

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 20, 2023 AT 4:00 PM,  
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

**Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Nesmith welcomed everyone to the meeting at 4:03 pm., Commissioner Simpkins gave the invocation, and Chair NeSmith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**Amendments and Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Dixon stated there were no amendments to the Agenda.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS AGENDA.**

**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@gadsgdencountyfl.gov](mailto:CitizensToBeHeard@gadsgdencountyfl.gov) until noon on February 20, 2023. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record; however, the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Chair Nesmith read the above statement aloud.

*Commissioner Green arrived at 4:06 pm.*

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**1. Welcome**

Chair Nesmith said this was a special meeting to discuss additional funding for non-profit senior programs.

**2. Discussion of Additional Funding for Non-Profit Senior Programs**

Mr. Dixon said they had been in discussion about the relationship of the County with the Foundation. Commissioner Simpkins wanted to discuss funding for additional programs with the Senior citizens. He said generally they have given those programs \$10,000 every year. This conversation is for the Board to discuss funding for additional programs.

Commissioner Green asked how many in addition to the Senior Citizens were they speaking in reference to as it related to the senior services that were requesting funding and were they maintaining the stipends that they have been giving to the other programs.

Chair Nesmith said they had the opportunity to speak at the end of last week. He asked what they were doing with any of the senior programs because he knew as it related to non-profits, they had to put that policy in place. He said the end of last year they were re-organizing their non-profit organizations. Mr. Dixon said they had not anticipated non-profits coming up until early the next month. However, every non-profit was caught up. He added that included Quincy, Havana and Chattahoochee. He added they gave \$10,000 each to Havana and Chattahoochee last year and the years prior. They did not anticipate giving those the \$10,000 because it came up under the umbrella and they would be covered in the budget they passed. He said they heard a presentation from the Wellness Center about their continued participation in this issue. He said they now have Wellness, who was new to this scene and has not been funded in the prior years. There is Midway who has two years of \$10,000 on the books that have not received last year's funding because they have been unable to reach anybody.

*Commissioner Hinson arrived at 4:13 pm.*

He said the conversation now was at what level and if the Board intended to fund the remaining one out there. He said that would be Wellness, Gretna and Midway. He added that with Wellness, they were in competition. He said there was approximately \$1 Million on the line in terms of grant money they were going after. He said it was intuitive to give funding to someone who would use it to compete against them. If they win the grant, they would have no obligation to do services county-wide. He said should the Board win the grant, they could give them any level of funding they wanted because then they would be the lead agency in the County and they would just be acting as another agent to deliver services. Those two things are at odds with each other about how they move forward. For that situation they are in competition with, it was a problem from his perspective.

Commissioner Green said, for clarification, Gretna was not under the funding they approved and was there a reason why? Mr. Dixon said the city chose to have their own program. Commissioner Green asked what the budget was for non-profits. He felt the workshop concerning budget should have been held first before having this meeting so they would have known what they could offer to any other services outside the Senior Services that were under the umbrella of the County. He asked what was the budget for non-profits? When could they expect to know who would be allotted the grant or funding that they were in competition with?

Mr. Dixon asked Ms. Fryson to step to the podium and she said as of the past Friday, they had not released information on when they were going to release the RFP. Chair NeSmith said Commissioner Green asked about the budget and Mr. Dixon said just for seniors, the budget would have shown all seniors funded at \$100,000 because it showed GSS (Gadsden Senior Services) being funded as well.

Commissioner Green said if they did not receive this funding, they would have to come back to try to fund the program that they were taking under their umbrella. He said they would have to ask the other non-profits who were taking a bid for the same money if resources could be taken

from them if they received the money. That was what sustained the program prior to the transition. He said that was a higher priority of funding that the GSS they were connected to were accustomed to having that funding.

Commissioner Simpkins said she requested this meeting because they stated in the last meeting there was a request for \$475,000 for Gadsden Senior Foundation. She came in on the tail end of it, she did her own research to find out where they were, what happened and where they were going. Gadsden Wellness was providing services to about the same number of seniors that GSS was providing services to. GSS was receiving funding from that grant source, but the County also provided \$60,000 to them. Just as GSS was an independent non-profit that provided services to seniors, the same held for Gadsden Wellness. She was told that the RFP would probably come out in March for this funding. The Foundation would not be able to apply as the lead agent on the case management, it would be able to apply for the older American grant so only part of it. They do not qualify to apply for both of the grants. With what they have on the table, they will not receive the funding. The Plan does not line up with what they want to see. They need to bring the funders to the table with them. If they want the money and wanted to be the lead, they need to bring them to the table along with the Area on Aging. There needs to be a workshop with them. She added they did need to fund the additional senior services because they are providing services. She agrees with Commissioner Green, if Gadsden Wellness receives funding, they did need to ask how they were going to provide and then said they would not have to ask as Area on Agency would ask how they would provide. She said they could not look at just GSS, because at the end of the day, something went wrong. She was still reading to see what happened and why those funds were not made available to senior services. She said they were putting a Band-Aid on it right now. She asked what was the plan if they did not receive the money? They need to have a long-term goal in place. What was the scope of services and what was the deliverables expected. They were not addressing that. She said there was no guarantee Gadsden Wellness was going to get the funding. She said they were providing services and said to give them some funding and as a Board, they decide how much because they were servicing seniors at this point. They may be their competition but right now there was no RFP out and they were providing services, give them funding to continue the assist the seniors.

Mr. Dixon said he respectfully disagreed with Commissioner Simpkins. What they saw was their plan. The Plan is to survive this situation. They knew why GSS ran out of money, it was because they lost the in-house capability to bill and that backed up money. They had to take steps because they have deliverables as well. The plan is laid out anticipating that, just as pragmatic as they could be, that they would not get the grant. It would require \$475,000 annually to run that program. It is laid out for two years to give them the opportunity to begin to move in that direction. One of the positions they saw, Ms. Washington is a grant writer and that is the future of that situation, to minimize the regularity of Board support and to begin creating different streams of income into the program. He said he saw Wellness as no different from Midway, Gretna or whatever new site might come up. As Commissioner Simpkins said, if they are providing the services, they should be funded. He said they believe they have a good RFP, have met with the same people the Commissioners met with. If there was something that can help the County's plan, bring it up. At no point do they anticipate defunding or not funding anyone who was providing services. He said what his comment should have suggested was this may not be the opportune time for that.

Commissioner Holt said the Board decided before she came in to have the Administrator look at the organization that would monitor the Senior Citizens Center and that they would have someone on staff until the Clerk came in and said no. She said the other non-profits has not had the opportunity to apply. When she met with them on Mahan Drive, Area Agency on Aging sent an email to Mr. Cunningham that said the Senior Citizen Center was doing well. The only thing they had a concern with was the accounting and they were training to do the accounting. Area Agency knew what they were doing. She asked why this was such an emergency and was told there was money left on the table that could have been applied for. She asked why didn't Ms. Taylor apply for that money, why go after the money of a program the County already had set up. They had the opportunity to go after other funding. She added you should not take from one program to go run your program when there is other money. She asked them if it was such an emergency, why wasn't the Board notified and was told they did not have to notify the Board.

*\*\*There were further comments made by Commissioner Holt. To hear all the comments, please see the video for this meeting at [www.gadsdenclerk.com](http://www.gadsdenclerk.com).\*\**

Chair Nesmith said they were talking specifically about the Gadsden Wellness Center and he had an opportunity to visit it and see it in action. His position he expressed was the same now as it was then. He saw great work being done and the residents were engaged and he informed them that he supported them 100%. He also informed them that they were creating a process that was going to outlive this Board for non-profits and was more than excited for them to apply to be a part of that process. Between the Seniors and young people, no one else was more important. He echoed Commissioner Green, this was not a competition. There is an organization they have to stabilize and not to exclude anyone. The Foundation they are creating is important. He received a call asking if he was going to support them. Just two weeks ago he received a call from an organization and they have a reading program for children. They were requesting funding from the Board and asked if he would support that. He stated until there was a process in place, they were not going to fund dollars outside of any other area because they were moving forward to have systems in place that would outlast any of the Commissioners that were on the Board. He said he was in support of the Wellness Center but it was imperative to have a process in place to get everyone to apply. They have to stabilize things something first.

Commissioner Simpkins said they need to take the word "non-profit" off the table at this point. She said what they were saying was they were putting something in place for non-profits yet GSS and Gadsden Senior Foundation was a non-profit. She said they were creating a department under the Elderly Affairs and saying that Gadsden County Seniors would fall under their Elderly Affairs Department. Otherwise, they were saying they were putting something in place for funding non-profits and it was not in place yet; yet they were saying they are funding Gadsden Senior Foundation, which is a non-profit. She said she was for seniors, and when she said plan, the plan needs to include a scope of services and deliverables. She spoke to the same person they spoke with, the way that it is set up right now, they will not receive the funding if the RFP came out today and they applied for it with what they had. It needs to be expanded and was why she said they need everyone to come to the table with the organization that provides the funding. Part of the problem with the previous organization was, yes, the Administrator followed the directive, however, have they addressed the problem that Senior services had? They were going to bring Ms. Fryson in and based on what the Clerk told them, that was a conflict. Part of the problem Area Agency had was the turnovers with GSS, the lack of training for the individuals that was running the program. She said she was all for Gadsden County Senior Services but with

the Foundation, they were still bringing over the same employees. So, they would still have the same problems. The problem started back in 2020 and it was never rectified. So, then it goes to them changing the name, was that going to correct the problem that has been taking place with Senior Services?

Mr. Dixon said the turnover is at the base of GSS's problems. The ability for anybody to hold on to staff is serious. They kept losing the staff and was no different than the (Deputy) Clerks present that has a specialized job. Their billing problems were the same, it is a specialized training opportunity. Area Agency got tired of training someone every 5 minutes because people kept leaving. They had a fixed budget and could not raise salaries without cutting services to seniors. The Area Agency said they could not go into the fiscal year with all of the money on their books and the best way was to create someone in Gadsden County that could do it. Area Agency resolved their problem and created a problem for the County. They did not want to deal with GSS anymore, GSS had a limited financial ability that was not communicated to this body or any other body. They had a problem they could not fix. What has been done to fix is was: 1) Ask the Board to fund those people, to stabilize the people that were there and not let them go. The County will take over most of the services of running Senior Services across the County. Every service across the County are very different. He said certain programs will only donate to non-profits and certain opportunities you would want the Seniors to have through the non-profits and not through the County. The County will absorb most of the costs.

Commissioner Simpkins asked for him to help her understand. Gadsden County Senior Services will be run by Gadsden County. Mr. Dixon said the service centers will be operated by the BOCC. Commissioner Simpkins asked by the Board or by the non-profit. Mr. Dixon said the majority of the services will be ran by the Foundation. She asked if Gadsden County Senior Services would be run by the BOCC. Mr. Dixon said the only thing done by the Foundation would be the program. Commissioner Simpkins said the program was the problem. The billing and the oversight with the training.

Ms. Blackshear appeared before the Board and wanted to clear up some things. The employees that were with GSS were no longer there. They have hired people that are competent to deliver what was required and was not going into this with the same individuals that Area Agency on Aging had a problem with. They have a very qualified staff in place now to take care of those concerns.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the Executive Officer was a County employee or Senior Foundation employee? Mr. Dixon said their first model anticipated following the Leon County/Tallahassee Senior Center model, which has the Executive Director of Elder Affairs also serves as the Executive Director of the non-profit. That was the model everyone told them was acceptable including the Area Agency on Aging. The only person who did not like that model was the Clerk. The Attorney presented them with a second model where they have the non-profit will have their own Executive Director, which is fine with the BOCC. They are looking for models that work. He said their intention was to find a model that worked for the long-term delivery of services to Seniors.

Commissioner Simpkins said GSS will have their Executive Officer and they will work with Ms. Fryson in overseeing the funding that BOCC was providing to the Foundation. Mr. Dixon said to make sure the funding they were doing was complementary to the accomplishment of delivering

services to Seniors. Commissioner Simpkins said when they are looking at the models he was talking about, look at Leon County's model and when they are providing the funding to the Senior Services, there is a list. There is a checklist when it came to grants. She asked if that was in place? She said they were saying \$475,000 to a new foundation. Were they making sure they had all of that and they were requiring that? One thing said by Area Agency was they did not, as a County, request in the past, funds were just given and they did not have any specific deliverables as to what they wanted to see with the funds that were being provided.

Mr. Dixon said yes, they have it in General and Chair NeSmith asked it be provided to the Board.

Commissioner Green said he never got an answer as to why they could not follow the Leon County/Tallahassee version, although the Clerk stated otherwise, it was more of a personal preference. He said he did not understand if that was the reason why, if that system was already in place and that County was receiving the funds, why we could not set up in the same format and also receive funds?

Mr. Knowles said he spoke to Leon County. Leon County does it different. It is similar to the model they have been discussing with GCSF (Gadsden Senior Citizen Foundation). They fund directly into the Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation, Inc. They fund them in conjunction with the City \$179,000. They have a contract between the two entities with deliverables and was a non-profit foundation and has its own Board. The Center is staffed by the City of Tallahassee, their Executive Director is employed by the City of Tallahassee. Leon County has a contract with the Tallahassee senior Center Foundation where they dole out their funding twice a year for the program services they provide. He added that they had to be careful with the money as it was ARPA funds, Federal dollars, and they had to make sure controls were in place to make sure the money was spent correctly. If misspent, its coming back to the Board and coming out of their general revenue or reserve. He said they were working out the details where the non-profit receives the funding. If the board wills and wants to pull it under the guise of the County itself and Elder Affairs, that was a little bit different. He added from what he heard, it sounds like the model where it was a direct injection of capital into a separate, incorporated organization that is separate and apart from the County is the direction the Board wanted to go. If it is that way, it would be just a contract. If so, everything discussed today would need to be in that contract. He said the contract would be their guide and would be used to make sure the money was spent correctly, give the County audit controls, etc. Chair Nesmith asked for the name of Tallahassee's organization again and wanted to make sure it was a private non-profit organization and it receives funding from the City of Tallahassee and Leon County. Mr. Knowles said yes. He did not know how the City funds their part, he only knew how the County funds their part. Chair NeSmith asked if both entities had a contract and Mr. Knowles stated he only knew of the contract with the County and he had a copy of that agreement. Commissioner Green said that was a good model and why they asked the Administrator months ago to research how they set up the organization. He stated he also thought there was conversation that the City of Quincy said they would buy into the Foundation once it was organized and up and running. He felt once it was up and running, other cities and municipalities would want to contribute funding. He said they were not creating something that has not already been done.

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney for a copy of the contracts before they meet again regarding this matter. She added things like that they need before the meeting. She said they own the building; the Prosecutors office is in the building and they do not fund that program.

Chair Nesmith asked who the Executive Director worked for and who they were and Mr. Knowles stated the City of Tallahassee and the name was Sheila Salyer. Mr. Knowles said he did not think she worked for the organization.

Ms. Fryson said Ms. Salyer was the manager for the Tallahassee Senior Center and is the Executive Director for the Foundation. She added there were nine City employees and 12 Foundation employees. Commissioner Simpkins asked if she oversees those employees for the Foundation and Ms. Fryson responded she does, but did nothing financial.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a few heartburns; their urgency last week was people losing their jobs. Now, he has found out the BOCC hired new people. Ms. Fryson clarified prior to herself and Ms. Washington being hired through the County, there were 16 employees at GSS that was already in place and GSS hired those individuals. To be fair to the constituents, Commissioner Holt stated just accounting issues was the reason why GSS lost the contract. Commissioner Simpkins noticed they had turnover as well as the lack of training that was involved. Mr. Hinson said they would have turnover due to COVID, but he said with his small business, they did training for people like this. He said to look at any organization that has their own business, they have ARPA money and Cares dollars. The Board has not determined who should be on the board. He said first, they need to know what happened to the ARPA money. It needs to be figured out how much money they received in addition to what they received from the State. There may be a huge reason why it happened. He said they need to know and was only fair as a Board, before deciding, to hold figure out what is the why? He said he wanted to make sure no one was taking advantage of the seniors.

Commissioner Simpkins said the initial reasoning was the funding for the other senior programs. She asked if they were going to provide funding for the additional senior programs or were they waiting until they have total clarification on the Foundation, GSS and was voting on them both at the same time?

Chair Nesmith said they have to get their house in order. It was important they establish a good foundation with the seniors first and the program they help create. Once that was stable, they could look at any other programs that impact the seniors. He added that even though Gadsden Senior Foundation (GSF) was a non-profit organization, the difference is that they were helping to create the Gadsden Senior Foundation. He said there was a nexus between those two as opposed to other organizations that were doing great work.

Commissioner Simpkins said they look at the services currently and she thinks that it's the older AA grant that provides the hot meals for some of the seniors. She thought they needed to request proof of deliverables but services were being provided, granted some Seniors decided to go down there. Currently they have an organization that provides hot meals for some of the seniors. She believed they needed to request proof of deliverables but services were currently being provided to those.

Ms. Fryson reappeared before the Board and said GSS was still operating under the assumption that they have OAA. They were still providing the hot meals, providing transportation to the Seniors. In addition, they are also, through their Case Manager, through the General Revenue side, was still providing homemaking services and companionship services by the healthcare

providers. Nothing has changed except they do not have the dollars. Commissioner Simpkins said she was referring to services provided to other seniors. For the other seniors, when GSS was getting OAA dollars, BOCC was still providing additional funding. Commissioner Simpkins said even though they were receiving the OAA dollars, we should give them dollars as well and request deliverables.

Commissioner Holt asked the Administrator for a chart with all “the stuff” on it. She asked the attorney for a legal opinion on the chart for anything that was not legal. She explained she wanted a chart for all the programs, how they were funded and who they were funded through, that’s what she asked the Administrator for. She asked the attorney for opinions that they may or may not provide. He said he has already developed a contract that he has sent to Mr. Dixon that he felt worked for the County. She said the request for a chart was for the Administrator and she wanted a legal opinion from him on all the contracts so they would not have to go over this matter numerous times. She said with the ARPA money that Commissioner Hinson mentioned, she thought it was unusual to say the organization there could have applied for money that we did not know if they applied or not.

Commissioner Green said the subject matter was Discussion of Additional Funding for Non-Profit Senior Programs. It should have read Funding for Additional Non-Profit Senior Programs. He said it was the same words but had different meaning. He said they have gone for almost two hours and no answer. This should have taken place after the non-profit program or they should have just stated that they were coming to ask for emergency funds for an organization that needed funds. He stated he believed if the services were being provided and they have funding they could give to help, they should find a way to do that. He said in defense of the Wellness Center, the Director did come in and gave a request for funding. His thought they were going to come in and discuss that. The other non-profits that may apply for this funding may not offer the same type of services and may not need the same amount of money. He added he did not want to see anyone’s program fail that was offering services.

Commissioner Simpkins said he was right. She should have just said what she wanted and prior to her comments, listening to everyone else, she thought maybe she read wrong.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION THEY PROVIDE \$45,000 IN FUNDING TO GADSDEN WELLNESS. COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND AND ADDED AS LONG AS GSS RECEIVED MONEY AS WELL. THERE WAS CONVERSATION AROUND THE DAIS.**

Mr. Dixon said they did vote the other night to fund the Elder Affairs office and the Foundation to the tune of \$475,000.

Commissioner Green said for clarity, where would the funding come from, would they have to amend something? Mr. Dixon said they could tell them, it could come from ARPA funds if they liked. Commissioner Holt said what if they do not receive the funding, were they going to give the money back? Commissioner Green said he did not see where the \$45,000, if they do not receive the grant, that should not put them in the red of the County because 1) they are still providing the services and the County should not expect anything back. Mr. Dixon said they would not expect to get it back unless they say so. Chair Nesmith said they were doing great work, but he could not support it because there is not a process in place. It was setting them up to establish a precedent where they will have a special meeting to fund a special entity because it was a special cause. He said that organization was doing great work and it was wonderful, but



the precedent, he stated it then and felt he was right in that, they want to support every organization and there were a lot of organizations doing a lot of great work, including The Wellness Center, including a number of organizations. But the precedent they were establishing was that, if an organization comes forth and was fighting a good fight, like so many organizations were doing, they have to have a process in place to follow so when they are bombarded with all types of great work, they could take the politics out of it, take the influence out of it and say there was a process for them to go through. He said that way when they receive it, it has been vetted by a group of community leaders who have forwarded that to them.

Commissioner Holt said they have not given other non-profits the opportunity that may provide these services and was one reason why she would not vote for it. The other thing was, and he made a good point, they do not have a process in place.

Commissioner Green said he agreed with a process, but he knew the funding they have given in the past was around \$10,000 to other organizations outside of the \$60,000 they were giving to GSS. He said it was very important to have a process because there would have to be a category rating on how much funding that could be gotten based upon services that were provided. He said based upon the services that The Wellness Center was already providing, they will need more than \$10,000. He did not know how often the other centers when it comes to senior services, were meeting. They have to take that into effect when they decide on the process. Every non-profit may not get the same amount of money that is in the pot. He knew that have had workshops and meetings, meetings, meetings and wanted to make sure there was a purpose for the meetings. He did thing they the next workshop should be for non-profits and the process of non-profits, including The Wellness Center, that he thought would need more than \$10,000. Chair Nesmith said just to add to what Commissioner Green stated, he gave a scenario earlier when he shared with the Board that an individual of a prominent, non-profit organization called him and they provide reading through a reading program. When the individual told him that he did not think the amount allocated for the non-profit pool would provide that organization enough for what they were requesting, he stated this Board could always change the amount. They need to have a process in place.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought instead of putting money into programs, they need to build buildings and put in community centers. In the past, the Board established that senior citizen centers were not a part of the non-profit conversation. Since they did not give funding to GSS, it changed agencies, the money had to go with the agency the State funded. Now they were not giving them anything. The money should go as well. Let the State know they were playing fair. They need to continue to fund them.

Commissioner Simpkins assumed that when they receive grants from an agency, they do background checks. If they have not and it needs to be done, then they do that. They could put something in place that said the County needs to do a background check. If they were giving funding to an organization, Ms. Fryson was over the Elderly Funding that they give, identify what they want that funding to be used for. Give them a scope of services they would like to see the funding used for.

Mr. Dixon said it was important how they do this. They were setting up an organization that would be not only their organization but will turn out to be a monitoring organization for the other programs. He asked they keep in mind that the same contract of scope and deliverables they were bringing to them, would be expected of them and be monitored by your agency. They

need to solidify what they were doing before they grant Wellness or anyone else any amount of money because they were creating some parallel paths that may not cross. He added they had every right to make the donation they wished to make, but asked they not do that until they had a set-up in place for their own program.

Chair NeSmith said the Commissioners knew he was very involved in non-profit organizations and heavily involved in non-profit organizations in the Chattahoochee area. Because of where he stood, he was very involved with the ones that build ramps, ones that assist in food, the children at Chattahoochee Elementary School and when they ask for money from the County, he shares the same answer he did at the meeting, they did not have a process in place at this time.

Commissioner Holt said that was the reason for them to set up the Foundation. The information could go to the Foundation from all of them and they would have something in place. They still do not have anything in place, it should go to the Foundation. She said if they have three votes, to go forward.

Commissioner Hinson said someone brought up the idea that they should have a Gadsden County Foundation, not just a senior citizen foundation, because there were many needs in the County. They have student needs, etc. They fund things without having a process, for instance, the (Black History) parade last year. There were a lot of thing they did without a process in place. Every year they have been consistent in giving the senior citizens money, they were being inconsistent now. This is the first time in the history of him being on the Board that they have yet to fund senior services. He added this money was ear marked in the budget for this service. Why take it away?

Chair Nesmith said no one was saying they were not going to fund them.

Commissioner Hinson said they were Included in the non-profit but they were excluded, they have yet to be paid. He added that the Board said they would automatically fund them and the Senior Services were excluded from that. This is the first time they have yet to fund them and they should be funded by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Dixon said at the request of the Board, they voted not to fund any non-profits and they were not funded. They are in the budget as separate and individual receivers of the money but the County has not moved on their request for funding.

Chair NeSmith asked if they were still continuing to provide services to the Seniors and Mr. Dixon said yes. Chair NeSmith asked off what resources? Mr. Dixon said off whatever resources they had. Chair NeSmith said no-one was unemployed and Mr. Dixon said soon maybe but not yet. Commissioner Hinson said the money was not for employment but was for outreach. Chair NeSmith asked if any of the services have been interrupted and Mr. Dixon said not at this point. Commissioner Hinson said it had to be because they were not traveling. Commissioner Hinson said the Board had said the money was specifically for outreach so they could travel. Chair NeSmith asked the Administrator if that was something they needed to bring back to the Board and make sure there was no interruption in the services. Mr. Dixon said that was why it was brought to them last week regarding the Foundation and the County and they asked for the contract. Approved funding for the center and foundation but need contract. Mr. Dixon said they have not allowed any invoices for non-profits to go through.

Mr. Knowles said funding was approved, the next step was to ascertain how the Board wanted the operation to work. He was hearing today that would be with a contract with Gadsden Senior Services Foundation, Inc.

Commissioner Holt said she has had her hand up and the Chair would not give her the floor. Chair Nesmith said he was not ignoring her, he was trying to bring clarity. Commissioner Hinson said he did not have clarity. He said GSS did receive \$190,000 in a PPP loan and was unsure if it was ARPA or CARES money. They need to do an audit so they would know what they were dealing with.

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Fryson how they received the PPP loan. Ms. Fryson said she was not sure.

Mr. Dixon said they were not able to answer that.

Commissioner Holt said there was a motion on the floor and they needed to address that.

Commissioner Green said the PPP and CARES Act was a non-factor. If they received \$190,000, be real about the bills they have. He said there was an overhead they have to maintain at the Center. He wished they would have had the non-profits first and a system put in place because there are needs that need to be met.

Chair Nesmith asked Mr. Dixon to schedule a workshop for the non-profits asap.

**CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION FAILED.**

**3. Motion to Adjourn**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:27 P.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**