

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

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.; Roberto Flores, Founder and Pastor of King of Kings Ministries gave the Invocation and Holdyn Yaney, Chattahoochee Elementary third grader, led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Dixon asked to add Item 3a Disc Village to the Agenda under Awards, Presentations and Appearances.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at 6:06 p.m.*

**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**

**1. Proclamation recognizing Careers in Construction Month**

Chair Green read aloud the Proclamation and it was then presented to Camry Floyd in recognition of Careers in Construction month.

**2. Audit Presentation**

**Ryan Tucker, Purvis Gray**, appeared before the Board to present the Board with the 2021 Audit report.

He stated the County's financial statements were not submitted to the State of Florida in accordance with F.S. 218.39 and that resulted in a delay in the County providing census data to the County's actuary necessary for the actuary to prepare necessary data.

He said there were two major programs on the Federal side that required a Single Audit and that was the CARES Act and the American Rescue Program. On the State side there were 4 major projects: Criminal Justice Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program; Small County Outreach Program; Hurricane Michael Recovery Grant Program; and Small County Road Assistance Program.

He said there were some recommendations they did have; two were on the Board and three were on the Sheriff. He said the County has to hire an actuary to measure their OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) liability and has to be done every other year. This was something that got lost in the shuffle and was a delay contracted with that actuary in getting him the data they need to pull that report together and did find discrepancies in the data that was submitted. The County now has that on the radar and will be working on that going forward and will be on their agenda earlier in the process. The second item was with regard to the 2021 budget and the interfund transfers between funds were not in balance and caused some issues within the accounting system tracking for budgetary purposes.

With the Sheriff, the first item was a compliant matter and was some CARES funds they were carrying over from a prior year and also received some additional contract funds that they should have brought forward as a budget amendment in order to spend those dollars. They are now aware of that and that when they spend those extra dollars, they need to get a budget amendment approved by the Board. The second item was in regards to inventory of fixed assets during COVID, they were not able to get that done due to staffing issues. He also said the Sheriff's books and records were not closed and ready for audit until February of 2022.

He added there was a significant increase in County revenue but told them to keep in mind that was CARES and ARP money.

He recommended to keep eye on the EMS account as it was in a deficient.

Chair Green said they all had the opportunity to meet with the auditors.

The Deputy Clerk brought to their attention they needed to vote to accept the audit.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

The County Attorney asked if there was an Agenda Item for it and there was not. He asked if it could be presented at the next meeting.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH WITHDREW HIS SECOND.**

**3. Update on Workforce Labor Data**

No-one was present for this item.

**Disc Village Presentation**

**J. Jordan Cowart, Chief Operations Officer**, appeared before the Board and gave a brief presentation on the program.

Commissioner Holt asked if anything has changed with regard to patients signing themselves out.

**CONSENT**

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything on Consent Agenda that was impacted by the budget.

Mr. Dixon stated the money for the Boys and Girls Club was already in the budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a workshop on the Boys and Girls Club. He said there was nothing on the east side of the County.

Commissioner Holt called the question and Commissioner NeSmith made the second.

**CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

And

**4. Ratification Memo**

**5. Approval of Minutes**

- June 27, 2022 Workshop
- August 24, 2022 Budget Workshop
- September 13, 2022 Budget Hearing
- September 20, 2022 Economic Development Workshop
- September 26, 2022 Special Meeting

**6. Revision to the CDBG Housing Assistance Plan (HAP) Policy**

**7. Revision to Affirmative Action Plan Policy Request**

**8. Approval of Resolution 2022-032 in Support of Funding for the Boys and Girls Club**

**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 January 18, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.*

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

**Pastor Willie Gaines, 5775 Ben Bostick Rd, Quincy – Speed Bump, Grass overgrown, and trash on side of road.**

He thanked the County for assisting with the Second Annual Trash Round-up.

He said their community is old and outdated and was being overlooked. He said they have new homeowners moving into the area and they are concerned about Frank Jackson Road.

Commissioner Holt asked Pastor Gaines when he held his community meetings and he said the second Saturday of each month.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **9. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2022-031 and Associated Budget Amendments**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said was for approval of Resolution 2022-031 for a budget amendment and was for approval to move \$2.9 Million from the CARES line item into the General Fund.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board and said the majority of the money was going into Reserve for Contingency, which the Board has the authority to move that money out and into other line items in the budget and approximately \$450,000 where part was going to IT to finish out the sound system in the Commission Chambers and was a few projects that was not completed when the funds were in the CARES Act to they were moving it into Facilities in the he general fund. She said the majority was going into Reserve for Contingency and they will have the opportunity, if the money is needed to be used in the its budget anywhere else, it would have to come before them for approval.

Chair Green asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **10. Fairbanks Ferry Road (SCOP) Re-bid**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to award the construction of the Fairbanks ferry road resurfacing project to C. W. Roberts Contracting in the amount of \$1,488,952.15.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked where it would start and Mr. Lee appeared before the Board and stated it would start at 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the Concord Road intersection.

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

#### **11. Fairbanks Ferry Road (SCOP) Re-bid Supplemental Agreement**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Fairbanks ferry Supplemental Agreement in the amount of \$1,773,880.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked the different between the two. Mr. Dixon said second item approves the CEI Agreement.

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

**12. Approval of FY 2023 SC208 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a funding agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Solid Waste Program.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

*Commissioner Holt returned at 7:07 PM (previous to the vote).*

**13. Approval of FY 2023 SC208 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Agreement Amendment No. 2 with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a funding agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Solid Waste Program.

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

Holt/NeSmith 4-0

**14. Approval to Award RFP No. 22-03 Federal Lobbyist Services**

Mr. Dixon introduced above item. He said although Alcalde & Fay received the highest score, no one knows them. They made a proper presentation but at the end of the day, this was about winning and success.

Chair Green said he had an opportunity to speak with the administrator and also does not agree with the evaluation.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE BALLARD PARTNERS, INC. AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.**

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was acceptable and were they doing this the right way.

Mr. Knowles said they could select a firm and then a contract would be brought back to the Board for approval.

Chair Green said they were voting on the award of the contract, not the contract itself.

NeSmith said the committee that scored responders and Chair Green said the information was in the packet.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to make sure they have the numbers right.

Chair Green said he was also puzzled about the numbering. He said he would like to have a presentation.

Chair Green asked if they could table this item and Mr. Dixon said everything was moving.

Commissioner Holt said the Administrator stole her words, she made a motion because of their success rate and the timeframe started in July. She said all of the lobbyists they were looking at has already started.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the administrator the committee made a recommendation of Alcalde and Fay and based on his observation that the presentation and standing in their shoes, he was looking for a consulting company that had the greatest production. He what else they would present and Mr. Dixon said they are not going to present any information.

Commissioner Hinson said he was in favor of this but looking at the scores, it was hard to approve.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:29 p.m.*

Mr. Dixon said he would be glad to get Ballard and Alcalde here for a presentation.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 7:29 PM*

Chair Green said he thought would be easier if they had documentation they could review.

He asked if Commissioner Holt would consider rescinding her motion and she said she had a question first. Commissioner Hinson said he would rescind his second.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

#### **CLERK OF COURT**

##### **15. Updates**

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **16. Updates**

Mr. Dixon said former County Judge Stewart Parsons passed away and there will be a Memorial service at the Courthouse on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

Also, at 10:00 on Saturday there will be workshop on heir property and wills at the County office.

He said Staff was doing a fantastic job reaching out and he appreciated Mr. Lee's leadership. They should have received the evaluation information.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**17. Updates**

Mr. Knowles said the workshop will best be here in this Chamber. He said for everyone to bring all their questions, he will be present along with other attorneys and law professors. There will be a full house. On the shade meeting, they cannot find a court reporter to be present. Maybe they can bring it back on the next meeting as an agenda item. It is time it's sensitive since settlement is on the table.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

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

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson sent his condolences to Judge Parson's family. He said October 23<sup>rd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, is FAMU Homecoming and the Economic Development workshop is on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the Non-profit workshop is on the 27<sup>th</sup>. He added he was thankful and grateful to have his parents.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt said she was going to recognize Anthony Powell who was in audience and had to leave because he had a meeting to go to. She also sent condolences to Judge Parsons family.

She said the reason she made the motion regarding the Boys and Girls Club to move forward was because they have to look at Havana, Gretna and Chattahoochee. They need to prioritize a list for funding. She said that was one reason she put in the motion for that company. When you see their record, that was when they would become impressed. They should have passed it because they are getting a break with them. They have already started dividing the money up. Normally, you have your people ready by July 1.

**Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3**

Commissioner NeSmith said "We are One Gadsden" in the words of Rod Young. He also sent his condolences to Judge Parsons family. His interactions with him have been wonderful. He said they need to establish policies now that will outlast them.

**COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THAT THE COUNTY COMPLETE AN ANNUAL EVALUATION AT THE LATEST 45 DAYS PRIOR TO THAT EMPLOYEE'S ANNIVERSARY AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Hinson said if they get a new board, they could change every Ordinance. Commissioner Nesmith said they create a policy because they create a spirit. Chair Green said they all agreed and it will be going forward.

He said it was imperative that they move from their emergencies they were always in. Now they were in an emergency to have a federal lobbyist. Commissioner Nesmith said that they could avoid being in a crisis moving forward, what would happen if the County Administrator is not available and who would be next in line to run the county.

Commissioner Holt said the assistant administrator would be next. They said they need a budget director and assign a third person. She added by looking at the audit, they could tell they need a budget director. Ms. Daniels said the audit was before she came. Chair Green said that conversation needed to be had at an appropriate time.

Commissioner Hinson said if something happened to the administrator, they could appoint who they want. Chair Green said they need to workshop it.

Commissioner Nesmith said starting yesterday, through October 20th was bulky item pick up in District 3.

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

Chair Green asked for project updates. He said he was still waiting on striping of roads. He also gave his condolences to Judge Parsons family. He also stated there may be a possibility of some road closures on Saturday due to the memorial service.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION THEY RECOGNIZE FUTURE BUILDERS OF GADSDEN COUNTY AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

He mentioned on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tim Mosely with the Less Fortunate Still Matters Foundation was making a trip to the Ft. Myers area.

**CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP FILL THE TRUCKS FOR THE NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> TRIP AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

He thanked everyone for a great meeting and gave his greenlight thought.

“You are never too old to set another goal or a dream or a new dream, you are never too old to start and pick-up something that you left off.”

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:03 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

**RONTERIOUS GREEN Chair**

**ATTEST:**

---

**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**