

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 1, 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
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., Isaiah A. Telusca, Crossroads Academy Charter School of Business Senior, gave the Invocation and Darian Johnson, Crossroads Academy Charter School Pre-K student, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon requested to pull Item 10 from the Agenda and the item was tabled until the proper time.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:05 pm.

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. Update on Workforce Labor Data

Jim McShane, CareerSource, appeared before the Board to give an update. He introduced the Board to the new staff while waiting for the PowerPoint to load.

Ariel Stewart appeared, introduced herself and told a little of what she does at the Center. He then introduced John Hershey and he spoke also.

Mr. McShane re-appeared before the Board and presented his PowerPoint.

Chair Green asked how he made the determination on which careers best fit the county? Mr. McShane said it is made by what jobs are posted in the county. Jobs are tracked by DEO. They can only spend federal money on jobs that are in high demand. Commissioner Nesmith asked what is the time period? Mr. McShane said July 1st, 2021-June 30, 2022.

Commissioner Hinson asked for the number and the website.

Mr. McShane said the online services are www.careersourcecapitalregion.com. Toll-free number is 1-844-CAREER1.

Commissioner Holt stated for him to explain the Reach Act and if it is Federal or State? Mr. McShane said it is state. She said he will be involved with the new Economic Development Director.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **September 6, 2022 Regular Meeting**
 - **September 19, 2022 Final Budget Hearing**
 - **September 27, 2022 Regular Meeting**
4. **Approval and Execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Gadsden County School Board for Sheltering**
5. **Approval and Acceptance of the FY 2021/2022 Audit Findings from Purvis & Gray**
6. **Ratification of Support Letter for Commissioner NeSmith to Apply to Serve on the NACo Board of Directors**

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 November 1, 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

7. Approval to Award Bid No. 22-07 for Security Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the above-referenced bid for security services to Isaac Security, LLC. He said while it was not the lowest bid, they were the current contractor and felt they have provided a great service to them.

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

Commissioner NeSmith asked how were the recommendations that were received? Mr. Dixon said excellent.

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

8. Gadsden County Elder Affairs and Services Department

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to partner with the newly formed foundation, Gadsden County Senior Foundation, direct the Administrator to respond to an RFP was issued by the Office of Area Aging and to approve the creation of a coordinator Position in the Elder Affairs and Services Department.

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

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there has been a process of drafting the documentation for the new organization? Mr. Dixon said they are engaged. Commissioner Nesmith also wanted to make sure their counsel was a part of the conversation but until they received the green light from the board they were not going to make a move.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to look over this and talked to several people in the community. He stated if they dissolve GSS, it would null and void every contract, found out it was not transferrable, and if they dissolved it they would have to re-apply for aid and re-apply to be a Medicaid provider. They would have to apply for all state licenses that GSS holds.

Mr. Dixon said they will be working with GSS in the transition to make it as easy as possible. He also said that GSS has voted to partner with the County in the transition. Chair Green said there will be some things they would have to apply for.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the first paragraph in the Analysis section. "The final phase of Gadsden Senior Services, Inc. (GSS) is ready to transition all assets and operational documents and services to the Gadsden County Senior Foundation (nonprofit) that manage, operate, and grow senior services throughout the county, creating a seamless product."

Mr. Dixon said their Board has voted to work with the County Commissioners in the transition. The DOH documents are not what is up right now. They will be up next year.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the ages for billable services and stated anyone younger than the age of 60 was not eligible for billable services committee. He also stated the BOCC did not need to form a new foundation to assist seniors. They could apply for the case management RFP from that area agency on aging and a higher aid bachelor's level social worker to do case management and outsource to other entities to provide the in-home services. That would be less liability that the county would need to take on.

Mr. Knowles said this was a separate 501(3)c organization separate and apart from the County. He said if they were unable to get the proper licensing and transition assets that would not be the county's problem. The Foundation itself will not be owned, run and maintained by the County.

Chair Green said he could not answer his questions because they were not a part of the Board. They were trying to move away from problems that have happened in the past.

Commissioner Hinson asked the difference in the parties as both were acting in partnership with the BOCC.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

9. Approval of the Economic Development Proposal

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for approval of the Gadsden County Economic Development proposal. He said this was to create not only the program but to put in place an Ordinance and position to make this go. The request is that they approve the position description for the director, approve the draft economic development plan and approved the ordinance and incentive plan and authorize the county administrator and the County Attorney to advertise the public hearing for the ordinance to be heard and voted on.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner NeSmith had questions. He stated he would like for it to read “Under the general guidance of the Board of County Commissioners in direct collaboration with the County Administrator”. He said they have to look long-term and it was important that the Board have a direct line to this Director.

Chair Green said he understood his point the first time he presented it and it was the direction they all wanted to go. He wanted to make sure they were not involving themselves in the day-to-day operations. They need this position filled.

Commissioner Holt said in this situation, they will have the Economic Development person under the Administrator and explained why. It was a safety net that would help the Board.

Chair Green said he did not believe it was meant that they would have different projects going on because every project would come before the Board.

Commissioner NeSmith said there was reservations about aides and his was working out great.

Chair Green understood and Commissioner NeSmith wanted them to have direct contract without having to ask permission to speak with them.

Commissioner Holt said they did not need a Planning and Zoning director, Human Resources Director, EMS Director, Road and Bridge Director or Fire. because they could all report to the Board.

Mr. Dixon said with the Board hiring someone, it commits them to a public process that that person would always have to report to them in public and when there are non-disclosure agreements, and this was a highly secretive business, they would not be able to discuss it with them.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad he brought that up and confidentiality was very important.

Commissioner Hinson said when look you look at facts is that you could add engineering as well.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE POSITION DESCRIPTION TO INCLUDE “UNDER THE GENERAL GUIDANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE THE POSITION, APPROVE THE DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR GADSDEN COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AND APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE ‘UNDER THE GENERAL GUIDANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND INCENTIVE PLAN AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ORDINANCE TO BE HEARD AND VOTED ON. COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Chair Green said his question to the attorney was there a legal way to do this? Mr. Knowles said yes, they would change the Ordinance to reflect the language that Commissioner Nesmith said.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED,

10. Approval of the Non-Profits Funding Proposal

Item pulled

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

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval to award RFP Number 22-03 Federal Lobbyist Services to Alcalde and Fay Government and Public Affairs Consultants for the county’s Federal lobbyist, as they are the firm with the top score. However, it was the recommendation that they approve Ballard Partners, Inc. as the lobbyist and they come highly recommended.

Commissioner Hinson said he had heartburn based on the performance that the County He said the Administrator and the Assistant changed positions and if they felt they could bring funding to the table, good.

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

12. Approval to Award FRQ No. 22-01 Professional Services-Engineers/Engineering

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award RFQ No. 22-01 Professional Services Engineers/Engineering Consultants contract to AE Engineering, Inc. and Alday-Howell Engineering, Inc. He said this will come in-house and will cut 60-90 days off the timeline.

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

Commissioner Hinson said with the previous firm used, they did a yeoman's job. He asked how often do women and minorities get an opportunity at this?

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

13. Approval of Settlement Agreement

Attorney Knowles said he has spoken with each Commissioner individually and the carrier has decided this is case that it needed to be resolved. He said could not have an executive session to discuss this in private due to no court reporter being available.

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

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the handout was any different from what was in the book?
Chair Green said no.

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

CLERK OF COURT

15. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

16. Updates

Mr. Dixon said they have to do much more sooner, more often and in more places.

They had the dedication of new ambulances earlier today. They will be entering into a contract with Palm Beach County that will be helping out with a long-term donation of general items. As they found out, the ordering date for new ambulances is 2-3 years out.

They are beginning the planning for the 200th anniversary for the County.
He said Christmas coming up, they have a committee looking at the situation at the Courthouse and working with cities and municipalities and was working out beautifully.

He said again they are kicking off Black History Month and hoping for more County emphasis.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

17. Updates

Attorney Knowles said they had a great turn-out for workshop due to it being advertised in the newspapers and on Facebook and had a packed house.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he talked with several people concerning food cards and City of Quincy gave \$100 to help with utilities. He said they have funding for food cards that could help with Thanksgiving and Christmas and they need to think about it and come up with plan on how they could address that issue.

He said there was a shooting across from FSU campus and 1 person died. There have been a lot of shootings in the area. They need to be bold and look at social infrastructure to help out. There is a need for a community Center on both sides of the County.

Chair Green stepped out at 7:53 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said when he was young, he could have been that guy. He said the east and west sides of the county are desperate. Right now, they have money to do it and people are dying.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said Dollar General in St. John was looking very nice and they hope to have a ribbon cutting on November 12th.

Chair Green returned at 8:00 p.m.

She said they did not thank the Housing Department, they were ones that came up with the issue with deeds. After Hurricane Michael, they were coming up with issues on deeds.

When looking at the election coming up, she wanted to thank everyone for being civil. They need to make sure everyone votes.

Commissioner Holt asked that people that were not on bottom tier to get paid, is there a step-up plan? Mr. Dixon said they were working on that.

She asked the attorney about the final information he found out about the census. Mr. Knowles said he sent the information by email to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt asked Attorney Knowles to bring back up the policies and procedures since he was the Parliamentarian to help cut time down and keep things moving.

Chair Green said in reference to time, it did need to get handled.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Commissioners for bringing to his attention some items he failed to mention. He thanked the Administrator and County Attorney for the heir Workshop, it was a packed crowd.

He thanked everyone for making sure the Dollar General building was a nice building.

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

He congratulated Mrs. Evans of Oak Grove area, on the 12th she will be turning 100 years young.

He thanked the Administrator and Mr. Lee for maintaining quality health care in District 3.

Mr. Dixon thanked the City of Quincy; the County's heavy equipment machines went down and they said yes to the request to help Public Works with the bulky items pick-up.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green asking if there was a date for striping because he never got an answer. Mr. Dixon said they had to review the listing and culled the list down and it still came out to just over \$70,000 more than what was budgeted. He said they reached out to a local provider that just started in Tallahassee and got the Leon County contract for striping was hoping to piggyback on the contract.

Chair Green said it had been brought to his attention that the County owns over 200 properties and was not sure what policy has been put in place in relation to re-selling or utilizing the properties for the county's own use. He said he wanted to pay some attention to properties that was already owned. He said there was a couple hundred names on the list for the SHIP program and asked how to go about and what the process was for funding for the Program.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said in regard to the list, they have been working on it and have gathered the know I had not list over the past few months. They wanted to go through the list, look at property to figure out what it looks like and if it was usable. Chair Green said he saw the number was 221, Mr. Dixon said he had the short list.

Commissioner Holt said that would be good workshop because property was lost every day because of taxes. Chair Green asked for project updates by the next meeting. He asked if he knows when they are expecting more funding? Mr. Dixon said it was pinging now, Chair Green said they should workshop it.

Chair Green said Trunk or Treat was a phenomenal event last night.

Commissioner Hinson said he got caught up talking about the killing crimes, but wanted to say he was at the Town of Havana and they had a Trunk or Treat there as well.

Chair Green said the Relay for Life is the last weekend in August and asked if the County had a team. Ms. Steele said they have had in the past.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION THAT BOCC BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE GADSDEN COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE ECONDO. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt asked said there were also other fundraisers and they normally give money individually from the Board but was from the Board members themselves.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR SIGMA GAMMA RHO THAT WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY ON NOVEMBER 12TH AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Green said this is Custodial Week and thanked them for all they do.

Chair Green said his Greenlight moment was: “If you focus on the hurt, you will continue to suffer. If you focus on the lesson, you will continue to grow. All of us go through something in life, whatever it is that you are going through, make sure you are growing through.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk