

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON FEBRUARY 7, 2023
AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3**
 Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2
 Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Robbie Jones had Hunter Lasley do the invocation and then Chloe Palmer proceeded with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon said he had an amendment to the agenda and asked to pull items # 13 and #14. Commissioner Green asked if there was a reason and Mr. Dixon said they were not ready.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND
COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Recognition of Chrissy Shorter-Arnold
(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and Commissioner Green presented the recognition.

2. Recognition of Shandra Wright
(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and Commissioner Green presented the recognition.

3. Scouts BSA (Boy Scouts America) Presentation

(Robbie Jones, Extension Director/Chuck Laslie, Cub Master Pack 201/Clay Fallis, Troop Master

Pack 201/Jonathan Hutto, Program Director)

Scouts BSA went up to take a picture with the Board. Mr. Jones thanked the Board. He said February 8th is national boy scout day. It is called Scouts BSA because it is for boys and girls. He had Chuck Laslie come up to speak. Mr. Laslie said the program is design to give the kids a safe place to socialize, learn and build character traits. He gave more activities that the kids are involved in and more information on the program.

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Commissioner Green said he was a cub scout and boy scout. He thanked them for their service. Commissioner Holt thanked them as well.

Clay Fallis spoke to the board about his experience as a scout. He was a police officer before and has never arrested an eagle scout. He said we learn more from failure than we do from success. He said they average about 7 members in the troop a year and it teaches perseverance and leadership.

Jonathan Hutto spoke to the board about updates. He said the program headquarters is here in Quincy. He asked for the boards support in this program.

Commissioner Hinson said they will hopefully bring a teen center to Havana and would like for them to be a part of it.

Consent

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson said that they need to inform the community on what is going on with EMS, Item #6. Mr. Dixon said they are transforming from EMS to fire rescue. This is an opportunity to get somebody else's money. This grant will allow them to get \$175,000 but requires a 10 percent match, for equipment.

4. Ratification Memo
(Clerk of Court)
5. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes
 - a. January 3, 2023 BOCC Regular Meeting
 - b. January 5, 2023 Gadsden County Senior Citizens Foundation Workshop
 - c. January 17, 2023 BOCC Regular Meeting
6. Approval to Apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
7. Gadsden County Courthouse Elevator Modernization
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
8. Guy Race Judiciary Annex Elevator Modernization
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Items Pulled for Discussion

Item #13 and #14 were pulled.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minute limit)

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 February 7, 2023. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Nesmith read the above statement aloud.

Commissioner Hinson said this was brought to them during COVID. If someone wants to come to the meeting and speak today, there should be a form for them to fill out.

Public Hearings

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Rd Quincy, FL – Mr. Watson talked about Sycamore Rd. It wasn't on the list to get resurfaced and he doesn't understand why. He said during Hurricane Michael, it knocked down a lot of trees. On Evan Clark Rd, there is a pit where a lot of trees were taken. The big trucks were there for several months. The road gets worse with every rain storm. Sycamore Rd should be on top of the priority list when roads are resurfaced again.

Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Rd Quincy, FL – She wanted them to know she is home every day and sees big trucks go down the road and the road is terrible. She has had comments made that county commissioners need to get off their butts and get on that road to see how bad it is.

Mr. Dixon said he has been on that road and they have submitted it to the engineers. It is a point process and the worse roads need to go to the top.

Commissioner Hinson said there must be potholes. He said sometimes they do that inhouse. It may take a couple years to get it and it will still be a process. He said if they can just clear the potholes.

Chair Nesmith said it starts in Greensboro to Flat Creek. Mr. Dixon said it is not the pavement, it is in the base.

Commissioner Holt said during hurricane Michael, the trucks were so large, it pulled the pavement up off the ground. They have to go through the state with either SCOP or SCRAP to get money.

Commissioner Holt said the engineers work for the county and when they send them in, the state and federal government choose which one comes first.

Dr. Margelet Hamilton, 380 Tobacco Road – Neighbor citizen concern.

Ms. Hamilton spoke about the tobacco road neighborhood. She said they had a home owners association in 2015 and it was coming to the end of the association, the paperwork shows the HOA was dissolved in 2017. Gadsden County roads have been coming in surveying and fixing their roads but now they were told they are responsible for doing their own because they have a home owners association, which they do not. They want Gadsden County roads to take care of their road repairs. They take care of Salem Road but now they said they are not in their jurisdiction. The vice president registered this information, not with the courthouse in Gadsden County, but with the Division of Corporations. She said they have to get it filed in the courthouse to get it official. She does not know where the original paperwork is. The courthouse will not accept the document she has even though it is through the Division of Corporations. She was there to see if the board could do anything to help them and can they give guidance on what they need to do to move forward.

Chair Nesmith asked where it is located and what district is it in? it is in District 2, which is Commissioner Simpkins district.

Commissioner Green asked how many roads are in the subdivision, and if the roads are public roads or private roads. Ms. Hamilton said it is about 4 or 5 roads. She said she believes they are private roads.

Commissioner Simpkins was going to ask that. Ms. Hamilton said they are paved. She confirmed it is Gadsden County roads with public works. Mr. Dixon asked her to send him her information to talk about it.

Commissioner Hinson said if it is a green sign, it is a public road, and if it is blue, it is a private road.

Commissioner Holt said if the developer goes in, they had to pave their streets. Commissioner Simpkins said she will be researching it and get with the administrator about it.

Anthony Viegbesie, 989 Ames Barineau Rd Havana, FL – Dr. Viegbesie spoke before the board and thanked them all for what they do. He gave the following words of encouragement to them:

“Good evening,

Chairman Nesmith, Vice-Chair Hinson, and board members.

I would like to begin by commending and thanking you for all that you continue to do in making Gadsden County great. I come to you today solely to give a word of encouragement and nothing else. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., “You have before you the glorious opportunities to inject new dimensions of those collaborative love and honest dedication into the veins of Gadsden’s county’s growth and prosperity”.

Commissioners, remember that you don't have to always agree on all things. Please know that if everyone agrees on everything, then someone is unnecessary.

So, should you disagree, you must respectfully agree to disagree agreeably. I declare that there is never a wrong time to do what is right.

People who are elected into public office are not elected to vote for what is popular, what is expedient, and what is self-enriching.

Rather, they 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. In other words, let the works you do speak for you.

Please, commissioners, do not let the politics of fear, sense of divisiveness, and self-enrichment distort your pursuit of honesty, integrity, and truth or obstruct our community's path to progress and prosperity.

Commissioners, a community is as strong as its people are united.

So, as a commission, you must not see yourselves as a district commissioner, even though you may have been elected by a single-member-district process.

Rather, if you are going to make Gadsden County great and a better place to live, work, and play for all who reside in it, you should see yourselves as Gadsden County Commissioners.

I am suggesting that you always Remember the mission of the GCBODC which states: "To build a better community by offering efficient, sustainable services, encouraging economic development and providing public safety to improve the quality of life."

Know that the only politics that matters is the politics that make the county a better place for all.

As a commission, you should work as a team.

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational Objectives. Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. To be able to do so, you cannot advocate for economic development and, at the same time, support actions that create organizational instability. To do so is absolutely oxymoron. In other words, I am saying that you cannot bark with dogs and run with the rabbits. Furthermore, let us not be that army that shots down its own strong and capable soldiers and expects to win their wars. In closing, my question to you is, "Can a community progress, grow and prosper if its people insist on continuing with a culture of self-cannibalism due to individual narcissistic personalities and idiosyncrasies"? Dearly beloved, I do not think so. Now, let us pray. Father God, I pray that you will continue to bestow your grace and mercy upon this Commission as they have been commissioned to dedicate themselves to doing the work of the people and for the people with the heart of a servant leader is my prayer. This is my prayer. Thank you, and may God bless Gadsden County.

Dr. V.

General Business

9. Approval of Resolution #2023-004 Adopting the Gadsden County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Plan 2022 Update

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

10. Appointments/Reappointments to the Small County Coalition Board of Directors

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. In the past, Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Hinson has served as the representative on the board. Commissioner Green asked the commissioners that are currently serving if they are still interested in serving on this board. They said yes.

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

11. Gadsden County Senior Citizen Centers

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to approve and Commissioner Green second it. It was open for discussion for Commissioner Hinson. He said he got a phone call from Midway saying that they were all left out from Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee. He said he knows they approved it for \$475,000 for the process. He agrees with supporting the senior citizens. He motioned to approve but that they give Havana \$50,000, Midway \$50,000, Gretna \$50,000, Chattahoochee \$50,000 and divide the remaining \$275,000 to the other organizations. The non-profit organization can find additional funding with what they want to do. There is \$275,000 remaining, they have to show the state that they work with them to some capacity. They will divide \$275,000, that will give them \$137,000 between the Gadsden County foundation and the other organization that they are working with. An option from him.

Commissioner Green said he resends his second because that is not what he was making his second on. Commissioner Simpkins second for discussion.

Mr. Thomas wanted them to understand that he supports senior citizens. He has no issue sending them money directly to the senior citizens, they are established not for profit entities. Where he does have a concern is the new creation. He understands that they have county employees on payroll working at the non-profit entity, they are reporting to the administrator so he is in charge of this entity. So, the board of directors has very little control, so to him it is a fraudulent representation. He said they cannot have a county employee working at the health council or any other non-profit entity. They will be running their own set of books. If you give over \$150,000 to an entity, it becomes a component of the county and needs to be audited under the County's audit. The County Administrator should not be in charge of writing checks for a non-profit entity. If his understanding is correct, he cannot send money to those entities. The administrator is supposed to be the administrator, he should not be working for the health council. He shouldn't be running the senior citizens with County money and write checks. It is unacceptable. There has to be some separation when they are talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars of ARPA money.

Chair Nesmith asked Attorney Knowles for his input on any challenges that are in violation of any policies or laws. Attorney Knowles said he will defer to Mr. Thomas to talk about his policies and laws. He did not know what he was referring to. Commissioner Hinson's motion was \$137,500 to that organization. Commissioner Nesmith asked Mr. Thomas if he was referring to the motion on the table or to the agenda item. Mr. Thomas said Commissioner Hinson broke the money down differently than what's in the plan. He said there is a senior citizens foundation they are creating with County employees. The county employees working for that foundation report to the administrator. Mr. Thomas said it could put all of them at risk. The alternative to that is with ARP money, instead of giving that money to Mr. Dixons foundation, they can run it through their ARP budget and pay that money out due to conflict of interest. Mr. Thomas said it is payroll fraud, they can't have employees of the County working at other entities. It is important to have a non-profit foundation to seek other funding. This ARP money is a temporary thing and has to be spent by December 2024. He cannot write a check to a foundation where Ed Dixon is in charge of it.

Attorney Knowles said his question is how are those individuals employed by the county and then deployed by the County to the non-profit?

Commissioner Green said it would have been nice to see Mr. Thomas last week when they workshopped this information. Mr. Thomas tried to intervene but Commissioner Green said he was still talking. He said he provided good information that they need clarity on. He asked if those members who are employed by the county were not a part of the organization, would he be ok with the foundation? Mr. Thomas said the foundation needs to be a non-profit entity, and working to secure funding, it does not to be run by the County Administrator and people on the County payroll. The alternative is to run that money that they would have given to Ed Dixon's foundation. Commissioner Green asked Mr. Thomas not to call it that because it is disrespectful. Chair Nesmith asked him to stay away from the names. Mr. Thomas apologized.

Commissioner Green said that's why he wanted clarity because he asked the question last meeting and one of his assistants opposed the question last week. He knew that was the position he was going in, that is why he asked the administrator then on how Leon County had it set up for their senior services. If they needed to move people out of the equation, they could do that. It is a good foundation to start to serve the seniors but they want to follow the rules. He received the e-mails but as an elected official, it would have been nice to have him been part of the discussion.

Commissioner Holt said she has been to a lot of board meetings and normally the person gets to respond before it gets too far down the road. She said they need to hear the other side of this to have an intelligent conversation. She asked Mr. Dixon to respond to Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Dixon apologized if this personal animus has brought any disrespect to this body. They gave the Attorney a directive last meeting to make sure there were no difficulties in moving forward with the set up. The setup is being used by everyone else but yet, it cannot be used in Gadsden County. Why is that? The Attorney send out information on Sunday responding to the question that Mr. Thomas is posing. They have no problem with how it is done, this is a partnership. It is not an attempt to manage the non-profit. Mr. Dixon said it is embarrassing to him, it is about the seniors. They will draft a document that speaks to the relationship between the board and the non-profit. It would be no different than the other non-profits. They will address this entity tonight, in the future, they will address the entities that did not want to come in. It is not an attempt to leave anyone out.

Commissioner Holt asked if they vote not to have any employees on it, including Mr. Dixon, does he have a problem with that? Mr. Thomas said no, there would be no problem. He apologized if he offended some of them in one sense, in the other sense, he's okay with that. He reserved time to figure out where he was going with it. He pointed it out to them for their own good. As that arrangement stands, he is unable to cut checks to that entity. If the County Administrator was not running it and employees were not in it, of course he would be a part of it. Commissioner Holt said she has asked if there was a state stature or ordinance. Something has to be drawn up in the agreement. They asked the attorney to look at what they can do. No one has a problem with it.

Attorney Knowles wanted to make sure they saw the memo from Sunday. It was two options, one is essentially as the Clerk has said, a direct support organization, that is an instrumentality of the county. It was the document sent about Glades Correctional Development, GCDC. That was set up by that board of county commissioners for the purpose of developing a correctional facility within that county. They chose 2 commissioners and other individuals; they took over ownership for managing that board. Mr. Thomas said he has not seen the documentation but what h can assure them is that the money still ran through the boards budget and the clerk audited and paid the bills. It is an alternative with ARP money, the money needs to the stay with the board and run through their accounts through American Rescue funds and the clerk will audit and pay their bills. It does not need to go to a foundation that has county employees that report to the administrator that will keep his own books on it. Commissioner Nesmith asked if Mr. Thomas spoke to the administrator? Mr. Thomas said no. Attorney Knowles said the second option would be similar to the agenda item, which would be an organization that is separate from the Board of County Commissioners, it is it's own non-profit with its own board and similar to the organization in Tallahassee, which is the Tallahassee Senior Citizens Foundation. They receive \$179,000 from the County and from the City of Tallahassee. Mr. Thomas said if it has no other funding, and it may be a component unit for a little while. Mr. Thomas said their situation is a temporary situation. Mr. Dixon said things are being taken out of context and he does not want them to.

Mr. Dixon said they do not need a non-profit to fund senior citizens, the County has the ability to do that itself. They want a partnership with a non-profit because it could guarantee an additional million dollars from the Area Agency and other funders. The idea is simply to create opportunities for the non-profit to go and get its own funding. This is not made-up stuff. They modeled after a County intentionally. Attorney Knowles said in Leon County, there are partnerships where the BOCC provides funding to non-profit organizations, they need to have a contract that sets forth the rights and responsibilities of both parties. Mr. Thomas said it sounds like they are trying to have it both ways. It sounds like they want the foundation to be a non-profit and a county department at the same time on the fiscal management part of it. If it is a separate non-for-profit entity, where there are no county employees on the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners payroll working at the non-profit,

that board of directors has no power because these administrative employees work for the County administrator.

Commissioner Nesmith also stated that he wished Mr. Thomas would have been at the workshop to discuss this matter. He asked Mr. Knowles if the City of Chattahoochee have staff there at the facility, at the separate organization? Mr. Dixon said they are co-located at the armory.

Commissioner Green said he likes legal information. He said that the Clerk stated he will not pay, he will not do, he, he, he. His question is if there is a statute or a law, he can provide them that deals with where they are with the situation? Commissioner Green said it sounds personal right now. Mr. Thomas said it is really not personal. He said the constitution says the Clerk is the custodian of County funds and the statute says the Clerk is the accountant to the County Commissioners. It is another way of saying the BOCC and staff are not allowed to handle the County's money. The Clerk is required to question something if he thinks it's inappropriate or illegal. When the Clerk questions something, it is then incumbent upon the BOCC, through the attorney or through the administrator, to provide some sort of documentation to the Clerk to satisfy his concern. Commissioner Green said his question wasn't answered but he will figure it out.

Commissioner Simpkins said she appreciates the information. She said they both play apart because if they had questions, then they should have contacted him as well. She wants to make sure they are doing this right. She said she understands that none of the County employees can be a part of this foundation. She asked Mr. Dixon if there are any County employees that are going to be an employee of the foundation? Mr. Dixon said no. They will set up the contractual agreement with the foundation. So, if they do it in that manner, that would be ok. She asked about the policies in the workshop, so she can see where the confusion could be. Mr. Thomas asked are they currently County employees? He asked are they current county employees who were former senior citizens employees who will be working for the foundation under administrator Dixon? Mr. Dixon said the form they were following was that of Leon County. In the last meeting, the board wanted a different structure and directed the attorney to look at the structures. Commissioner Simpkins asked if any individuals that will be working with the senior foundation, current county employees? Mr. Dixon said no.

Ms. Washington said she works for the county and her job is to get funding for the foundation, is she going to lose her job? Mr. Dixon said no. Commissioner Green said she will work for grants; they are going to want somebody to go after grants so that they can get the monies to sustain. His question goes back to if there is a statute or a law that says they cannot work for the county and be a part of the non-profit foundation, especially when it comes to grant writing. Mr. Thomas said he answered that question and wants to know if the foundation received money, who handles that? Mr. Dixon said until the takeover, GSS would manage that money. Mr. Thomas asked if it is any of his staff? Mr. Dixon said no. Mr. Thomas clarified that there are 2 people on the County payroll receiving funds for GSS. County employees shouldn't handle this money because they work for the county administrator. They can't give money to county staff running a separate set of books. Chair Nesmith confirmed that they have 2 employees under BOCC that are co-located at the foundation and not handling any of the books for Gadsden Senior services. Mr. Dixon said it is imperative that you read the stuff that they write. There are 2 situations, there is a non-profit situation and they are set up with their board, and there will be the County. The county will not run the operations of the building. To manage the programming, will come through the senior services. The idea is to have that body out there. Those employees will not become county employees. It is an attempt to model another program, not to undermine any money. He said these attacks on his integrity are getting old by people who ought to know better. How are they going to get citizens to volunteer? They employ other folk to ensure that they are fundraising and engaged in other opportunities. Why does Gadsden County always have to have the worse stuff like stealing and thieving? He cannot come up with a good argument, he shows up at the last minute and wants to throw a bomb in the middle of everything. He doesn't have a better plan or a plan to help.

you have an answer, give it to them. Commissioner Nesmith asked if the 2 employees that they have at the Gadsden Senior Services will be writing checks for the foundation? Mr. Dixon said not under the plan they are going to adopt. Commissioner Nesmith asked if they will be maintaining their budget? Mr. Dixon said they will be partnering with the foundation to create a program for seniors.

Commissioner Holt said any agreement has to come back to the board. She agrees with Mr. Thomas that they shouldn't have county employees working with the non-profit. Commissioner Holt said they talked about the same thing last week and Mr. Thomas said the document he received did not reflect that. She will not vote for the money to be parceled out.

Commissioner Simpkins wants clarification. They have determined that the foundation has employees that are not county employees currently? Mr. Dixon said yes. Commissioner Simpkins asked if there are other employees aside from the 2 employees they mentioned? Mr. Dixon said no, they are the only ones. Commissioner Nesmith said the foundation has employees; they just have 2 that are there. Commissioner Simpkins said no. She asked how many employees the foundation currently has? Commissioner Simpkins asked when Mr. Thomas cuts checks, is he cutting the checks to GSS or to Gadsden Senior Foundation? Mr. Dixon said it will be the foundation. Commissioner Simpkins how many employees does Gadsden Senior Foundation have? Ms. Latoya Fryson said GSS has 15 employees. Commissioner Simpkins asked if all of those employees will be coming over to the Gadsden Senior foundation? Ms. Fryson said that is correct. Commissioner Simpkins asked if that will take place once they fund Gadsden Senior foundation? Ms. Fryson said once the foundation and everything is set up with the board's approval.

Commissioner Hinson said the prior organization lost funding because of something. The state took the funding and put it into two other state funds. Last week, the conversation was about how they can strengthen the senior citizens. He thought the organization was abolished. Based on what Mr. Cunningham was saying last week, the organization was closed. He did not know they were still in existence. That is why he said they should put funding into infrastructure.

Commissioner Green said Mr. Cunningham stated the foundation was still running and they were running out of money.

Commissioner Holt disagrees with everything Commissioner Hinson said. They said there was money left on the table that was available. This is not about the programs; they need to set up an organization so they could monitor everything. Commissioner Holt said they funded everyone except Greensboro. She called the question. Commissioner Hinson said it is not fair for a commissioner to say something about another commissioner without a rebuttal. He said that Commissioner Holt said they want to monitor the organization, but once it's a non-profit, it's almost impossible. It is not fair to give funding to one organization and not fund the other. Commissioner Hinson said it is difficult to restate the motion. He said \$475,000 cannot pay for 15 people. Commissioner Hinson resend his motion but he still want to fund Havana, \$50,000, Midway \$50,000, Gretna \$50,000 and Chattahoochee \$50,000 and at the same time he doesn't want to hurt the other organizations. Commissioner Simpkins resend her second. Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to accept this proposal and also schedule a special meeting within the next week to address the additional senior non-profit organizations/Holt second.

Commissioner Hinson said if the County auditor said there may be some things there and the county attorney is not sure about the information, maybe they should review it. He thinks they need to wait 2 weeks so that the administrator and clerk can get together to see if there's a problem in the policy.

Commissioner Green said the question has been asked as it relates to the employees being on the board. He said it was a personal opinion, no statutes involved. Commissioner Hinson asked if it is

501C3? Mr. Dixon said they have applied for it. Commissioner Hinson said, so they are going to give \$475,000 to an organization that is not a 501c3. Commissioner Simpkins thought that they established what was being done was proper. Mr. Thomas said he never said that, he said that it was on them to provide him the documentation to satisfy his concerns and he hasn't received anything. His statement stands as he said them earlier.

Commissioner Simpkins resend her motion and Commissioner Holt resend her second.

Commissioner Holt motion to approve option 1, approve the recommendation for the total amount that is listed. Commissioner Holt said money can't move because the clerk isn't going to pay it if he doesn't have the documentation. Commissioner Green said he thought they were passed the 501c3. He wants to know what's the hold up on it? Mr. Dixon said you apply and it takes a minute. Commissioner Green said even if they vote to move this, the money won't be given to the organization until it is a 501c3.

Attorney Knowles said whatever model they decide to go with, the contract will come back before the board. He can meet with the clerk about his concerns in the contract. Attorney Knowles confirmed that Commissioner's Simpkins motion for a special meeting was withdrawn. She confirmed it was withdrawn. Commissioner Green second Holt's motion.

Commissioner Simpkins said GSS needs money now to continue, but the 501c3 is not an overnight process. It may take months. If money is not going to be released, then they are still in the same position.

Mr. Dixon said the other groups out there don't have to be a 501c3, it's something non-profits do to be more attractable for grant funding. Commissioner Nesmith confirmed that it just needs to be a non-profit and the 501c3 is not required. Mr. Dixon said no.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT THAT IS LISTED IN OPTION #1 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

12. Approval to Award RFP No. 23-02 Professional Services-CDBG-CV Grant Project Engineers/Engineering Consultants (Stevens School)
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR NESMITH SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

13. Discussion and Direction of the Agreement with the Krizner Group-PULLED
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

14. ***Approval of the Spending Plan for the Gadsden County Bicentennial Celebration - ITEM WILL BE PULLED***
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

15. Approval of the Purchase Agreement for the Property Located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100 (Pat Thomas Parkway) (Material To Be Provided)
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

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

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to know about the lease agreement that they have. He said it is 2 years and 5 additional years with the paint and body shop. Attorney Knowles said the current tenant does not wish to remain in the lease and would like to negotiate a way out of that. There are two other residential leases, that can be terminated within 30 or 60 days. Commissioner Hinson asked is it possible that they can close this contract? It will look bad as a board if they have to evict someone. Attorney Knowles said they would like to get out of their lease. Commissioner Hinson said they had a workshop on this and the body shop was not included. Chair Nesmith said the body shop was harmless, developments were on other side of property. Mr. Dixon said it was all ideal.

Commissioner Green said they aren't going to ask someone to leave their home. He asked if they are going to provide assistance to those who live on the property? Mr. Dixon said they are on the fringe of the property; they will be able to come up with some ideas.

Commissioner Hinson said what if they don't want to leave. Mr. Dixon said they not have to ask them to leave, they may be able to stay. Commissioner Green was asking because that is his area and wants to make sure they do have a plan. Mr. Dixon said they have had 6 inquiries this week alone. Commissioner Hinson said what if Mr. Dixon retires after this motion is approved, and they want a different direction, they can do what they want. These decisions need to be worked on before the business.

Commissioner Holt said it is a property agreement. When looking at property, if they want to sell it to those two individuals, that's up to the board. There are a lot of options out there when it comes to property.

16. Discussion and Direction of North Florida Rural Health

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon said he recommended that they have a workshop on the issue.

Commissioner Green apologized to Mr. Quick for traveling and waiting for this item.

Kyle Quick thanked the board. He is the President and CEO of North Florida Rural Health which is a 501c3. The presentation is about the uninsured citizens of Gadsden County. They are asking that the Board of County Commissioners set aside one million dollars for this pool. If they see a patient, they pull from that pool at a rate of \$150,000. If they don't see any uninsured patients, they don't receive any money. Their team went around and found out why the citizens are not going to the doctors. There is a lack of transportation, so transportation is included, pharmacy is included, primary care is included, dental is included, \$150 per visit. He said for the uninsured citizens only, will the county allow \$150. When they see the patients, they also take them and put them in the market place to get them insured. In the 2nd year, there is a million dollars, they take \$100,000 place it with the state and federal fund. Those are matching funds. They will do 2 to 1. That will give them an opportunity to bring in additional medical staff. They still have to see up to \$100,000 before they can draw down again. It states in the Ordinance that they qualify to ask for the money. Chair Nesmith said they need to workshop this.

Commissioner Green asked if he knows about the bond clinic in Tallahassee? Mr. Quick said yes. Commissioner Green asked how similar it is, service wise? Mr. Quick said yes, primary care, dental, pharmacy, lab, transportation, etc. Commissioner Nesmith said people that have insurance will be able to use the facility? Mr. Quick said yes.

Commissioner Holt said the need is there. They need to make sure it has a 50-year lease. When they come back for a workshop, he should bring some people. Mr. Quick said there is no exposure with the county at all; no service, no money. Commissioner Holt said it is important to help them get insurance.

Commissioner Green asked how soon will he be available to do the workshop? Mr. Quick said tomorrow. Commissioner Holt said ASAP, before hurricane season.

17. Settlement Agreement for Smythe v. GCBOCC (*Material to be provided*)

(Clayton F. Knowles, Esq., County Attorney)

Attorney Knowles said as they discussed in their executive session, this is an agreement for Albert Smythe.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Clerk of Court

18. Updates

(Nicholas Thomas, Clerk)

Mr. Thomas did not have any additional comments.

County Administrator

19. Updates

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon said they have the EMS and Animal Control workshop tomorrow at 4pm. On Thursday, they have a workshop with the School Board and the City of Quincy at 4pm at the Research Center. Commissioner Hinson asked what the meeting is for. Mr. Dixon said this is more about the school and how to get the school money. Commissioner Hinson said the school board is their own entity and other than politics, they cannot tell the board anything. He said once they burn bridges, it is hard to make those connections. He said he does not want to waste his time at all and wants to know the reason of the meeting. He said the school board voted to increase the half sales tax. The superintendent forgot to turn it in to be on the ballot. He said if he is going to forget things as a superintendent, how will they be able to help them out at all? Chair Nesmith said the chairman of the board approached them to share their vision plan for the new school and how they can assist them. Commissioner Hinson said its more than just the school. Commissioner Holt said no one builds a school without meeting with local government so they can have some collaboration.

Mr. Dixon said they have the NACO Conference that starts this weekend. They have been in contact with the Sherriff due to the accident at the Robert F. Monroe entrance. They have talked about extending some traffic while DOT does what they need to do. They may require extra deputies.

County Attorney

20. Updates

(Clayton Knowles, Esq., County Attorney)

Attorney Knowles said there is another case, which is a personal injury regarding an ambulance. They are ready to resolve it, and would like to have an executive session.

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

Discussion Items by Commissioners

21. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins said she has gotten calls in regards to the fire rating. They are actively working on it. They need to make sure that the citizens know that they are working in it. She feels that they need to advertise and try to recruit some volunteer firefighters, maybe through the newspaper, WCTV, or WTXL. She wants for them to schedule a workshop to discuss the AHCA funding. Also wants a workshop to discuss the hospital and the indigent tax. She made a motion to have a special meeting in 14 days in regards to funding the other senior organizations and Commissioner Green second it. Mr. Dixon said if they are going to make decisions on that, they need proper time to advertise. Attorney Knowles said they could just advertise it like at the City Hall.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR A SPECIAL MEETING WITHIN 14 DAYS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked for the ISO Ratings, if they are volunteers, are there certain levels of certification? Andre Walker said for the volunteer firefighters, they call them firefighter 1 and firefighter 2 is for paid firefighters. She suggested that they should give a stipend. Chief Walker said firefighter 1 is about a year worth of training. They are trained in Quincy but they don't have enough people to hold a class. They need at least a class of 12. They have 142 volunteers in the County. Commissioner Holt said if they decide to encourage them, they should give them a stipend for training. The average age is 18 and a high school graduate. Commissioner Green asked for a letter that they are working on a solution so that the citizens will know. Commissioner Holt asked if they require level 1 at each station, at least one? Mr. Dixon said it requires 4 level 1's. They are changing the face of EMS and this county has a great history of volunteer firemen. However, they are ageing out. They looked at how they do their strategies. They are looking at adding additional personnel into EMS. EMS people are certified firemen but haven't been using them to that capacity. Commissioner Holt said cross training may be an option. There are 11 fire stations. They need at least 44. Chief Walker said if they are speaking of putting 4 firefighters 24 hours, they have to have 3 shifts. He said they have a roster share/mutual aid which allows firefighters to be a member of multiple stations.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the 11 stations include the Dogtown Greenshade? Chief Walker said they are included and Commissioner Simpkins said they are not recognized on the insurance companies. Chief Walker said they are not on there because they are new. He said ISO hasn't been able to come out and evaluate them. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they need to schedule ISO to come out? Chief Walker said the chief does that. The Chief for Greenshade is responsible. Commissioner Simpkins asked if a certain number of firemen have to remain at the station? Chief Walker said not for volunteers. No one has to be at the station, they have to be on their roster. ISO only looks at house fires. They asked the chief to pull structure fires. Mr. Dixon said the truck moves immediately. Chair Nesmith said Havana ISO rating went down and asked if that was because less than 3 firefighters were showing up to a fire? Chief Walker said if ISO calls to schedule, if they do not respond, they automatically bump you up to 10. So, someone did not respond to a call.

Commissioner Green said if they can workshop it. He said there is a fee to be certified so he would like to see how they can assist with covering those fees. Chair Nesmith said tomorrow is EMS workshop. Commissioner Green said they can further the conversation. Mr. Dixon said they were waiting to put out a letter to put out on the workshop. Commissioner Hinson said this needs to be an exclusive workshop and asked if they can receive the information 4-5 days in advance so they can go over it. They changed the laws late last year. Mr. Dixon said their program was a lot of volunteerism.

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Commissioner Holt looking at the comments about them, how they are on track and then they are not on track. She said if they can just get back to the business. People are saying they are talking too long, they just need to call the question. She asked for a section on the agenda item for legal opinions.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green invited the national hook up of black women. He would like for them to come in and give information.

Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked Attorney Knowles if it is legal for someone outside to video the meeting? Attorney Knowles said yes, it is a public meeting. He asked for a proclamation for Ms. Simmons who turned 106.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR MRS. SIMMONS TURNING 106 YEARS OLD AND COMMISSIONER GREEN SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Nesmith said it should be a recognition. Commissioner Hinson said it is a proclamation.

Commissioner Holt left the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a workshop on the fire rating. He said they need to figure out ways to talk to Robert F Monroe to see what can they do about Highway 90. He wants to see if there is something they can do to help them.

Commissioner Kimblin E. Nesmith, J.D., District 3

Chair Nesmith said the CRTPA is on the calendar and they need to discuss it in the next meeting. He said when he first started, he thought they would have staff to help the commissioners. He said there is 1,000 jobs available with career source. He said the board needs help because they have to go through a lot of documents to get information. They need an operations coordinator that the board members can contact during the day time. He said he lost his aid because of the work load placed upon her. They have a lot of resources available to them. He wants someone in place with the county dealing with day-to-day today operations that can assist them and update them on committee reports.

Commissioner Hinson said they have 2 years of money, sometimes it's best to invest in yourself. He told Chair Nesmith to make the motion to hire full time aids. He said they wouldn't be taking it out of the general fund.

Commissioner Nesmith wants to make sure everyone is on board. Commissioner Hinson said for him to make the motion, he just needs 2 more votes. Commissioner Nesmith made a motion to get full time aids and Commissioner Hinson second. Motion failed, needs to be discussed, it will be put on the next agenda. Chair Nesmith resend his motion and Commissioner Hinson resend his second. Ms. Daniels wanted clarification on the special meeting that was requested because that will also be the regular meeting will be in 14 days. Commissioner Simpkins said it can be within 14 days. It doesn't have to be on that exact Tuesday, it can be before that. Ms. Daniels said in order to be advertised in the local paper, it would need to be advertised by next Monday for advertisement in next Thursday's paper, which would be the 16th. Attorney Knowles said for them to remember it is a special meeting so they can post them at the city hall or advertise it in the democrat so they don't have to necessarily advertise in the local paper. Ms. Daniels said OK, point taken.

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Motion to Adjourn

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD. CHAIR NESMITH ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 10:04 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk