**

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 noon on January 4, 2022. 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.

Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL 32351 appeared before the Board. He thanked them for the excellent job they did during 2021.

He asked the commissioners to observe the three C's:
Continue to show care for the citizens that they serve;
Commitment
Civility

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2022-001 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2022

Moved to 14b-did not require public hearing

6. Public Hearing-Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-015 Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, FL, Amending and Adopting Rules of Procedure and Decorum for the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

Mr. Dixon said this was the second reading of proposed Ordinance 2021-15 which would add to the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances certain provisions amending the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners' Rules of Procedures and Decorum.

Mr. Knowles said this was the second reading.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

Commissioner Hinson said Item 5 stated Commissioners should limit their comments to a maximum of six minutes per item. Chair Viegbesie said this was discussed during workshops with regards to time.

Mr. Knowles said his recollection was they would have a timekeeping mechanism and was what the Board agreed on.

There was further discussion regarding the amount of time each Commissioner would have to speak.

Chair Viegbesie said something he had observed, aides would be employees of the County. His concern was, nothing comes to the Commissioners without going through the Administrator. His question, if commissioners are granted the opportunity to have aides, if they're asked to do something for the commissioner, they would have to get permission from the administrator.

Commissioner Holt said that was not in this amendment and they should move on. All employees were under the Administrator.

Chair Viegbesie said his concern was not a part of this item right now, but how they could incorporate it in the future.

Commissioner NeSmith said this was a second reading and Mr. Knowles said yes. Commissioner NeSmith said he concurred with Commissioner Holt. He said that was a conversation for another time as they could come back and amend this in the future.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval to Confirm the County Building Official

Mr. Dixon said this was to confirm the appointment of Roosevelt Morris as the new Building Official, he was not new to the County as he has worked here in the past.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.

Chair Viegbesie welcomed him back home and looked forward to great things.

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

8. Approval to Confirm the Growth Management Director

Mr. Dixon said this was to confirm Mr. Justin Stiell as the Growth Management Director for the Planning and Zoning Department.

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

9. Approval to Award Bid No. 21-21 for Pest Control Services to Rudd's Pest Control

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for board approval to award Bid Number 21-21 to Rudd's Pest Control for County pest control services.

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

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any other bids and Mr. Dixon said there were no other bids submitted.

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

10. Approval to Lease One Type 1 2022 Chevy 3500 Frazer Ambulance

Mr. Dixon said this was for approval of a lease agreement between GCBOCC and Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of one type 1 Chevy 3500 HD Diesel Fraser Ambulance in the amount of \$218,447.00.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A QUESTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the lease payments would be about the same and Ms. Daniels said yes.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was a lease with option to purchase or asked was the payment going toward owning.

Commissioner Holt said in the contract they would give the option to buy but it did not mean it would have to be bought.

Mr. Knowles pointed out on page 3, this was a type of lease/purchase.

Mr. Dixon said this was as much a financing tool as it was anything else.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

11. Approval of the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Matching Grant for Emergency Services

Mr. Dixon said this was for approval of the Florida Dept of Health, County Matching Grant application for Emergency Services. Chief Hood was attempting to replace all vehicles and seeking grant funding for replacement of a quick response vehicle.

Commissioner Green asked if the \$25,000 was included in the budget and was told yes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

12. Approval of the East Gadsden Park at St. Hebron Bid Award No. 21-22

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board to award East Gadsden Park at St. Hebron bid number 21-22 to Kimmel Development Services for the construction of a basketball court. He said the fiscal impact would be \$61,396.40 and there was a \$50,000 FRDAP grant. The remaining \$11,396.40 would be funded from the Parks and Recreation budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A QUESTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was enough money left for the other four districts out of recreation. Mr. Dixon said he did not know right off but they were looking to enhance all of the parks.

Commissioner Green said in reference to the park, were people able to utilize the park as things were getting done?

Chair Viegbesie said he was directly involved and citizens have been using the park. The only thing they really want is a walking trail.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

13. Approval of the Johnson Controls Agreement for Suppression Gas Systems Test and Inspection-FM200 and Dry Sprinkler System

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board for approval of the Johnson Controls Agreement and Diagnostic Test for the Assessable Suppression Gas Systems in the Information Technology Server Room and the FM 200 Suppression Gas System in the Communications Center.

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

14. Appointment of Commissioner and Alternate to the Canvassing Board

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said they need to appoint a commissioner and an alternate to the Canvassing Board.

Commissioner Holt nominated Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Hinson refused.

Chair Viegbesie said he would like to nominate Commissioner NeSmith and Commissioner Green as the alternate.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND COMMISSIONER GREEN AS THE ALTERNATE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

14b Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2022-001 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2022

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2022-001 and for authorization for the Assistant County Administrator, Finance Director, and Senior Accountant to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary.

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

CLERK OF COURT

15. Updates

There were no updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

16. Updates

Mr. Dixon said the commissioners will be receiving a calendar for the next 3 months for activities. Also, they will be receiving documentation on how to plan to deal with aides and they could submit feedback.

Chair Viegbesie asked for an update of the roof to be able to allow citizens to come back in the building and the removal of asbestos.

Mr. Dixon said it was not a simple equation. They opened the wall to address the problem and were trying to slow roll it but as quickly as they could. It was not a simple process.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they had rescheduled the CARES Act and American Rescue workshop for the next meeting and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Chair Viegbesie said the NACO meeting would absorb the second meeting in February.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

17. Updates

Mr. Knowles thanked everyone for their prayers for the death in his family.

Mr. Dixon said they all know that Omicron was moving quickly through Gadsden County and they have met with the Health Department and were gearing up again. Gadsden County has one of the higher vaccination rates in the state however Omicron does not seem to care. There is a number of employees out now with Omicron and wanted to put everyone on notice it is as easily transmittable as they say it is. If there are any doubts, please get tested.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comment was, this County government does not have funds to require masks and vaccinations but was encouraging everyone to wear masks and get vaccinated.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she would like for the County to apply for a FRDAP grant for St. Johns Park, Robertsville park and Friendship park.

She asked the Administrator to look at older vehicles and ones that may need to be rotated out.

They need to look at funding for the renovation of the building.

She asked they consider a mandate for minimum salaries for Sheriff deputies and EMS personnel.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had a few things:

Speaking of Omicron, he had the opportunity to visit a dental office other day and they had a sign on the door to call a number and someone would assist them.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 7:01 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson continued and said they have less than 3 weeks to meet the contractual agreements or were they going to extend the contract with FCI. Mr. Dixon said based on what he could come up with, whether a special meeting or the next meeting, to show them where they were and they would get an opportunity to decide. He said he was going to meet with the attorney to see what the options are. Commissioner Hinson asked if they have met with FCI and he said no. Commissioner Hinson said they need to have special meeting because the deadline is February 1 to fulfill the contract. He thought the Board needed to fulfill the entire contract and buy the 25,000 hotspots, there was a need for them.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said he must reiterate, he thought it was going to be on the agenda. He said to the attorney he sent a letter about the contract between the Administrator and the Board. Chair Viegbesie said he would address that. There was an issue and the concern was removed because the Administrator tendered his resignation from the Health Council. It was his opinion there was nothing else to discuss. Commissioner Hinson said, as he has in the past, he wanted to make sure he was cleared. He said the County pays a percentage that goes to the Health Council and wanted to make sure it was cleared. He asked the attorney how it would affect the decision moving forward.

Mr. Knowles said to uncloak some concerns, the Administrator could provide a letter of resignation.

Chair Viegbesie said yes, the County Administrator has resolved the issue by resigning from the Board. It has been tendered but he did not know if the Health Council has met and approved it yet because they do not meet regularly.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the concern was a matter of ethics, the Board, as a body, cannot be sued with regards to ethics, only an individual could be sued with regards to ethics.

Commissioner Hinson said they could take money from a contractor but they have to recuse themselves in the future.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the County Administrator for meeting with him earlier.

He said when he met with the Administrator, he asked for and a list of workshops coming up because they have work to do. They need to find ways to enhance the budget.

He hoped everyone had an awesome holiday season.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green wished a Happy New Year to everyone. He said they have a lot of work to do but they could do it. He welcomed all new employees.

He thanked the Tillman Road Cleaning Squad for adopting Tillman Road.

He asked about the security of the building.

Mr. Dixon said they would be looking at the building this week or early next week. They will figure out security and ingress into the parking lot.

Commissioner Holt wanted to apologize to Commissioner Hinson for earlier. She said she was doing something and when she concentrates on something, she starts to hum.

She said they needed funding for events that they know will be regular events and money needed to be set aside for them.

Chair Viegbesie thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Dixon said staff met this morning to talk about Christmas in January and as of today, they were putting together a calendar of year-long events. It is going to be a herculean challenge.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make sure they put numbers on stuff.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said earlier when Bishop Green spoke and when Pastor Morris gave the Invocation, it looked like what they had in mind was what already had been put in his spirit two shares his comments today.

"Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success".

In this new year, borrowing the words of Martin Luther King Jr.

Commissioners, we have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of collaborative love and honest dedication into the veins of our county's growth and prosperity.

Note, "If everyone agrees on everything, then someone is unnecessary". So, I declare that it's okay to respectfully agree to disagree agreeably. "There is never a wrong time to do what is right".

General Powell once said that: "Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off" and "people should not let their egos to be so close to their position".

Commissioners let's KEEP PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS. BECAUSE, THE ONLY POLITICS THAT MATTERS IS THE POLITICS THAT GETS US TO A BETTER PLACE.

For the good of Gadsden County, Sen. Chris Coon of Delaware once said that "Politics is the art of he possible not the perfect".

Commissioners this is something to seriously consider.

Creating a: "Gadsden County Dept. of Economic Development, Restoration & Resilience.

Thank you and God bless Gadsden County".

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:33 p.m._and returned at 7:33 p.m.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:35 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk