

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious "Ron" Green, Chair, District 5
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice-Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, District 1
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m., Jamaal Lockwood gave the Invocation and Jordan Moore then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Item 9-Approval of Budget Amendment for the Purchase Agreement for the Property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00311-0000 and add Item 15a-Approval to Change the Personnel Policy, Section 4-Pay Plan, Adding Language Provided by FEMA to Clarify Payroll During Declared Emergencies and Natural Disasters and add Item 15b-State of Emergency Resolution.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY CHAR GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

2. Ratification Memo
3. Approval of State Aid Grant Agreement

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 September 27, 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 Green read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

3. Approval of Resolution 2022-020 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2022

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of Resolution 2022-020 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 HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a brief explanation.

Mr. Dixon said this was additional salaries to Sheriff's deputies for \$500,000 and would raise their salaries to a certain level.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

4. Approval of Fraud, Abuse and Waste Policy

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of a Fraud, Abuse and Waste Policy.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY CHAIR GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

5. Medicaid Provider Supplemental Wage Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Medicaid Provider Supplemental Wage Agreement.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was for everyone and Mr. Dixon stated this was only for EMS.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. City of Gretna Animal Control Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Gretna.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7. Approval of the Agreement with the Krizner Group to Provide Interim Human Resources Services While Simultaneously Providing an Overall Assessment of the Human Resources Department

Mr. Dixon stated there was a change to the contract amount, he explained the fiscal amount would be \$57,000 isn't it was \$28,500 was they were going through the fiscal year and at this point now on the total contract is \$57,000 with the Krizner Group and would take them through January 31, 2023. He said this was a contract with their employment specialist and they are assessing the Human Resources Office and will be manning that office until they can get the proper employees there. He added they would be reviewing every file, every program, every benefit program and making sure they do not have any of the snafus that they have just recently experienced.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR GREEN ASKED FOR CLARITY AS IT RELATED TO THE \$57,000.

Mr. Dixon said the previous contract only went through September 31st. The \$28,000 went through the end of the fiscal year. This is extending the contract through January to make sure not only to bring the talent in, but that they are properly trained and that office is reset and so can be functional and not get the County into situations they were in.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have an agreement with Krizner at the moment and Mr. Dixon stated yes. He asked the amount of that contract.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board to explain and said this was like a task order. They have an overall contract and she could get that information for the Commissioners, this was a task order under the overall contract.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

8. Consideration of the Execution of an Option for the Purchase of Property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00311-0000

Mr. Dixon said they have an opportunity to consider the purchase of property on Pat Thomas Highway, THE owner has requested A \$20,000 earnest money retainer and it will give them an opportunity to see what the value is in terms of having a survey done, having an appraisal done, look for brownfield and see if there is any negativity with the property at all. It also would give the county an opportunity to look at what their uses of that property could foreseeably be. The earnest money is returnable if the Board should decide to not purchase the property and there would be known loss. They do not know what the purchase price will be, that will be negotiated but there is an asking price of \$750,000 and it is 52 acres. He said this is an opportunity for the County and to jump-start economic development. He said the county has the ability to do things as they spoke of the other day in terms taking the first step investing in properties in terms of infrastructure, in terms of building roads, things that they would do for any private business that they get out ahead of. He said if they wait on business to come they would still be waiting as they have been.

Chair Green said they have had the day opportunity to discuss the possibility of this property and have had many sessions as it relates to economic development and at some point, do have to step out to invest in economic development in the County.

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

Commissioner Holt said the stipulations were on page 3 of 8 of the attachment.

Chair Green said for the sake of clarity, the \$20,000 would be refunded if they do not go in that direction.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything on the east side of the County that could generate development.

Mr. Dixon said he has spoken with folks in the Hampton Heights area and have had conversations regarding economic development.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9. ~~Approval of Budget Amendment for the Purchase of Property Located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00311-0000~~

Item Pulled

10. Off-System Project Maintenance Agreement Realigning the Dover Road and SR 10 (US 90)

Mr. Dixon explained this item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of FDOT's Off System Project Maintenance Agreement for the county to agree with maintaining the project realigning of Dover Road and SR 10 (U.S. 90) that is located on the County's right of way.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. Off-System Project Maintenance Agreement for the Sidewalk on CR 274 (Barack Obama Blvd) from Ben Bostic Road to Martin Luther King Blvd.

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of FDOT Off System Project Maintenance Agreement for the county to agree to maintain the sidewalk and its associate components within the County's right of way.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

12. Havana Middle School Sidewalk Project Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Havana Middle School Sidewalk Project Supplemental Agreement.

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

Mr. Dixon said costs has increased due to increase in product material and services. He added the contract went from \$163,892 to \$376,975.

Commissioner Hinson said it goes up to Concord Road and said there was a large family in the area, could another grant be written to go past the school so the ones from Concord Road could walk to school as well. Mr. Dixon explained this was an old grant that was inherited and gotten back on track.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

13. Ralph Strong Road Sidewalk Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Ralph Strong Road Sidewalk Supplemental Agreement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

14. CR-159 Dover-Scotland Road Guardrail Project Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the CR – 159 Dover-Scotland Road Guardrail Project Supplemental Agreement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM,

15. Iron Bridge Road Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Iron Bridge Road Supplemental Agreement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Hinson/Holt 4-0

15a. Approval to Change the Personnel Policy, Section 4-Pay Plan, Adding Language Provided by FEMA to Clarify Payroll During Declared

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval from the board to change the Personnel Policy, Section 4: Pay Plan, by adding Section 4.20-Emergency Pay during declared emergencies and natural disasters.

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

Commissioner Hinson said staff who worked overtime were compensated at a double rate, however, FEMA'S Rules and policies would only reimburse the County in accordance to the County's written policy relating to compensation. He asked if they were going with time and a half and not double time rate. Mr. Dixon explained it would only allow time and a half.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15b. State of Emergency Resolution

And Mr. Dixon said this item was a Declaration of an Emergency and the attorney would explain.

Mr. Knowles introduced the above item and stated Hurricane Ian could be headed our way and in order to receive certain funding and mobilize certain resources in the event it does come our way, this Resolution would need to be in place ahead of time.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and said there has been conversations at recent meetings regarding the hospital and he wanted to clarify some things regarding the terms. There is a 15-year contract with two (2) 5-year renewals. They pay rent, \$200,000 per year and it goes into the General Fund and is used for general operations. The County no longer pays them money and why they have undisbursed money that he has mentioned several times. He said they have approximately \$1.8 million and it has to be used for hospital and indigent services. He said there is a statute, an Ordinance and a Health Plan that establishes the hospital as the priority in terms of the tax and is pledged for a bond. There is \$4.5 Million left on that bond to be paid. One thing they could consider was accelerating the bond. HCA (the parent company) only leases portion of hospital, about 40%. The County owns the building but has use of the unleased portion. Counties that receive less than \$10 Million from ARP, can use some of that money for hospitals if they choose. He said he would encourage them to read the Ordinance, Health Plan and Statute before diverting the money.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much was disbursed to the Health Department and Mr. Thomas said \$400,000 a year. Commissioner Hinson said that was a state-funded organization and asked how the County could enhance it.

Mr. Dixon said the contract with the Health Department will be forthcoming soon. When talking about health care, that was a different animal and was not dollar for dollar.

Commissioner Holt said this would be for a workshop and they need to look at the numbers, see all the plans the Clerk mentioned and look of the contract.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked commissioner Holt for mentioning a workshop. He said there was a lot of moving parts with healthcare.

The Clerk said there was another important factor in the numbers. When this started, it was only collecting about \$1.2 Million and was now up to over \$2 Million a year. He said this money was designed to come in and be disbursed back out. He said they had the debt payment, which was constant, but the other entities received more money because the collections increased and was being disbursed by a formula.

Mr. Dixon asked if there was a non-compete clause in contract and Mr. Thomas thought they had a first right of refusal if the county decides to bring in someone else.

Chair Green said that was information to discuss in a workshop.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Mr. Dixon said with the hurricane news, they have fallen out of the cone of influence and it looks to be coming to shore around Tampa. They do expect to have 40-45 mile an hour winds on Thursday and will meet tomorrow to review.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the State of Emergency covered Constitutionals and the Clerk said it covered all of the county.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Updates

Mr. Knowles said there is litigation and they are trying to settle and requested to schedule a shade meeting for next Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A SHADE MEETING NEXT TUESDAY AT 5:00 P.M. AND COMMISSIONER HILT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Knowles said they did pass the pharmaceutical settlement and once they receive the money, he will ask for a workshop regarding same.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

19 Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson reminded citizens to take pictures of their house and property before the storm for insurance purposes.

He said he has received questions regarding sandbags.

Jeremiah Lee, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board and they have taken dirt to different parks and was available there.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned large item pick-up. Chair Green said his date was October 31st through November 3rd.

Commissioner Hinson then said he received a call Friday that a commissioner resigned and withdrew from the election for personal reasons.

He wanted to thank the Board for bringing this agenda item and thanked Staff and the Clerk for making them aware of what was going on in the County.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH SOME QUESTIONS.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to make sure Ms. Bradley was here and that it fit within the policy just established.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt wanted them to review their policy on advertising their meetings.

She also wanted to look at possible sewer lines going out west on Highway 90 for development.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith congratulated the new attorney in the County, Landous Anderson.

He said it was time to evaluate their two staff people. They need a policy or need to develop one and need to set up a system.

He asked if Economic Development plan would come before them and was told yes.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green thanked the Joe Adams and High Bridge community for coming to the meeting last week regarding a stop sign at that corner.

He mentioned the bulky Item pickup dates for his district and that date is October 2nd through October 5th -

He added they failed to mention the beautification of the Chambers in their last public meeting.

He thanked Tashonda Whaley for her work with Emergency Management.

Mr. Dixon said the new generator will be installed next week behind the Butler Building.

Chair Green said Mr. Thomas Taylor, County employee, passed away and gave his funeral information.

Commissioner Hinson also announced Linwood Herron passed away.

Chair Green gave his Greenlight moment:

“Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:18 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk