

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 21, 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 to the meeting and called it to order at 6:02 p.m.; asked Vice-Chair Green to do the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Dixon asked to add Item 2a-Proclamation honoring Sameriyah Bradwell and a General Business Item 14a-Purchase of Lowboy Trailer.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he had heartburn with Item 14a because it has not been properly advertised. Chair Viegbesie said the Agenda has been approved and he could express opposition when they discuss the item.

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES**

**1. Proclamation honoring Probation Week**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item, the Commissioners came forward along with Probation, the Proclamation was read aloud and it was presented to Probation.

**2. Proclamation Honoring Freddie Figgers and the Figgers Foundation**

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the Proclamation and it was then presented to Freddie Figgers and he said a few words.

**2a. Proclamation Honoring Sameriyah Bradwell**

Commissioner NeSmith read aloud the Proclamation, it was presented to Ms. Bradwell and she had a few words to say.

**CONSENT**

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

3. **Ratification Memo**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - **August 30, 2021-Rules of Procedure Workshop**
  - **September 13, 2021-Budget Workshop**
  - **October 7, 2021-Board Workshop**
  - **May 17, 2022-BOCC Regular Meeting**

**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](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov) until noon on June 21, 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.*

Chair Viegbesie read the above statement aloud.

**Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL regarding Highway 270-Sycamore Road**

Mr. Watson appeared before the Board and wanted to bring to their attention how bad Sycamore Highway was. He said he drove it every day and it was very rough.

**Beatrice Pruitt, 104 Makayla Lane, Quincy, FL 363-8556 regarding Pat's Grocery**

She said she was speaking regarding Pat's Grocery that was on the June 7<sup>th</sup> Agenda. She did not receive notice and was not able to give her opinion as to what she thought about it.

Commissioner to Holt said she and others that live in the subdivision have spoken with her and were opposed to the item.

Mr. Dixon asked the group to give Mr. Stiell their names and concerns and would see how it could be addressed.

Commissioner Holt said the group wanted to make their statement public.

Commissioner Green said they have to find other ways to make sure every citizen is notified and get out information regarding the meetings that were taking place.

**Jimmie Collins, 310 Makayla Lane, Quincy, FL regarding Pat's Grocery**

Mr. Collins appeared before the Board and said he did not receive proper notice and was opposed to the item.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to be clear, their decision was based on it being advertised and individuals promised them that the hearsay was not true. He said they passed it but also asked for language to be changed to prohibit what was being said that would happen.

**Michele Bryant, 115 Makayla Lane, Quincy, FL regarding Pat’s Grocery**

She appeared before the Board and was speaking on behalf of her mother, Alice Bryant, and said she was concerned as well and was not notified.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was a problem with the vote and the crowd said there was a problem with the process of no notice given.

**Khaliah Mortimore, 126 Makayla Lane, Quincy, FL regarding Pat’s Grocery**

She said she was speaking on behalf of her parents and they had an issue with not being notified of the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Gerald Vann, 148 Makayla Lane, Quincy, Florida regarding Pat’s Grocery**

Mr. Vann said he felt the process was null and void as there was no process and he objected to it.

**Jeannie Smith, 1138 Barack Obama Blvd., Quincy, FL regarding Gadsden Senior Center**

She appeared before the Board regarding the Advisory Committee for the Gadsden County Senior Citizens Center and they were told the Seniors could not have an advisory committee and asked why it had to be made up by the Commissioners and not the seniors that attend the center.

Chair Viegbesie said the Commissioners not an advisory committee to the seniors. The Gadsden County Senior Services, Inc. has a contract to provide services to the Seniors and they use the building that is owned by the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners. The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners also contributes money and the Gadsden County Senior Services, Inc. runs every activity at the center. The Commissioners only give contribution to the Senior Center. Commissioners might go there to interact with the Seniors and but they are not part of any Advisory Committee to the activities to the Senior Center.

**Evelyn Alexis, 944 Strong Road, Quincy, FL regarding the Senior Citizen Center**

She said she had the same concerns and wanted to know if the Center was closing or not. She said they were told they had 6 months to get things together and was told the Board did not “cross their t’s and dot their l’s” and was here to find out. She said if they were so important, why were they the last to know.

Chair Viegbesie said he was frequently at the Center and did a lot with his seniors; he felt too much “street committee language” was coming to the ears of the seniors. What she had just insinuated was not correct. He said this Board did not have any say with the Senior Center and the services they received was provided by the Gadsden Senior Services Inc. and the Chairperson of that Board was Reginald Cunningham.

Commissioner Hinson said the County also gives them \$60,000 every year for outreach to the Seniors. Chair Viegbesie said the Gadsden Senior Services gets their money from The Area Agency on Aging and this Board. This Board has no say on what is done in the centers, they just contribute money to the different centers.

**Cathy Brown, 1592 Sally Brown Road, Quincy, FL regarding the Senior Citizens.**

Ms. Brown appeared at the podium and asked if the \$60,000 that was contributed by the County Commissioners was on a yearly basis and Chair Viegbesie said it was. She asked if that was all the funding since the money from the Area on Aging would be going elsewhere.

Chair Viegbesie said questions that were being asked were questions they could not answer right now because those were budgetary questions. Every year they have the budget and were currently working on the budget for the next fiscal year that would not start until October 1<sup>st</sup>. She asked the possibility of the \$60,000 going up?

Commissioner Hinson said he was told in the past they have 4-5 different programs they write grants for that would be for different amounts.

**Lydia Drayton, 140 Gene Williams Road, Quincy, FL regarding the Senior Citizens**

She appeared before the Board and said she appreciated everything that they do for the Seniors. She went to a meeting last week and it was awful. She asked if someone could come to the Senior Center and let them know what was just said. They led them to believe the County Commissioners was over the Gadsden County Senior Center and was mishandling funds, did not know what they were doing and someone else had to come in and set up another center so they could get what they deserve.

Chair Viegbesie said before the end of the month, he would personally come to the Senior Center and show them the letter along with other things. He said if they were being made to be the bad guys, he would take it upon himself to come clarify that.

Commissioner Green asked them to come to the workshop and wished they had more power to ensure they received the appropriate services, but they did not have that authority.

Commissioner Holt said she met with the Area on Aging a week ago and that meeting was not positive. She said this Board was not over the Senior Center, they were a long time ago. She met with them and did not come away with things she felt was positive regarding the whole situation. She said when she asked the Area on Aging why this Board was not notified, she was told they did not have to notify this Board.

Danny Miller  
Regarding Item 5

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Public Hearing-Legislative-Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment (CPA 2021-03) Ordinance 2021-08, Policy 1.1.1.K Commercial-Consideration to approve adoption of the text amendments to Policy 1.1.1.K of the Future Land Use Element to the Department of Economic Opportunity**

**5.**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to consider transmittal of text amendments to the Future Land Use Element Policy 1.1.1.K, Commercial, of the Comprehensive Plan to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

**Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director**, appeared before Board and gave a brief description of the item and stated it would allow RV's on a parcel of land owned by Mr. Danny Miller that is located and accessing Reynolds Road, a local roadway and with frontage on Lake Talquin.

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

Commissioner Green said he was concerned if proper notification was given in the community.

Mr. Stiell re-appeared and said notification was placed in the local newspaper and was properly noticed.

**Danny Miller, 1600 Reynold Road, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board. He said in presenting this, it was originally approved and changes that DEO made were good changes and encouraged the Board to please pass this item.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**6. Public Hearing-Quasi-Judicial-Tracy's Earth Angels Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2021-05)**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for consideration of an application to approve a Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan for the proposed Child Care Facility Tracy's Earth Angels.

**Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk and gave a description of the item. He said this was for a 1,716 square foot child care facility with parking, vehicular use area and driveway.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing.

**Mary Margaret Farris, Melvin Engineering**, appeared before the Board representing the applicants and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. She said she was present in case there were any questions.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Stiell if there were any concerns from Planning and he said this has been in the works for a long time and have worked extensively with the applicant to make sure everything was addressed by the time it came to the Board. He added at this time there were no concerns regarding the project.

Commissioner NeSmith said very he was familiar with the site and the community was in desperate need of a day care facility.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH FOR APPROVAL OF OPTION 1 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS TIME.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**7. Approval of Resolution 2022-017-Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2022**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for board approval of Resolution 2022-017 and for authorization for the Assistant County Administrator and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2022 BOCC budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had hired a Budget Director or Finance Director. Mr. Dixon said they had a Finance Director with Trudei Porter with the Clerk's Office. They had not hired a Budget Director, Ms. Daniels was serving as the Budget Director. Commissioner Hinson commented they put in the budget last year to hire a Budget Director.

Commissioner Green said that was one of his concerns he had and knew she wore multiple hats and gave her kudos for doing multiple jobs. He said they were hoping they could find someone of good caliber soon so they could relinquish her from some of the duties she was doing.

Mr. Dixon said she was trying (to find someone to fill that position) but people that do what she does was particular and fit was important.

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

**8. Agreement for Billing Services Between Gadsden County, FL and EMS Management and Consultants, Inc. (EMS/MC)**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was to extend the agreement for Billing Services for one additional year.

Commissioner Hinson asked if a they could come to a meeting.

Chief Hood appeared before the Board and said they were out of Winston-Salem, NC and they could arrange a ZOOM meeting.

Commissioner Holt said in the workshop, she asked for the data sheet last week. Chief Hood said he would e-mail it to her. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to know the amount of collections and balances.

Chief Hood said they collected around \$2.2 Million, last fiscal year was \$2.8 Million. He said in looking back at the prior billing company, they were looking at \$1.5-\$1.7 on average and they have upped their game in revenue with this current billing company they have been with.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled, this was the company they signed with during Dee Jackson's tenure and they brought collections from red to black.

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

**9. Approval of Fire Department's Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreements between Gadsden County and Concord, Chattahoochee, Town of Greensboro, Greenshade-Dogtown, Gretna, Town of Havana, Midway, Mt. Pleasant, Robertsville/St. Johns, Sycamore, Wetumpka, and Quincy fire departments.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the attorney had looked over the contracts. Mr. Knowles stated he had, all they did this year, they did not have the CPI (Consumer Price Index) so they removed that and added an additional year. He said this was almost the same exact contract as last year.

Commissioner NeSmith said they have a representative from Town of Greensboro for an update.

Commissioner Green said he did not have questions but asked to let her speak.

**Libby Henderson, Councilwoman with the Town of Greensboro**, appeared before the Board for an update. She said they have worked hard putting together a department, had two firefighters that were present and were just dispatched on a call. She said rather than try to retrieve some of the gear, they have bought new gear, brought the trucks up, were working hard to get certified, done different trainings and was very proud of how hard they had worked and how things were coming together.

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

**10. Appointment of Substitute Medical Examiner for District II of the State of Florida and Gadsden County**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval to appoint a Substitute Medical Examiner for District II.

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

**11. Appointment/Reappointment of Board Members to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval/reappointments to the Gadsden Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they could approve who they have applications from and then staff recruit more?

Commissioner NeSmith said he was looking at the names and have no issue with re-appointing, he just has not interacted with that Board and had no idea of what that Board does. Chair Viegbesie suggested he reach out to that Board and may could schedule a meeting with the Board.

Commissioner Hinson stated he thought this Board had been abolished and Chair Viegbesie said no.

Commissioner Holt said they have not been meeting and the new members of this board would like to meet with them, was it a possibility this Board could meet with them and also it was contradictory to have a Board for the hospital when there is not a hospital. Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator to arrange a meeting with that Board.

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

**12. Appointment to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above referenced item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of an appointed representative to the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA).

Commissioner Holt recommended commissioner NeSmith and he declined.

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH NOMINATED COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**13. Voting Delegate-2022 National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above referenced item and said it was presented to the Board to designate a County delegate and County alternate to participate in the NACO Annual Conference.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT COMMISSIONER GREEN BE THE COUNTY DELEGATE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH BE THE ALTERNATE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**14. Approval of Revisions to the County's Procurement Policy**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval of revisions to the County's Procurement Policy.

Georgette Daniels appeared before the Board. She said the changes that were recommended at last week's workshop have been incorporated into the current policy. She said the Policy was initially adopted in 2016 and some revisions were made in 2017 but had not been updated at all to incorporate some of the definitions in Federal and State law. They have gone through the document and made changes that were highlighted. She explained the tiers.

- Tier 1 or Small Purchases threshold was from \$1.00 to \$3,500 and delegation of authorization was the Division Manager/Superintendent/Purchasing Department or above;
- Tier 2 or Verbal Quotes threshold was from \$3,501.00 to \$10,000.00 and the delegation of authority was the Department Director;
- Tier 3 Written Quotes threshold was from \$10,001.00 to \$25,000.00 and delegation of authority was the Purchasing Director/Assistant County Administrator;



- Tier 4 Competitive Sealed Bids (RFQ, RFP, ITB) threshold was in excess of \$25,000 and delegation of authority was awards-up to \$50,000 the County Administrator and over \$50,000 was Board approval.

Commissioner Green thanked her for highlighting and asked if there was a way to get an update when decisions are made, what was being spent, etc. for transparency. He felt anything over \$15,000 they need to have some sort of notification. He asked the sense of urgency since they were not meeting next month.

Ms. Daniels said they have several grants that have been awarded throughout the County and there was an urgency in getting those grants started and requesting sealed bids for some of the work to be done on those grants and they need to get the policy in place. She further explained some of those grants that were federal grants, they were not in compliance with some of the requirements and updates were needed to move forward with requirements of those grants.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the document and Ms. Daniels explained the Agenda item was a summary and page 9 started the actual policy.

Chair Viegbesie said he had his concerns regarding directors and assistant directors having authority to approve. Ms. Daniels said all purchases have to come through the Procurement Department.

Chair Viegbesie asked on the original document, where was the language concerning 2.34 Non-Profits. Ms. Daniels said they had removed that language and inserted a new section about cooperative procurement.

Mr. Knowles said if he were to advise them to make an action, he would say to approve the changes they need to get their grants because they did not want to lose their grants. Commissioner Holt said they need to move this forward, they have to meet certain requirements of the grant, they need to spend the money and if they do not spend it, they will have a problem. She said they have another session coming up. If they were going to move quickly, they may have to be pushed out early, by email or however it needs to do. She added that other Counties have already streamlined this, Gadsden County was behind.

Mr. Dixon said in the interest of moving things along, if it would make them feel more comfortable to take the Administrator's ability down to \$30-35,000, they could change the tiers accordingly. He said they would be glad to incorporate the notifications Commissioner Green spoke of.

Commissioner Hinson said in looking at it, it was 77 pages and was hard to vote on when they were just receiving it. As of today, they have \$4.5 Million they can apply for and they do not meet in July at all.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:12 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson continued and stated they did not have a tentative budget yet.

Chair Viegbesie said he wanted part of this document approved and asked the Attorney to look for the pages that would enable them to draw down on federal grants. He said they could bring the rest of the policy back.

Commissioner Green said for clarification, they had the package, just some things were changed.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 8:15 p.m.*

Commissioner Green recommended to made changes to the tiers and asked for transparency. As long as they know what was going on with the money, if money was stolen or laws broken, there were consequences.

Chair Viegbesie said this was not about a person, it was about policy for anyone who sits in that position. This was the policy they would operate under until the Commissioners change it again.

Commissioner Hinson said also, how the County works, if they open the gates for \$100,000, it was not illegal, they gave the Administrator authority to spend up to that amount; they gave the Assistant Administrator the authority to spend up to \$25,000. He could make the decision to give each fire department \$49,000 and that would be \$300,000 that he would decide without their approval. The Assistant County Administrator could decide to do the same. He said he was not saying there was anything illegal, he was just trying to clear things up. He said they could come back in August and have a shortfall of \$4 Million and would not have to explain because they gave them the authority to spend.

Commissioner Holt said they need to look at the numbers, decide on them and mark what they want. They also need to look at the reporting process and see when they want reports done. She said Contractors were looking at this too. She asked if there were any questions regarding the tiers.

Mr. Dixon said there is something called ethics and they have a budget where they approve things and there is catch-all with Finance in the Clerk's Office. He said if they want to leave the numbers at \$15,000, do so. He said they would provide the tiers accordingly. He said the other parts of the document needed to be addressed and did not agree with the recommendation or request of the attorney to piece-meal because that would provide confusion and chaos to people who may not know exactly what pieces they were doing when. He added if it was just the tier numbers, they could stay at \$15,000, but the substance of the document, they needed to move it or not, but do not put this document with the past document.

Mr. Knowles said he was not saying to piece-meal it, he was saying the item which Commissioner Holt just spoke of seems to be the big thing the Board had heartburn with. There are things within the document, 95% of the changes, that need to happen. He said how they solve those problems could be Board direction, give to the Administrator, have the Attorney figure the provision that satisfied them, send back to the Board OR/AND take those items which they need in order to get their grants and have those items included.

Mr. Dixon said it was an operational document, they use it every day.

Commissioner Holt said for them to look at page 2, if they want to change numbers, do so now. Also, for them to decide how often they wanted to receive reports.

Commissioner Hinson said they had the same issue a few years ago with Hurricane Michael and they called emergency meetings. He said they had to be fiscally responsible. The Clerk's Office and Finance cannot do anything if the Board approves it. If it was pressing to the citizens, why not meet? He said he wanted to schedule a special meeting on Friday.

Chair Viegbesie said this item had to be dealt with and deal with grants before losing them to provide the citizens with services they desire. He was willing to entertain a motion and hoped to get a second.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE ITEM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Green asked if she was moving approval of the item with the changes they were suggesting?

Chair Viegbesie said that was not what the motion was.

Commissioner Holt said she made the motion for conversation to move toward an end of the item.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID HER MOTION WAS FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM WITH THE CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AND INCLUDE A QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE SPENDING AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.**

Chair Viegbesie asked for clarification, if her motion was for approval the tier as it was and everything else and the only addition was the quarterly report of the expenditures.

Commissioner Green stated he hoped they were changing the amount from \$50,000 to \$35,000 since it was suggested. Chair Viegbesie said he did not hear that in the motion.

Commissioner Holt said she was getting the conversation she wanted earlier. She said they have the quarterly report down pat; now go with the \$35,000 to replace the \$50,000.

Mr. Knowles informed the Board there were two motions on the floor; a motion to approve the item and a second; and a motion to approve changes and a second.

Chair Viegbesie said for them to withdraw both motions and seconds and make one comprehensive motion and second.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTIONS AND COMMISSIONER GREEN WITHDREW HIS SECONDS.**

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM WITH \$50,000 TAKEN OUT AND REPLACED BY \$35,000 AND QUARTERLY REPORTS. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Nesmith asked how the \$35,000 would impact the tiers. She said it was changing the amount the Administrator could spend and then the Board would approve \$35,001.

Mr. Knowles clarified that the chart deals with how they will procure items. Commissioner NeSmith asked when the Department manager exercises their authority, when would the Administrator find out? Mr. Dixon said the Purchasing director approves every purchase.

Ms. Daniels said just to be clear, the Division Manager could spend up to \$3,500.00 without prior approval, but before it is paid, she would see what was purchased. She said they were trying to clean up the small purchases that happen on a day-to-day basis.

Chair Viegbesie asked for more clarification on her motion.

Ms. Daniels said regarding the \$25,000 and \$35,000, the \$25,000 says when the purchase exceeds \$25,000, it needs to be competitively bid. Once bid and bids are opened, compared and ready to award, the Administrator will be able to receive those bids, look at what Purchasing is recommending the low bidder and sign off on it up to \$35,000. After \$35,000, it would have to come to the Board.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID THE PREVIOUS MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND. HER MOTION IS FOR APPROVAL OF THE ITEM WITH THE CORRECTED AMOUNT OF \$35,000 AND QUARTERLY REPORTING OF MONEY SPENT OUT. COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner Hinson said he had a question; for them to look at what they can do. They can spend \$35,000, plus \$25,000, plus \$10,000, plus \$3,500. He said he or she could make that decision no matter what happens and that decision could be made quickly. He said they are giving power for them to spend up to \$73,500. The County could be in the red by August and was not good fiscal decisions.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.**

<b>Commissioner NeSmith</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Hinson</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Commissioner Holt</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Green</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Chair Viegbesie</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**MOTION PASSED 4-1**

**14a. Purchase of 2023 Alpha 55-Ton Lowboy Trailer**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to purchase a 2023 Alpha 55-ton Low-Boy Trailer and they had a new trailer in mind.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had a place to store it so it would be covered and Mr. Dixon stated no. He asked if there was a line item and Mr. Dixon said it was not in the budget but they were asking the Board to amend the budget to allow them to buy it. He said the money was in the budget. Commissioner NeSmith asked if it was a competitive cost and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked who bid and Ms. Daniels said they had 3 bids. She added due to the pandemic, it was very difficult as the companies gave a bid but would not be able to provide the trailer for a year.

*Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:56 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said he did not mind approving, it would be great for the citizens to see they were going through the process. He asked if it was urgent and Mr. Dixon said yes and they would not it have for a year.

**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.**

Mr. Dixon wanted to let the Board know, they may see a Jackson County ambulance running around, some of their ambulances are down and was in Chiefland being worked on. Commissioner Hinson said they had purchased ambulances and Mr. Dixon explained one was coming but the others would not be for a year.

#### **Re-organization of the Board**

Mr. Dixon introduced this item. Commissioner Hinson said they normally do this in November. Chair Viegbesie said June 30<sup>th</sup> will be his last day. The re-organization was necessary because there was nothing in the policy that abstention would be for the Vice Chair to step up. The process is to elect a Chair and Vice Chair until November. The Governor will soon be appointing a new commissioner until the election. Commissioner Hinson asked if it was better to wait until the new Commissioner comes in? Chair Viegbesie said this was an approved item on the Agenda and they would go forward.

#### **15. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH NOMINATED COMMISSIONER GREEN AS THE CHAIR AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE NONINATED COMMISSIONER NESMITH AS VICE CHAIR. MR. KNOWLES SAID TO DO THIS ONE AT A TIME.**

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

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE NOMINATED COMMISSIONER NESMITH AS VICE CHAIR AND CHAIR GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

#### **16. Approval of Resolution for New Chairperson-Facsimile Stamp**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Resolution for the new Chairman facsimile stamp.

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

**CLERK OF COURT**

**17. Updates**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**18. Updates**

Mr. Dixon reminded them tomorrow at 5:00 was the workshop with Gadsden Seniors; on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> will be a workshop at 4:00 for grants funding.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 9:07 p.m.*

He said FAC begins on Tuesday.

They are partnering with the City of Chattahoochee for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

NACo Conference is July 21<sup>st</sup>.

He asked the Chair to check his schedule for availability for a meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**18. Updates**

Mr. Knowles said Commissioner Holt had asked a few meetings ago about the census and he forwarded an email from the University of Florida that was assisting the census bureau to commissioners. They informed they could not go through CQR process for the County because they were a sub arm of the census bureau, but they could challenge that the census bureau has the wrong boundaries for the unincorporated portions of the County or housing units that were missed incorrectly contributed to cities or adjacent counties. He suggested they get with the NFWFM District to get one of their GIS analysts to help.

He said they had a great probate seminar/housing fair and will have another in July.

He said with regard to notice on public hearings, they are required by statute to advertise in papers and to also post signs and mail notice to landowners within a certain radius. They did comply with the statute by advertising in the paper.

Mr. Dixon added one thing to the housing fair, it was spectacular. He said he loved the progressive nature of the tiny house and forward thinking.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**19. Report and Discussion of Public Issues**

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt apologized for the item they had on the Policy and Procedures but she loved it and things worked out well. It will show contractors they are trying to streamline their process.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT ASKED FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR ISAIAH FORMAN, HE IS A NATIONAL CHAMPION SHOT PUT AND DISC THROWER IN HIS AGE CATEGORY AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said he went against meeting in July but apparently, they need meetings in July. As of now they have not seen a tentative budget and was in the same shape last year and did not receive the budget until the last hearing in September 15 minutes into the meeting and part of the reason was there were no meetings in July. They have the American Rescue Plan as well to apply for and need to have meetings before they apply for that. He said they need to start meeting on the Rescue Plan, the budget and they had a lot of work to do.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A SPECIAL MEETING IN JULY AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH SERIOUS CONCERNS THAT NOTHING WAS CONFLICTING WITH MEETINGS. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD QUESTIONS.**

Commissioner NeSmith asked for clarification, would this be for a regular or special meeting and was told regular meeting.

Chair Green said not sure if they want to schedule a regular meeting but they could schedule a special meeting to target certain things they need to discuss.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to have a meeting, they do not have a tentative budget yet and usually have a tentative budget in May.

*Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 9:22 p.m.*

Commissioner Hinson said they were probably the only County in the State of Florida without a tentative budget.

*Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 9:23 p.m.*

Commissioner Viegbesie said there was a motion and second on the floor and felt it was necessary for the Board to meet in July, even if for one meeting.

Commissioner Holt asked why they were not meeting in July. Mr. Dixon said it was time for staff to re-group, they have almost finished the budget, this gives staff an opportunity for a break, even if they could not all go at the same time, especially the Department heads. He said they were so small, it was felt when someone was out. July was not necessarily for the Commissioners, but for staff to have some down-time. Commissioner Holt said if they were considering a meeting, to make it the latter part of July. Chair Green said they have NACo but that should not affect the meeting.

Mr. Dixon suggested they not have a first and third Tuesday meeting, but to give the Chairman the authority to call a meeting when and if with adequate time certain.

Commissioner Green suggested they withdraw the motion and give dates for a special meeting.

**CHAIR GREEN CALLED THE QUESTION. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER NESMITH, COMMISSIONER HOLT AND CHAIR GREEN OPPOSED.**

Chair Green assured they will end up having a special meeting in July.

*Commissioner Hinson left the meeting 9:33 p.m.*

**Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3**

Commissioner NeSmith welcomed Robbie Jones back and thanked Mr. Stiell for meeting earlier with him. He thanked Mr. Lee for the fence repair at Rosedale Park.

He said they have talked about Flat Creek Bridge a number of times and a read a note from a citizen that wished they had been notified timely when the bridge was out.

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION THAT STARTING IN 2022-2023, EVERY YEAR IN THE FOLLOWING MARCH, THE CHAIR IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS AND RECOMMENDED IT BE DONE IN MARCH BECAUSE THERE ARE ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.**

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DEVELOP DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF RECOGNITION FOR DIFFERENT SERVICES AND SIGNIFICANT DESCRIPTIONS SO EVERYTHING DOES NOT FALL UNDER PROCLAMATION.**

Chair Green said he did not know if they have to make a motion, it was made clear and all agree they want different titles on an agenda item.

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF A MOTION OF HONORARIUM OF SERVICE TO PASTOR CHARLES MORRIS OF NEW BETHEL AME CHURCH AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.**

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT WITH THE ELECTION, THEY DEVELOP AN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW COMMISSIONER(S).**

Mr. Dixon said they were working on that.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the election would be in November and the following Tuesday would be the swearing in of the new Commissioner and there would be no time to do that.

Commissioner NeSmith said the Juneteenth Celebration was a success.



He asked they start discussing a tiny house village.

He asked for entities the County provides money to, they need to give a report to the Board.

**Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5**

Chair Green said they hated to see Commissioner Viegbesie go, today was his birthday and wished him a happy birthday.

**Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**

Commissioner Viegbesie said it has been a pleasure working with everyone and said a few words.

**“It has been a true pleasure working with you individually and collectively as a Board and as for you the staff, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you did to make this Board look good all through my duration as a part of the team.**

**I pray that God will continue to bestow His grace and mercy upon you as you dedicate yourself to doing the work of the people for the people the heart of a servant leader.**

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

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

**I would like to remind you that people elected into public office are not elected to vote for what is popular, expedient and self-enriching. Rather, people are elected to vote for what is right according to the will of God and will improve the quality of life for the citizens who elected them. Let the works you do speak for you.  
Work to leave a legacy.**

**Now, what I am about to say may stun some of you. Thank you, Mr. Nicholas Thomas, for remaining steadfast in using your Constitutional position to uphold the integrity, honesty and truth in Gadsden County's government. Yes, I said it.**

**In closing, I would like to remind you, the citizens of Gadsden County, that the Civil War ended in 1865 and we must stop continuing this battle in our political pursuits and perceptions if we are really committed to truly making this county better.  
Commissioners stay purpose driven and stay focused on making Gadsden County a better place in pursuit of your individual and collective purpose. The only politics that matters is the politics that make the county a better place.**

**Work as a team.**

**TEAMWORK IS THE ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON VISION. THE ABILITY TO DIRECT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT TOWARD ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES. IT IS THE FUEL THAT ALLOWS COMMON PEOPLE TO ATTAIN UNCOMMON RESULTS.**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
June 21, 2022 – Regular Meeting

**And always keep in mind that "One monkey don't stop no show".**

**Thank you and may God bless Gadsden County."**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:53 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**RONTERIOUS GREEN Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**