

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 7, 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
 Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., asked Pastor Mark Moore to give the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon said he would like to add Item 19a Approval of Concert in Chattahoochee; 19b Request to Amend Holiday Schedule and pull Item 18 Approval of Revisions to the County’s Procurement Policy and schedule it for a workshop.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Presentation Regarding the National Healthcare Conference for the Homeless**
Pat Smith of Pat’s Pantry made a presentation regarding the above conference.

Commissioner Green thanked her for all her hard work. He said they had a conversation several months ago regarding homelessness and would love to sit with her and discuss further.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they needed some type of infrastructure that the County could play a part in helping with. This was the first time in the history of the County, the County has resources and could do something. Money could come from a bond and they also have the Stevens School building.

Chair Viegbesie said whatever could be done for this cause was something that needed to be done.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND MADE SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the attorney had looked at all the items and was told yes.

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

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **November 29, 2021 Special Meeting**
 - **May 3, 2022 – Regular Meeting**
4. **Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund for Training to Attend the Avalon’s August Schools on Civil Process 2022**
5. **Public Officials Bond Review**
6. **Approval of Satisfaction of Special Assessment Liens**
7. **Approval of I.F.W. Security, LLC Transition of Management and Ownership to Isaac Security, LLC**
8. **Approval of the Amendment of the 2021-2026 Mutual Aid Operations Plan between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, and Gadsden County Fire Service**
9. **Approval of the 2023 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

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 June 7, 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.

Darrin Taylor, Esq., 215 N. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL Item 13

Brian P. Schreiber, Item 13

Michael A. Long, 94 Houston Road, Introduction/Project appeared before the Board. He said he has a passion for the County. In the Hardaway community, he would like to build a 55+ community of shipping container homes.

Gary Murray, 481 Woodberry Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board regarding Woodberry Road. He said he has lived in Gadsden County all his life, was a veteran and was a spokesperson for the road. He said the road was in very bad shape and have petitions and have

had surveys done and nothing has happened. He paid \$90 last month to have the road scraped and it has not been scraped yet. He asked the status and what more could he do to have the road adopted by the County. The road had been in terrible shape for 20+ years. He said people have their signs up wanting to be elected and not doing anything for the people on this road. Attached is the document that was given to the Commissioners by Mr. Murray.

“Hello On this evening I bring you greetings as a spokesperson for Woodbury Rd. I am Gary Murray, a long time fighter for the fixation of this road for over 20 years. I am humbly asking for your undivided attention today as we take heed as to how important it is that we fix this road in a timely madder in order to provide better living conditions for our citizens, me being gone myself. I feel that we should be given the right to have Woodbury Rd fixed properly without having to take any further steps.

Bullets Points

- This road is long overdue for fixation. It has been over 20 years that I and others have been humbly asking that we get a solution to this problem. We have asked elected officers several times and nothing has been done.
- We have children who are hindered from having playing time or even being able to play in a safe environment without parents being afraid that they may be hurt from uneven ground and roads.
- We have elected several officials on this panel for this county seat in hopes that we could possibly get something accomplished, however, we have become more and more disappointed the more we elect because none of the officials find this situation to be as important as it is
- There should be guidelines set in place for any upcoming official that holds this seat to have Woodbury Rd listed as one of the top roads to be fixed.
- Officials should set aside a day to go out and look, walk, or even ride the street of Woodbury Rd to understand how deep this concern has become and why it is so important to take action on this problem.
- I have served this country and fought for the rights of this for several years. I am now a Longtime Veteran for the U.S. Marine Corp. I was not afforded the opportunity to choose if I wanted to serve or not. Therefore, as officials you all should not be able to choose which problems you want to handle.
- I left to serve my country and I come back and I am not given the opportunity to have my road fix in order to provide better living and driving conditions for me as well as other citizens
- We have had to repair several equipment and vehicles due to the fact that the conditions of the road are so terrible.
- Officials are not thinking of all other elderly individuals who struggle to leave and come home everyday, trying not to damage their cars on Woodbury Rd At this point we have to come up with a solution and stop looking over that’s at hand.”

Commissioner Holt said she has been working on this for a long time and has paid for the road to be scraped 4 different times. She explained the procedure. Mr. Murray said with all due respect, they have been working on this road for over 20 years and nothing has been done. Commissioner Holt said the process has not been that long.

Mr. Dixon said those names have been given to the attorney so they can sign off on one of the steps of the process.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Public Hearing: Second Public Hearing for Public Comments and Input as Required for Grant Application Submittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Ms. Daniels stepped in for Mr. Dixon and introduced the above item.

Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and said this was the second required public hearing and asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak regarding this matter either in favor or opposition and there was no-one.

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

11. Public Hearing: Legislative-Havana RV Park Special Exception Use (SE 2022-01)

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Special Exception Use for Recreational Vehicle Park.

Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and explained.

Chair Viegbesie announced it was a public hearing and asked any comments, there was none.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was any heartburn on approving this.

Commissioner Green said his antenna went up when it was stated there were issues that needed to be worked out.

Mr. Stiell said in part of their review, they look at everything and have not identified square footage of the camp site and are required to have 1500 square feet, the width of the campsite is required to be 30 feet and the campsite setbacks are required to be 20 feet. Once they provide the surveyed site plan, these issues will be worked out.

Mr. Stiell explained the options the Commissioners could vote on.

Commissioner Hinson asked why a sewer system and Mr. Stiell explained. Mr. Knowles also explained the site plan would come back to the board for approval.

Commissioner NeSmith had questions regarding the options, they can approve the park but was not approving the project and was told yes. Mr. Stiell said before they spend money for an engineer, they want to make sure the Board was willing to approve.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

12. Public Hearing: Legislative- Pat's Grocery Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2021-03)

Chair Viegbesie explained the Patel's were clients of Mr. Knowles and he needed to recuse himself and Opal McKinney-Williams was appearing as Assistant County Attorney via Zoom.

Commissioner Holt asked if the same process was followed for the Planning Meeting and was told yes.

Mr. Stiell explained the above item and stated this is to bring the convenience store into Rural Residential conformity and then they could make upgrades to the store.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments.

Commissioner Holt said this was contested during Planning and Zoning. Mr. Stiell said there was one person that came that had opposition to this. Commissioner Holt said Planning voted to deny this item. Mr. Stiell said the one person was concerned this might become an arcade site and since then have been informed by applicant and their agent that would not be happening, this was to make the site conforming to future land use category.

Commissioner Green asked the impact this would have on a rural community.

Commissioner Hinson echoed what was said earlier and looked at the recommendation of Planning being 0-7. He said he was interested if this could be sent back to Planning and have them review again as he was not comfortable voting on it.

Commissioner NeSmith echoed the previous comments and have the same concerns.

Mr. Stiell said the commissioners heard the possibility of a gaming arcade being added and could not identify the future of the site. Since that time, the applicant and agent have stated this would remain a convenience store and the gaming was never an issue that he was made aware of.

Commissioner Green asked, if possible, for this to go back to Planning so it could be better explained to them? Has that Board been informed this would not be an arcade? He added that he has seen convenience stores with arcades in them and would hate to see this happen.

Mr. Dixon returned to the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Mr. Stiell explained the options, if they give direction to send back to Planning, that is what would happen. Commissioner Holt said if arcades were a concern, that was no concern because arcades were illegal in the State of Florida.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Attorney McKinney-Williams if it was legally permissible for this to go back to Planning, she said yes.

Chair Viegbesie said he was told one reason for this change was because Dollar General was coming next door. He said he had no problem in moving this forward.

Mr. Dixon said he hit on the point he was going to make. By not allowing the zoning, it would not allow them to do better and compete.

Commissioner Holt said the Administrator said what she was going to say. This will be a store, it was what it was. If it is non-conforming, he could not fix up the store.

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking at the scenario, it was a rural area, people have invested in their property and this could impact citizens and their property.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had representatives here and was told yes.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to be as clear as he could, the arcade comment came from somewhere and was glad they were here for clarification and he wanted assurance.

Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental & Land Services, Inc., 221-4 Delta Court, Tallahassee, FL 32303 appeared before the Board. She gave the history on the project; the store was built in 1944; and was present before there were any neighbors in the area. If the land-use is not changed, there will be no major improvements and would be a detriment to the business owners.

Commissioner Green thanked her for the clarity and as a business owner would not want to prohibit any improvements and felt a little less tense now.

Ms. Peppers said as far as the notice to property owners, they began the process approximately one year ago. The applicant had to join and separate property to obtain the size needed. She said there was a lot of notification.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the rebuttal and Mr. Stiell said he did not believe there was a chance for rebuttal at the Planning meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked the intent of the owners. Mr. Stiell said they want to move to commercial use, it currently is not zoned that way.

Mr. Dixon explained his understanding was if they were zoned, they would be neighborhood commercial and a store just as what they just approved down the street and they would continue in that same vein unless they said differently. Mr. Still said they are rural residential and public institutional and that does not allow for a convenience store. They are wanting to move to a commercial use that would allow them to make improvements.

Commissioner Hinson said if they want to expand their services, he moved they approve the item.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt said in order for him to improve his property, he needs it to be moved to commercial. He is commercial and was open every day. Mr. Dixon said his activities were commercial. She also said if there were any questions on his intent, he was present and could answer them.

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

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:47 p.m.

13. Public Hearing: Quasi-Judicial-Midway Business Park (DA 2021-01) consideration of Ordinance 2021-012 amending the Gadsden Station Development of Regional Impact and approval of the Midway Business Park Development Agreement consistent with Chapter 163 Florida Statutes

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the board to consider Ordinance 2021-012 to remove the Anderson Columbia Property from the Gadsden Station Development of Regional Impact and to improve the Midway Business Park Development Agreement between Gadsden County and the developer, Anderson Columbia.

Mr. Stiell appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He explained the item. The DRI has been around since the late 80's. The Developer was looking to remove the DRI but maintain development of the property.

Vice-Chair Green announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any public comments.

Darrin Taylor, Carlton Fields, P.A., 215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 500, Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board and was sworn in. He explained what they were doing. He said the infrastructure was all in place and was now shovel-ready. He said they have 33 plotted lots available and were not asking for any more development, they were asking to cap.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:55 p.m.

He said they were not asking to reduce any obligations, they were trying to simplify the process that would apply to the park. He said they have before them two agenda items, the DRI amendment that would remove the Anderson property from the DRI Order and seeking a 163 Agreement, a type of agreement that is established in State Statutes Chapter 163.

Commissioner Hinson asked the pros and cons of the DRI.

Mr. Stiell said the DRI process was established prior to comp planning. They now have another guiding plan for development growth. The State no longer requires a DRI, it is creating confusion for shovel-ready projects and by removing Anderson Columbia from the DRI, they can say they have a development agreement and could go forward.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had the information in their packet regarding the history. He asked the attorney the pros and cons.

Mr. Knowles said Midway has annexed a majority of the property and the majority of the property owners that have been annexed are not subjected to the DRI because they are within a municipality and the County does not control that. He said this was more of an ease of use thing.

Commissioner Hinson said it was conflicting because GCDC brought this to them.

Mr. Dixon said then it was development regional impact and the DRI gave a single way for everyone to operate. Since then, the State has done away with the DRI in terms to govern this project.

Chair Viegbesie said his issue was to make it clearer, the parcel being considered was in County jurisdiction and was told correct.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if would enhance ability for development and was told yes.

Commissioner Holt said everything would come out on Brickyard Road and wanted to make sure the road could handle the traffic that would be coming. They need development and need to make sure traffic moves smoothly.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Approval of Resolution 2022-015; Leveraging of SHIP Funds for CDBG Application and Resolution 2022-016; Chairman or Designee Signature Authorization

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval to dedicate \$50,000 of SHIP funds to be used as leverage in the Gadsden County Small Cities FY 2021-2022 CDBG grant application.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND 2 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15. Massey Building Lease 4845 Amendment One

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the board for the approval of amendment number one to lease number 4845 with the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida. The lease amendment will allow North Florida Health Corporation and the Senior Citizens to utilize the Massey building located in Chattahoochee, Florida

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

Commissioner Hinson asked what changes were made. Mr. Dixon explained there were no real changes made, there were staff changes at the State and the new staff required documents to be redone.

Mr. Knowles explained the amendment allowed the sublease of the property.

Commissioner Hinson asked the changes to the lease and Mr. Knowles explained.

Commissioner Holt said that space was County space and did not belong to anyone.

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

16. Approval of the USDA Lease Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of a lease amendment with the United States Department of Agriculture for the facility located on the west side of the livestock pavilion.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the services provided changed? Mr. Dixon explained in the previous agreement, it did not provide full custodian services. This agreement considers half the salary for a custodian, part of Mr. Meeks salary, have included costs for AC repairs, utilities, etc. He said it went to the Board in 2021 when Dr. Grant was Interim County Administrator and there is a breakdown of the costs attached.

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

17. Johnson Controls Proposal and Service Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board to approve Johnson Controls proposal and service agreement for repairs to the Pre-Action Fire Suppression System in the W. A. Woodham building.

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

18. Approval of Revisions to the County's Procurement Policy

Item pulled

19. Approval of the Cochran Road Professional Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to execute the SCOP agreement for the Cochran Road widening and resurfacing.

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

19a Approval of Billy Dean/Dean & Company, Inc. Contract/ Weather Works Insurance, Indemnification Agreement, Rhema Sounds Agreement and other Contingencies for the 4th of July Event in Chattahoochee, FL

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. The county has agreed to become full partners with Chattahoochee and expect a great crowd. It is Chattahoochee's program and they have agreed to partner with them. They feel it is a great opportunity to showcase Gadsden County.

Commissioner Green felt this was a great opportunity. He said Greensboro was also doing fireworks, was not sure what other municipalities were doing, and he was in support of this. He asked if this was something that can be moved around on a yearly basis so the County can come together collectively and not have everyone doing their own thing.

Commissioner Hinson felt personally this was a wonderful idea. His concern was the \$47,854.99. He said just imagine putting this into housing or furnishing someone a ramp. They could use this money and give each commissioner \$10,000 to fix needed houses. He said Chattahoochee will be just fine and has funding to take care of themselves and would have this if the County helped or not.

Chair Viegbesie said his only concern was this could be packaged as a Gadsden County 4th of July celebration and move it to different areas over the years and increase tourism. Make it a Gadsden County event and this year they were partnering with Chattahoochee, next year Quincy, the following year Havana, etc.

Commissioner NeSmith said they have had in-depth discussions on that issue and have emphasized “One Gadsden” and have recognized all municipalities have identities and when they partner with them, it would enhance those municipalities. He asked if he was correct that support will go from city to city.

Commissioner Holt said she was looking at economic development a little differently. They will need to partner with towns and she was looking at long-term. She felt they need to budget for what Commissioner Hinson mentioned. They need to vote as the 4th of July is next month, if they are doing this, they need to go ahead and do so. If they were rotating, she thought fireworks look better on the water. They need to do this in order to bring in tourists and also, they need to encourage vendors.

Commissioner Green said he agreed with everything said but would like the Administrator to give an explanation on some of the projects coming in reference to housing and what they were working towards. He did not want it to be misleading they were spending money on an event and not investing it to the citizens. He said they have things in place that will solidify that will help and assist people in getting roofs done, etc.

Mr. Dixon said they had a Town Hall (meeting) at New Direction last night. Housing was a particular choice and Sonya Burns, the Housing Director and Mr. Stiell laid out plans and goals for housing. They invested tonight \$50,000 so they could draw down ¾ Million dollars on how to get ramps, emergency repairs and have not put limits in regards to those numbers. They also are meeting needs in reference to contractors working.

Commissioner Hinson said they did a great job in the past. Each commissioner received \$1.7 Million in the past to resurface roads. They have houses that need to be fixed today.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:48 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not think they were prioritizing. Last year Chattahoochee wanted a fire truck for \$150,000, they did not give them the fire truck and now were giving them \$47,000.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:49 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith said regarding vendors, there will be vendors and will be local vendors at the event. The more successful the program is, the more successful it will be for the vendors.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

19b Approval to Amend the 2022 Holiday Schedule

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said they had scheduled Friday to observe the holiday Juneteenth, and wanted to amend the holiday schedule and change it to Monday to be in line with other businesses.

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

CLERK OF COURT

20. Updates

None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. Updates

Mr. Dixon requested a Proclamation for Probation.

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

Mr. Dixon said the Keys to New Home tour will be Wednesday at 9:15; on Saturday, June 11th will have a Housing Program Home Ownership Fair; on Saturday, June 18th will have the Gadsden County Annual Hurricane Preparedness Health and Safety Fair at the Wal-Mart parking lot;

Chair Viegbesie said in the month of July, they approved cancellation of meetings due to conference trips that conflict with meetings. Now, none are of issue and since they have so much to do, requested they reinstate meetings for the month of July, on July 6th and July 19th.

Commissioner Hinson said it was not about them, but gives staff a chance to spend time with family for the summer. Chair Viegbesie said he heard and looked at August and that is election month. He said there was a second meeting in June and they could discuss then.

Commissioner Green said he felt they needed to decide tonight so could make preparation if there was going to be a meeting. He asked if the Administrator could speak on behalf of the impact on staff.

Mr. Dixon said it was important to staff and he asked for this last year because they have a routine and that does not change. It gives them an opportunity to power-down, not only the

meeting but to get things done without adding a meeting. He said it does allow top staff time to be away when there are no meetings scheduled.

Chair Viegbesie said they are the ones that deal directly with the citizens and will address this in the policy workshop in August.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they have a letter received regarding the Breach of Broadband Agreement and wanted to make them aware of potential litigation.

He said they will have a probate meeting Saturday that starts in Chambers and moves to Courthouse regarding heir property.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

23. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked when have County meetings, to please brief the Commissioner from that district with minutes and when a briefing of the concerns from that area so they were not unaware of the questions. She said regarding Mr. Murray that spoke earlier, no matter how much you wanted to help someone, you could not break the law. She added that 1/3 – 2/3 law is good law and was torn apart when it was used in a community where commissioners on the previous Board decided they did not have to follow the rules. If you have a group of workers on private property doing work, anyone could call and someone is going to jail. She said it was a third-degree felony and citizens don't understand. She said this must be done legally.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said COVID is real and is back. He encouraged the community to not take this lightly.

He said he received a letter where a citizen expressed frustration in locating property to purchase a home in Gadsden County that had high-speed internet available. They said they needed an area that supported VPN and there were only a select few neighborhoods that had that high-speed connection and even the hotspots would not work for what was needed by them.

He asked the Administrator to expound on the County funds received from the State and would like the community to hear about it.

Mr. Dixon said what that was, the Government funding of the CDBG-DR grant that was requested. The first was with the City of Quincy for \$23,000 to replace a failing by-pass pump with a new permanent one. He said under the CDBG-CV program through DEO, the County was awarded \$1.777 Million to refurbish Stevens School Shelter. The cities had requested and received as follows:

- The City of Gretna received \$504,000 for road and utility improvements and preparation of construction of a new facility that will create 14 jobs;
- The City of Chattahoochee \$3.7 Million to help rehabilitate an existing former school building for use as a Senior Center;
- \$2.2 Million for the City of Gretna to expand the City’s Community Center to allow for the provision of public health services;
- \$600,000 to the City of Midway to construct an education center with ADA compliant bathrooms, 5 station shooting stand, automated clay throwing equipment and a fire station small bore rifle range. He added that was not to the City of Midway but to a business within the City of Midway.

Commissioner Green asked that he email a copy of that list to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson clarified that was for the cities that applied for it and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said he was approached by a family member from Figgers Foundation and they talked about all the things done to support the citizens of the County. He asked to do a Proclamation for Figgers Foundation.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR FREDDIE FIGGERS AND FIGGERS FOUNDATION.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said he received an accommodation with regards to the County Administrator this morning and read it aloud regarding animal control.

He said they have been informed they have their first workshop regarding economic development that is being scheduled and it was very important.

He said they use word “Proclamation” for everything and other cities use different titles, such as Certificate of Recognition, Honorarium, a multitude of different ways to recognize achievements in the community. He asked they direct the administrator to come up with the appropriate terminology for the different recognitions.

He said this is Kidney Awareness Week.

He mentioned the Love Where You Live campaign and is a goal they have adopted. He wanted to make sure the County partners with the State of Florida and wanted to make sure State property is properly maintained and mowed.

He said generally, people have to watch Tallahassee news stations to get local news and asked why we did not have our own local new station in the County?

He said he met with the Administrator earlier and covered a number of topics.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked Mr. Dixon, Mr. Stiell and Ms. Burns for a productive town hall meeting yesterday. He also thanked Public Works for grass being cut in his district.

He said he would like to have the rules and regulations on abandoned houses because he had a couple of situations within his district.

One thing that grasped his attention tonight was the notification process when having public hearings. He would like to find a more transparent way to get notifications out.

Lights at Park

He said he received calls in reference to the park in Shiloh. He said he knew there were no lights because the park is opened from dusk to dawn but if there were lights, it would help eliminate some illegal activities going on

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said with regard to that comment, they might look at solar lights to help provide lighting in the area.

Commissioner Holt mentioned she was still waiting for restrooms at the park in St. Johns. Also, there were two business people that came to town from Bainbridge and they asked why there was trash piled up alongside the road. She said the process was started after Hurricane Michael to help people with debris, not to be a continuous thing of piling trash along the roadway. She added people needed to take trash to the dump and not pile it up on the roadway.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR PASTOR LAWISA L. THOMAS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie said regarding money that came to the County, he personally thanked Governor Ron DeSantis for his generous goodwill toward Gadsden County and for not vetoing any Gadsden County projects.

Amazon Warehouse

He made an appeal to media, Priority News, if they would look into making a complete and thorough investigative report as to why Gadsden County lost the warehouse to Leon County and to publish the findings in the paper. He added he had received a lot of inquiries regarding that. He felt the newspaper group had the resources to investigate that matter and then could publish their findings to let the public know the how's and why's the warehouse went to Leon County.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 7, 2022 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:00 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk