

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 15, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, 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 6:04 p.m. and Pastor Matthew Creamer of New Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, appeared before the Board and gave the Invocation. Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U its. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Items 4, 5 and 16. He explained items four and five were annexations from the City of Quincy and the stakes have been made in need to be corrected. He Cid item 16 was not ready to be presented at this time and will be on the next agenda.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

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

Commissioner Hinson said item 16 was the Gadsden County Summer Youth program and he asked to present it and was not an Administrator decision, is was a commissioner decision and believed he was trying to take power from a Commissioner when a commissioner brings an item up to present to the board. He said he wanted to get in front of this so kids had adequate time. Chair Viegbesie said Mr. Dixon had said he was trying to work with the School District.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Dixon to work with Commissioner Hinson with what was submitted before and to make sure it was on the next agenda.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - September 15, 2021 Budget Workshop
 - October 19, 2021-Havana Community Development Corporation Workshop
 - November 2, 2021-BOCC Workshop
 - November 29, 2021-American Rescue Plan Program Workshop
 - January 18, 2022-American Rescue Plan Workshop
 - January 18, 2022-CARES Act Workshop
3. **Ratification of Proclamations**
 - Shakerria Allen
 - Sameriyah Bradwell
 - KeMari Cooper
 - Jarvis Rittman
4. ~~Quincy Annexation of Property located at Pat Thomas Parkway Parcel Number 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00230-0100~~
Item pulled
5. ~~Quincy Annexation of Property located at 1730 Pat Thomas Parkway Parcel Number 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00213-0400~~
Item pulled
6. **Approval of Resolution No. 2022-005 Amending the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan (Technical Revision) for FY(s) 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023**

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 March 15, 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.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. **Approval of Task Order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the Survey and Design of Spooner Road Resurfacing Project**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for a task order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the survey and design of Spooner Road resurfacing project.

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

8. Approval of a Task Order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the Survey and Design of CR 268 (Hardaway Highway) Resurfacing Project

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was four approval of a task order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc for the survey and design of CR 268 Hardaway Highway resurfacing project.

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

9. CR 161 Point Milligan Road Change Order Number One

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for change order number one for CR 161 Pt. Milligan Rd to add a guardrail for safety enhancements.

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

10. Potter Woodberry Road Change Order Number One

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of change order number one for Potter Woodberry Road to add the guardrail for safety enhancements. Because a guardrail was not included in the initial design, a proposed change order was drafted. The total cost of the guard roll installation will be \$24,200 and is anticipated that the County will be responsible for that amount which will come from the Public Works budget.

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

11. Approval of Cochran Road Supplemental Agreement and Change Order

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was a Supplemental Agreement, Change Order and Resolution for Cochran Road. Upon construction, it was determined that additional work needed to be done to add a guardrail and a change order was done. The Board approved the change order earlier, however, that change order needs to be nullified because of additional costs and staff is asking they approve a new change order in the amount of \$39,301 along with the Agreement and Resolution. (The amount quoted by Mr. Dixon was the amount of the previous Change Order. The correct amount of the Change Order should be \$41,376.00.)

Commissioner Holt asked if there was any fiscal impact to the County and Mr. Dixon stated no.

Justin Ford, Dewberry Engineering appeared before Board and said he wanted to back up to the previous two items. There were under runs on both projects and was unlikely that any money will have to come out of the County's pockets.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the reason why guardrails were missed and Mr. Ford explained on this project after some additional right of way was cleared it exposed a hole that was not exposed previously that needed to be protected.

Commissioner Holt said they did not want to sacrifice safety.

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

12. LAP Multi-Project CEI Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the updated agreement sent by DOT for the multi-project LAP projects.

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

13. Approval of the Mosquito Control Budget FY 2021-2022

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the mosquito control budget.

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

Commissioner Hinson said there was a strong mosquito presence in the County. He asked how to get in touch with them and Mr. Dixon said they could call 850-875-8672 and if the call is after hours, could leave a voicemail with their address and phone number. Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure people were aware that they have to call if they want to be sprayed. Commissioner Hinson asked what cities they could go into.

Curtis Young, Director of Operations with Public Works, appeared before the Board. He said they cover Midway, parts of Greensboro, Gretna and Chattahoochee. Commissioner Hinson asked about the Town of Havana and Mr. Young explained they have in Interlocal agreement with cities.

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

14. Approval of the Agreement with Siemens Industries to Provide Life Safety Measures at the Capital Regional Medical Center-Gadsden Campus

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an agreement with Siemens Industries to provide life safety measures at CRMC-Gadsden Campus. Eye Associates has requested that the County share half of the expenses for the needed fire safety measures in their leased area.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he knew someone who dealt with mental health and they were asking if they could use a part of that (hospital). Mr. Dixon said they would “fix” it up and bring to the Board for further direction. Mr. Dixon said mental health challenges were out there before and COVID did not help.

15. Community Development Block Grant-DR/EMS Quincy Site

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the EMS Quincy site and for an approval and execution of a contract with the Florida Department of Economic Development for renovations of the east side of the Gadsden County Health Department facility on Lassalle LaFall Drive. Gadsden County has received a Notice of Intent to award up to \$2,500,000 for the renovations of the facility.

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

16. Gadsden County Summer Youth Program

Item Pulled

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

Mr. Thomas said he would like to follow up on a couple of things from the last meeting. Mr. Dixon came to see him for the first time since being in office and talked a little about the Records Center. Mr. Thomas wanted to be on record to express to the Commission how important it was to have a Records Center. It is required that the County Commission provide to the Clerk a Records Center, however it was not just Clerk records and Court records, it housed County Commission records, Property Appraiser records, Tax Collector records and records of several of the Board’s departments that were there. There are also some historical records going back to 1800’s and other records that have great historical value. He said he understood they were interested in having green space and already have half the block that can be used for that. There are standards to a Records Center that the State has and one is it has to be able to withstand hurricanes and have climate control. He did not want there to be the impression they could tear down the old Records Center and throw the records in some warehouse somewhere. He said he would love to have a new Records Center with all the modern features but was not sure they were inclined to do that. He said they need to maintain a Records Center and if nothing else, improve it. The ventilation was bad, the HVAC system needs to be improved, there have been rodent droppings found and it could be made more aesthetically pleasing and upgraded. He explained what they currently have was an old correctional facility that still had a leaky roof and was a struggle to get the Board to fix the roof on it. He added that it was not one of those things that Boards usually think of as important, but he wanted to stress how important having that really was.

Commissioner Green asked if this was something the Clerk could include as an estimate to include in his budget. The Clerk said if they were doing repairs it was better to come from their Staff and was their staff’s responsibility to do that.

Mr. Dixon wanted to echo the Clerk’s sentiments and to the best of his recollection it has always been whether the County would upgrade the facility. He added he was sure they were piling

records in there and was certain the old jail was not the best place. The Clerk said it was not the best place but the only place. Mr. Dixon stated he did not mean to give the impression they wanted to push down the building just for green space.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Clerk would be amenable to a new building and he said sure. She said they could look into funding and might run across a grant.

Commissioner NeSmith asked who maintained the building and Mr. Thomas said a representative from the Clerk's Office was in charge of records and he explained. The Clerk is required to designate someone as a Records Management Liaison Officer to the Secretary of State's Office and that person is on his staff and coordinates with moving records in, making sure that when they go when they are labeled properly. He said some records are short-term retention and are able to be destroyed after a certain time and other records have a longer retention period.

The Clerk said he also wanted to follow up on another matter from the last meeting. He knew Mr. Dixon talked there might be money coming in from solicitations and all that has been provided to the Clerk's office has been \$1,000 from ticket sales. He did think it was problematic to solicit from vendors that does business with the County. He said he has an accounting from expenses thus far and have totaled around \$55,000. He wanted to be on record about the money part that no other money from ticket sales of \$1,000 has been provided to the Clerk. If there have been any other solicitations from vendors, which he felt was problematic, that money has not been provided to the clerk.

Commissioner Viegbesie said after that conversation at the last meeting the Administrator, the attorney and himself make sure everything was done so the County did not violate any solicitation laws so the decision was if they have received any funds from a vendor, it should be returned. He said a letter has been sent from the Administrator to the vendors and added they have not sent money and if they were planning on doing so, to please not. He said the County will return every check received from the solicitation.

Commissioner Hinson wanted clarification.

The Clerk said as custodian of County funds, if anyone received money on behalf of the County, the funds should be turned over to County Finance.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon said they all knew Legislature has shut down and gone home. As a group, they decided on a strategy that they would speak as one voice. They invited the communities to come in and present their information to present as one inclusive of the sheriff and for the first time in a long time Gadsden County spoke as a single voice.

Chair Viegbesie said he was going to wait until his comment but would go ahead and share. He commended Lawson and Associates because they worked very diligently on the County's behalf. They received approximately \$8.6 Million for local projects for the County; \$2,000,000 for expansion of land for a recreation center; \$4.6 million for Stevens School disaster shelter; \$1.7

million for Gadsden County school district for FCC emergency connectivity funds for broadband; Robert F. Munroe \$23,200 for connectivity; \$100,000 to Chattahoochee water system; \$435,000 to Gretna for water meter; \$750,000 to Neighborhood Medical in Havana; \$10,000 to emergency operations center; \$500,000 to Midway street lights; \$86,000 to Chattahoochee police station communications; \$720,000 to MK prevention program for Leon County and Gadsden County. There's also further money coming that has not been broken down as to how much goes to what. He said they were also getting \$10 Million for a Sheriff EOC building.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the majority of information and asked it be sent to them.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if \$10 Million for Sheriff EOC was separate from the County and Commissioner Holt and Chair Viegbesie said it was. He asked about a County Commission Building and Mr. Dixon said they did not miss the mark and should not be upset about what they do not have.

Commissioner Hinson said through his training over the years, one of the easiest things to apply for is a Courthouse.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how long he had been holding onto that information.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they heard updates in the Shade Meeting held earlier. When the Board is ready, they are ready for the heir property workshop.

Mr. Dixon said they will write up the prelim on that because they see it as part of the housing program.

Commissioner Holt said they need a workshop on how to write up deeds because it was being done incorrectly.

Commissioner Hinson said they need that. FAMU offered that years ago. He said they could not do a lot of homes in the SHIP program because of them being heir property.

Mr. Knowles said they have standard deed forms and could see if they could legally post them on the website.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt wanted to thank the lobbyists, senators, etc. as they did a good job. They may not have brought home what they wanted but brought home better than what they have been getting. They need to look at what the County needs in facilities. If they have an emergency and need to move people, they do not have a facility to move to.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with the President of TCC and he told him they already owned the TCC building.

Allan Meeks, Building Facilities Manager, said TCC did give the building to the Board last year.

Commissioner Hinson said he received a letter today from FCI. Mr. Knowles said he forwarded the email to them after receiving it. In glancing at it, this contract starts back out at square one, takes out many of the terms previously negotiated with regard to payment and small things like the venue would be in Leon County instead of Gadsden County. He said he had not had a chance to fully respond and asked the document be sent in Word so he could insert his comments and it would be up to the direction of the Board. Currently they have no contract with FCI. Commissioner Hinson said he would like to look at the language and bring this back in two weeks.

Commissioner Hinson said he has not received his Public Records request he previously made and would like it in email format.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Knowles said gave the information to Myron to put in format or link to get to him.

Commissioner Hinson asked them to think about this, they heard testimony of people with housing issues. Out of the ones that showed up, 3-4 had issues walking and need money for ramps. They used to have \$20,000 that went to each commissioner for emergency repairs.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:18 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked if he wished to schedule a workshop for that and he said yes, he wanted to schedule a workshop for emergency housing.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said they have already discussed many comments he was going to make. The Administrator already mentioned the monies received from the Legislature. He mentioned St. John's County received \$56,000,000 and Gadsden County received approximately \$19,000,000.

Mr. Dixon said it was not just the money thing, just have to keep working hard. Commissioner NeSmith asked in comparison to what they received last year, was it up or down and Mr. Dixon replied it was way up.

He said he was looking forward to the housing workshop.

He said Wakulla County has been on the news celebrating and next year Gadsden County turns 200 years. Mr. Dixon said it was on the radar. Commissioner NeSmith said they were in in month 4 and still have not established their goals and objections.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious, with workshops he knew Commissioners had to be present, was it mandatory that the attorney be present at workshops? Commissioner Holt said no. Commissioner Hinson said he could appear on Zoom so they would not have to pay him. Mr. Knowles said they do not charge portal to portal. Commissioner NeSmith asked if it was required for the attorney to present at workshops and Commissioner Holt and Chair Viegbesie said it was not required. Mr. Dixon said it was board rules. Chair Viegbesie and the Attorney Is present to make sure the path they are going is the path that would not be violating anything and he serves as parliamentarian. He added he would encourage the legal advice of what they could and could not legally do.

Commissioner Green said on point to the attorney not being there, they were not making policies and not voting at workshops, when presented at the public meeting, could it be presented then?

Commissioner Holt said since they were discussing things she asked for a workshop for, the attorney presence was not required, when they look at costs already occurred, they could have hired a full-time attorney. They need to look at what is in the contract from the law firm, what they had in the past and what they were willing to pay. They need to compare and the amounts are enormous for a small county.

Commissioner Hinson said they must keep in mind this was unprecedented times they have been in since Hurricane Michael and now with COVID. They could not compare the last five years to the past year or two.

Commissioner Holt said they could go to Walmart and want to buy something and not have enough money to buy, you adjust. She suggested they should be alerted when they were going over their budgeted amount for the attorney and they have not been.

Mr. Dixon said the FCI document came along with a document with Gadsden Senior Services today. He met today with them and they talked about the leadership the Board has shown and wanted to ask the Board to consider partnering with them.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a question on point, have the other senior centers received their funds and Mr. Dixon said he believed so.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green said it has been a great meeting and thanked the Administrator for working so hard. He had an opportunity to look at the accomplishments for the County earlier today.

Next Tuesday he will partner with the Sheriff's Office for a neighborhood watch program at Ingram's Marina and was trying to go through the entire district making people informed about the program.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR CECELIA MADRY, WHO HAS SERVED GADSDEN COUNTY FOR 32 YEARS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

He said they were in the moments of Spring Break and wanted to make sure all kids were safe.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie echoed the sentiments Commissioner Holt said. One thing he heard at the Capitol was the lack of dysfunctional confrontations coming from the Board and if they could continue the behavior of unity, they will be able to get more.

Commissioner Hinson said he was like him on that deal, when they go to the State Capitol, the County is a team.

Chair Viegbesie requested a Resolution of Accommodation for Robert Johnson, Jr. or Milton Thomas (the gentleman that waves on Highway 90). It was explained that Robert was the brother, but the gentleman that waves is Milton Thomas. Mr. Dixon said there was a motion made last week. The deputy clerk explained it was mentioned, a motion never made and it was never carried.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR MILTON THOMAS AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

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 7:48 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk