

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 19, 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
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Danielle Upton, Pastor, Centenary Methodist Church came forward and gave the Invocation and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon stated he had two amendments to the agenda and would like to add Item 8A-Approval of Task Order Number 2022-012 with The Integrity Group, Inc to Provide Professional Grant Management Services for the Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG-DR/EMS facility/Quincy Site Agreement M0026 and Item 11a-Approval of 2022 Congressional Priorities.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN

- 1. Ratification Memo**

- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - **November 16, 2021 Veteran’s Monument Workshop**
 - **March 15, 2022 – Affordable Housing Program Workshop**

- 3. Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for the Florida Leadership Academy Class 51**

- 4. Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for the purchase of Taser Cartridges**

5. **Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for the Purchase and Training on the Use of Drones**
6. **Approval of the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)-Access Certification Statement**
7. **Approval of the Gadsden County Community Development Block Citizen Participation Plan, Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan Updates**

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 18, 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.

Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson, 825 Virginia Street, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and spoke regarding April being Organ Donation Month. They are concentrating on getting people to register to be an Organ Donor as there are more than 5000 people waiting for lifesaving organ transplants in Florida. People can register online at www.donatelifeflorida.org/register or when completing their driver's license application.

Yvette Biddle for Agenda Item #11.

Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and wanted to thank the members of the Board that shared in and supported the Stevens School project. He said a check was received in the amount of \$4,669,171.00.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Update to the Personnel Policy Section 2-Employee Conduct

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was to update the Gadsden County Personnel Policy in order to comply with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008. He stated the Federal government requires it to be included.

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

8a Approval of Task Order # 2022-012 with The Integrity Group, Inc. to Provide Professional Grant Management Services for the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) CDBG-DR/EMS Facility/Quincy Site Agreement M0026

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of task order number 2022-012 with The Integrity Group, Inc to provide professional grant management services for the Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG-DR/EMS facility/Quincy site agreement M0026. He added they did expect to be reimbursed by the Grant.

Commissioner Holt had questions.

Commissioner Green asked if this was budgeted and was told yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the costs were \$125,000 and Mr. Dixon said it was a 3-year long grant and that is the cost over the 3 years. Commissioner Hinson asked if it had to be advertised. Mr. Dixon explained it was part of the task order of the master contract.

Commissioner Holt said they did this after the hurricane, will some be bid some out? Mr. Dixon replied yes. Commissioner Holt said they need to look at some of the contracts, some were taking too long. Mr. Dixon said they have looked at what they could pull out and do on their own and keeping it in-house.

Commissioner Hinson said with their Procurement Policy, he thought anything over \$25,000 had to be advertised and wanted to make sure they were in-line with what they should do.

Mr. Knowles said it was permitted because they were under contract already and this is a task order under that master agreement.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when the Board originally entered into the agreement with Integrity. Commissioner Holt said they were brought in because of Hurricane Michael and to help qualify for federal money.

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

9. Appointment of District 3 Planning Commission Member Replacement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said Commissioner Nesmith has appointed a replacement for one of the two District Planning Commission Members in his district.

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

10. COVID-19 Loss of Life Memorial

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to commence planning of the COVID-19 Loss of Life Memorial that will be located on the Gadsden County Courthouse lawn's southeast quadrant.

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

11. Figgers Communication, Inc. Updated and Revised Broadband Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said Commissioner Hinson asked this be added to the agenda.

Mr. Knowles said this was what they spoke about at the last meeting. Commissioner Hinson asked to see if they could work out a contract. There is no advance payment, the County will be purchasing 25,000 devices in one fell swoop or in schematics set up with FCI. When the devices are passed out they will be activated. Chair Viegbesie asked the fiscal impact and Mr. Knowles stated it would be up to \$1.765 Million and there may be associated costs with distribution and storage. Commissioner Hinson said that should be budgeted and Mr. Knowles pointed out he was unsure if storage was budgeted.

Attorney Williams, Levi Williams Law Group spoke via Zoom. He said they understood the needs of so many, saluted the commissioners and staff and that Resolution 2020-070 spelled out the need in the community for the students, safety, health and not every community was as forward thinking as Gadsden in trying to find solutions to this problem for Broadband access and it was a new arena of discrimination.

Yvette Biddle spoke and said she was excited because this was a great opportunity for the citizens, was free for the first month and then will be \$10.00/month thereafter.

Commissioner Green said he was excited about the three months of service and now they were going to one month and then hearing it would be \$10.00/month as opposed to \$32.00/month. He said this was on the table before he became a commissioner and if he had been part of the original group, would have asked for the need assessment to be done. He did not feel they have adequately equated to that number of 25,000. He wanted to make sure before they agreed to the 25,000 that there was a need for that many.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she brought up this issue was the Board told Commissioner Hinson he had the opportunity to bring this back and that was the only reason. If a Commissioner asks for something and they grant that to him, they should abide by what they say. She said she did not agree with the contract for several reasons; 1) the contract was offered from the 30 days was for it to be distributed to the School Board and the reason was because x number of children needed the device and x number children were given the device and they would know how many should be delivered and that was the point Commissioner Green was making for the needs assessment. What they did before was get them, bring them to the County and the County accepted those, then the Company was going to set them up at the homes. If they said they were going to purchase x number of devices, where do they deliver them to if the needs assessment has not been done. The other thing is the buyer is responsible for all loading costs and providing labor and equipment reasonably suited for receipt of the goods. She felt it was better to go through the School Board because they had a more captive audience. The children could take home the surveys and they can say if they wanted the device or not.

Commissioner NeSmith said he thought the Clerk had comments. He said just as everyone else he was just seeing this document and did not want to belabor this issue because his concerns were essentially the same as the Vice Chairman and Commissioner Holt. Once the devices were delivered, the County becomes responsible for payment of the amount received, not for service immediately.

Mr. Thomas said he needed to disagree on the advance payment issue being resolved. If they deliver 25,000, you pay for them and they will sit around under the Administrator's possession and may even rot because they do not know if there is a need for 25,000 and have no distribution system. With their discussion it has been made clear it is a problem and would not be in the hands of the citizens and the huge payment would be made. It becomes a huge waste of money, the biggest ever in the history of Gadsden County. Finance still has not received a W-9 from Figgers. He also pointed out the contract on the last page still has Figgers Communications with "s" and that is a dissolved corporation.

Commissioner Hinson interjected this was a typo.

Mr. Thomas continued and said the typo had huge implications, they could walk away with the money and County has no recourse. He said he wanted to go back to 2020; the pandemic starts, Congress passes the CARES Act and the goal is to get a lot of money out quick and had a lot of rules that were complicated, Gadsden County was awarded \$7.6 million; the money has to be spent by December 30, 2020; the County was unable to do that, they were able to spend \$4.5 Million by that date. The State allowed the County to remit payroll from EMS and law enforcement expenditures to be reimbursed. They receive the money after December 30, 2020 and have money now they were referring to as residual CARES money. He said they had talked before about this money being able to be used for any local government purpose and things local government could do with their money. He said during CARES, they were writing a lot of checks for things they normally would not write checks for because the money came from the Federal government. When looking at this now, they are dealing with a pot of money that is really local government money and when he looks at this contract and this program to provide 25,000 hotspots for one month, he did not see a local government program, did not see where the local government is authorized to spend; (the County) is not a telecommunications company, it is not permanent infrastructure, did not see how it was a legitimate local government expenditure, what he saw was waste and corruption. There is nothing to justify it. He asked they be conscious of the fact and have talked previously a little about campaigns and receiving campaign funds and that is fine even if there are multiple \$1,000 contributions but the point he wanted to make, they can receive campaign contributions but as a Commissioner, could not award a contract because they received those campaign contributions. That is what is illegal. He said he did not see anything to justify the contract. Because of all of this, there is a statute that says the Clerk **SHALL NOT** pay for anything that is an illegal charge to the county. Because of that statute what he is obligated to do and have to inform the board, he will not pay the contract if they vote for it. The County can sue, Figgers can sue, take him to Court and under the Court order, he would be bound to pay under those terms.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed with some of the Clerk's comments. Just as he cannot receive campaign donations and then award contracts under his position as a Constitutional officer, that is an accusation and should not be made in this meeting. They should be talking

about this contract. She added that \$1.7 million has been spent on a couple of roads that the Board did not approve since her history on the Board and that was not justified either. With the contract, she asked who typed it up. Mr. Knowles said they received it from FCI, he did see on the first page it said “Figgers Communications, Inc.” and corrected it. He did not see the “s” on the signature page and was something they could make a quick change to if the board was so inclined.

Chair Viegbesie said his comment with regard to this, with this particular item they have here, if they would recall, on March 31st when the original contract was extended, it became null and void. He asked the Administrator, if at the last commission meeting, they had an item where they approved for a substantial amount of broadband for the County? Mr. Dixon responded yes. He added the County just sent out a release from DEO where the government was willing to give to small Counties and the citizens needed to complete a household speed test of internet connectivity in their area and that would enable DEO to grant small and rural counties specific in Florida money for broadband. He added this contract concerns him. They already had a tremendous amount of money coming to this County for Broadband for the citizens and all they were asking is for the citizens to conduct a speed test that would enable them to qualify for more than one million dollars for the same thing, broadband.

Commissioner Hinson said personally, he disclosed he spoke with representatives from Figgers Communication, some may suggest too (speaking to Clerk) that sometime there is heartburn when people campaign against a person as well. He said because a person campaigned against you, some may suggest that someone such as him may have heartburn if someone contributed \$1,000 against him.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 6:56 p.m.

He said this was his first time seeing him “come out of the ballpark” because he was giving his opinion and normally he gives facts. He felt someone must have targeted him, and someone should look to see if someone donated against him, not sure if that was true or false and know it probably happened because he was a man of character would never go against a person that campaigned against him. He said he was talking with a lady in Gretna that had two kids that moved from Quincy to Sawdust; had to purchase hotspots for the children. If you look at the distance from the Gadsden County high school to Sawdust, he was willing to bet it was almost a 1-hour trip with stops. Two hours day is 2 hours out of any day they cannot do their work.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:00 p.m.

He said he voted for Motorola, he asked the Clerk for at a ballpark figure on what was spent, the Clerk said he was unsure of the figure but it was well over one million. Commissioner Hinson said they paid over \$2 Million, then said spent between \$2.5 - \$4 Million 5-6 years ago and had yet to use it.

The Clerk said the County agreed to enter into an agreement to provide equipment and communications for law enforcement, EMS and fire and it was a legitimate expenditure. The Board, as a body or staff, messed up that contract or said they could do certain things and turned out staff could not do what was said they could and made mistakes that caused things to not get done in a timely manner.

Commissioner Hinson said that was approximately six years ago and never did the Clerk say they could not pay for it. He added they were bold this year and purchased 3-4 EMS (ambulances) because they care about the people. He said they spent for Motorola almost \$3-4 Million just for Motorola but have hiccups.

The Clerk said there was nothing stopping their friends, Figgers Communication, from setting up a storefront or website selling their wares as any other communications company does. There is nothing saying Gadsden County with local government dollars should be obligated to spend \$1.765 Million on 25,000 units that will rot. Commissioner Hinson said he did not assume he was his enemy and hoped he didn't put money in his campaign and hoped it was not fixed. He then said he was going to look into it and check it out himself.

Commissioner Hinson said he heard the cry of Commissioner Green and the other board members. Commissioner Hinson said he went to the Clerk's Office but the Clerk was out of town. He said he would like, because of heartburn over this thing, would like it to be given directly to the County Administrator, the Attorney and the Chair and have them come up with a resolution. Commissioner Hinson said he was asking that all parties get together, the contract says up to 25,000. If that is the heartburn, he felt they need to look and everyone get together, including the Clerk and make this feasible.

Levi Williams spoke via Zoom. He said he appreciated the discussion. In response to some of the comments, the scrivener's error was his fault. The lack of high-speed internet hinders the ability for all school children to have access to educational opportunities and he read more from the Resolution. He said Figgers did do a test of the need in the community and found the need of 45,000 locations and also found businesses that have the need as well. The contract was initially put out to bid and the only response was Figgers for his hometown. He designed the opportunity for residents. There is nowhere in the contract for \$10.00 a month but citizens can continue use of the device at \$32.00 a month if they wanted to continue. They felt the product, service and price given would be an incredible benefit to the community and felt it was hard to beat this opportunity.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO SPEAK WITH FIGGERS COMMUNICATION AND FIND A HAPPY MEDIAN AND TO SATISFY OTHER CONCERNS THE CLERK HAD REGARDING THE W-9. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

11a. 2022 Congressional Priorities

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and apologized for the delay in getting information to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:22 p.m.

He said also enclosed was a request from the City of Gretna regarding their wastewater expansion and two requests from the City of Midway regarding their sewer projects. They also asked the Congressman for an access road that would give Orion's Point and Rustling Pines another egress.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:24 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said looking forward this creates an opportunity to get the neighborhood to County Road 268.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Holt asked the presentation be made.

Dr. Henry Grant appeared before Board speaking about the projects in Midway. He said one is the septic to sewer project and the other is the Midway Access Road Project. The Administrator had briefly summarized what the projects were. The septic to sewer is the city's first step in connecting the large subdivisions to existing sewer system in Midway. The other project will help this neighborhood out in case of a disaster. There is currently only one way to egress from the neighborhood. They were trying to eliminate an environmental impact on this road and trying to connect with County Road 268.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had heard about these two major issues. He asked the number of houses in Midway and Dr. Grant said approximately 120 houses were involved and a substantial amount more that would be developed. He asked if \$2Million would complete the connection project and Dr. Grant said yes.

Antonio Jefferson, City Manager for the Town of Gretna, appeared before the Board. He thanked Mr. Dixon for advancing this request. Over the last several years there has been an aggressive effort to expand water and wastewater services to the I-10 and Highway 12 exchange. They currently serve the northwest and the north east corners of the exchange and while the southwest and south east corners have water they do not have sewer service. There is \$650,000 to extend the sewer line from the entrance to Creek Entertainment in Gretna under the interstate to the southwest corner of the exchange. There are also some modifications of the wastewater treatment plant to expand treatment capacity; a request to build a lift station at the southwest corner; increasing the main that runs along Dewey Johnson Way and the total budget is a little over \$4 Million. The City just completed a feasibility study that believes it conducive for commercial development.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the total amount and Mr. Jefferson replied it was \$4,300,980.75. Commissioner NeSmith asked during time the Representative was here, was he aware of projects and he responded yes.

Commissioner Holt said they met at the City of Gretna and went over several projects and must say they are working on Dewey Johnson Way replacing lines every other day. For economic development at the I-10 exchanges, the County invested in sewer going that way to help out.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE STATED THERE WAS A MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND (CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND EARLIER FOR DISCUSSION). THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

CLERK OF COURT

12. Updates

The Clerk wanted to mention what he mentioned little over a year ago about the budget. They will soon be working on it and there were some problems last year with posting and advertising. He wanted to mention one practice that seems to be becoming routine, he mentioned it in the '21 budget and it seems to be happening in the '22 budget as well and that is a budgeted transfer from FEMA funds to the General Fund of \$1.3 million. He thought it was a bad practice; the transfer is not complete, it shows General Fund receiving \$1.3 Million but does not show anything in FEMA fund. It has to reflect in the Financial Statement. In the 2021 budget, they actually received \$560,000 from FEMA and he sent a memo about that and revenue bounced back really good. He thought that is a practice they should not continue to use those funds to balance.

Commissioner Holt asked if he was saying they were budgeting money from FEMA and should not be. The Clerk said that is what they have done for two years in a row. FEMA is unpredictable and it is not a good practice to balance based on that. He said when they enter into grants, most are reimbursable and have to spend up front before getting money and why it was important to have a fund balance to use until getting reimbursed from grants. He said the effect of that is they eat into the fund balance and was why he said it was like appropriating fund balance without saying they were appropriating fund balance.

Commissioner Holt asked about the money the Sheriff received and he gave raises, when the next year comes, there is no money to pay salaries next year... Clerk said then he has to request more money and they will have to figure out how to... Commissioner Holt said this why she usually said not to give salary increases, to give bonuses instead.

Commissioner NeSmith said his question was answered.

Commissioner Green asked if contact has been made with FEMA recently as to when money will be coming down. Mr. Dixon said to the Clerk's point and his, there are a lot of bad budgeting practices being used, the Clerk is right, that is bad budget practice. Like this grant, they will not create a budget until they receive the money in hand. It will be sent when they want to.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13. Updates

Mr. Dixon said the Managers of Midway and Gretna were here and he has been meeting with other managers in the County. The idea is to understand they are partners and in this together. The expansion of the Gretna sewer is an expansion for the County.

He wanted to make sure everyone knows that "Our Florida" is out there. They have been given a treasure trove of money to help pay rent through Children and Family.

Commissioner Green said it was available on line and on Sunday, May 1st at New Life Ministry, he has taken the initiative to partner with "Our Florida" and will have representatives on site from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they could put the date in the newspapers.

Commissioner Green said hopefully by Thursday they will have a circular.

Mr. Dixon said additionally, on the dais was a listing of workshops, for the Commissioners to please complete and get it back to staff to schedule workshops.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

14. Updates

Mr. Knowles said he has a Memorandum regarding the Solicitation issue for review and for the record he did not bill for it.

A quick update, the Derrick Elias case was dismissed on Summary Judgment and has been resolved in the County's favor.

Commissioner Holt said she was waiting on Attorney Taylor and will be making a comment on her behalf and will not be speaking on behalf of the Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

15. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for the Stevens School presentation. They were able to get more funding than was requested. She said they were told we were the only ones that asked for a COVID shelter.

She went to the rally at the Capitol to voice her opinion about the redistricting. She added they should have the opportunity to say what district they wanted to be in.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked Midway for working hard over the years with City Council as well as the Administrator and Staff. They were able to get \$2.2 Million to expand the Lamb Recreation Center. He also thanked Congressman Lawson, he showed up and showed out. He thanked the City of Gretna for looking out for their residents as well. He then thanked the residents as it has been a tough two years for the County.

He said they need to focus on the interstate exchanges. Tallahassee is bringing in a lot of different corporations into our area. He thought they need to put emphasis in infrastructure. He asked if the County was still committed to GCDC and was told yes. He said he would like them to come talk about economic development and how to meet challenges.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Commissioner Hinson and said when he hears the word "infrastructure" they think of economic development and that is what is needed.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:08 p.m.

He said they need more projects, the more the better.

He sent out birthday wishes to Ms. Aretha Bellamy from the Chattahoochee area and said she was an unsung “shero”.

He said he missed the recent Guardian Graduation but heard about the “shero” efforts of Officer Deandra ReShawn McNealy during a West Gadsden Middle School event, she observed suspicious activity in a hallway that should not have been occupied. Upon further investigation, she confronted multiple students involved in criminal misconduct and found one to be in possession of a loaded 9mm pistol. Her alertness, attention to detail and dedication to her duties as a school Guardian possibly thwarted yet another school shooting or possibly another senseless death.

Commissioner Hinson said he was also at that meeting.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF ACCOMMODATION TO OFFICER MCNEALY.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:11 PM

Commissioner NeSmith said the Electronic message board was awesome and an excellent messaging tool. He said he will be recommending some version of it as they move into the budget year so they can continue to honor all the great work done in the County.

One of their Black History Program honorees, Someria Bradwell, participated in the 4x400 relay in Gainesville at the University of Florida and set a new University of Central Florida record at the University of Florida track meet.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green said on behalf of the Gadsden County Dispatchers, they thanked them for the Resolution that was sent and said it was a well-deserved event. He thanked them for the blue and green lights illuminating the Courthouse in honor of Donate Life month and encouraged people to consider becoming an organ donor.

He thanked the Administrator for bringing up “Our Florida” that will be at New Life Ministries on May 1st from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm to assist people that may need assistance with utility bills or rent.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for a great job for the presentation and said there was one person not there and that was Arrie Battle.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO ARRIE BATTLE WITH COMMISSIONER GREEN MAKING THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to recognize Friends of Stevens as well, also Ms. Maggie King, who was the oldest teacher who taught at the school.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie asked for a Proclamation for Willie Scott.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR WILLIE SCOTT.

He added that when he heard the news about the money for Stevens School, he was very elated. With the tenacity of Commissioner Holt and Friends of Stevens working with Congressman Al Lawson, they are able to bring a very much needed facility to the County. He also thanked staff for doing a wonderful presentation.

He thanked the municipalities for agreeing to understand that Gadsden County is not Gadsden County without the municipalities and the municipalities are not a municipality without Gadsden County. He said collaborative efforts lead to progress.

He thanked Public Works for the beginning of the mowing of public roads.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VEIGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:23 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk