

**AT A REGULAR MEETING/WORKSHOP OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN
AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON
MAY 2ND, 2023 AT 4:30 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

WORKSHOP (4:30 PM)

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone and called the workshop to Order at 4:35 PM. Commissioner Green provided invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of the Allegiance to the U.S Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting. 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. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Chair NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Dixon stated they were going to go through the agenda items. He stated Item 6 will be pulled. They will be adding a summer youth presentation under Awards, Presentations, and Appearances. He asked if any questions for consent agenda.

Commissioner Holt stated next time hoped staff would run the workshop, so they can get all the information. She asked Attorney Knowles if he reviewed Item 7 contract and if he had any concerns.

Attorney Knowles stated none that he can see. He asked Commissioner Holt if she had any questions.

Commissioner Holt stated she was asking because she did not want to have concerns about any contracts later.

Mr. Dixon stated the contract is written in a way that the County has sole discretion that they can terminate the contract if it was in the best interest. Commissioner Holt stated would she like for contracts be signed off by the Attorney.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were agreeing to \$40,000. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Simpkins asked which budget. Ms. Daniels stated the Department of Elderly Affairs Budget. She asked if it would be a problem regarding the Executive Director for the foundation being employed with the County and them having a contract. Attorney Knowles stated it could create an issue.

Mr. Dixon stated the Executive Director is not employed with the County. She is a volunteer on the Board of the foundation, she was the president not the Executive Director. Commissioner Simpkins asked if that is a problem whether serving on a Board voluntarily or as a paid person. Ms. Daniels stated there is no staff that works for the foundation. There is a Board for the foundation and Ms. Germany serves as the Chair.

Commissioner Simpkins stated if Attorney Knowles stated it was fine, then she was fine. She asked if Gadsden Senior Foundation would be providing the services or are they serving as an entity to fundraise for the Seniors. Ms. Daniels stated they are serving as an entity to fundraise for the Seniors. Commissioner Simpkins stated that was not what they had. Ms. Daniels stated this information is based on services provided to Gadsden Senior Services. The foundation would continue to allow the services to happen through fundraising, etc. Mr. Dixon stated if the foundation goes to get money that allows them to provide services to the Seniors, the language was already there. They understood from the program they looked at, when that money comes into a foundation, that foundation has to provide those services. All they did was increase the range of the foundation. Commissioner Simpkins stated the scope of services did not include the actual services. It was not what was listed.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the County Administrator could show them what they were talking about in the document so they could be clear. Chair NeSmith stated they needed to move on. Mr. Dixon stated he did not have the documents they were referring to.

Commissioner Holt stated the Board at Senior Citizens had not been providing services. In the contract for the Senior Citizens Center, Attorney Knowles stated the person could not be an employee of the County Commission. She asked if there is a state statute that a person that worked in the County could not serve on a Board that was non-profit. She stated they needed to make sure they get someone to go after funding for the Seniors.

Commissioner Simpkins stated what she was looking at, read that the foundation was providing the supportive services, and the County is overseeing. She did not see where the foundation is seeking funding to assist with the Seniors. She was making sure they were doing what they agreed to.

Mr. Dixon stated when they wrote this, they tried to give as much latitude to each piece of the program. They had every intent of running senior citizen centers across the county. He stated it was not new that people work for the County and serve on the Board. They were not getting paid.

Attorney Knowles stated he wanted to be clear with Commissioner Simpkins that he was not saying that it was ok, he was just saying he needed to know more information about it and then maybe speak to the Clerk. He stated the Clerk does have the power to properly withhold payment.

Mr. Dixon stated those were power and duties of the Clerk. They do not pertain to this situation. Property appraiser has served on the Board for GSS and the Board has funded GSS. He stated she is a volunteer, nothing more or less. Commissioner Holt stated Mr. Dixon was correct but once the Clerk makes a determination, they need it in writing.

Commissioner Green asked if they have given this information to the Clerk. There seemed to be many issues as to what he would or would not do. They were here for the sake of the people. Attorney Knowles stated the contract was already approved; this was just a scope of work. Commissioner Green stated for future sake to make sure they were on the same page.

Chair Nesmith stated he thought that that was the agreement where there would be ongoing dialogue with the Clerk. Attorney Knowles stated there was nothing for the Clerk to approve in this item. Mr. Dixon stated he will have dialogue with the Clerk.

Commissioner Hinson asked if she worked for the County. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Hinson asked if they ever had an employee under BOCC that could serve on the Planning and Zoning Board. Attorney Knowles stated it could create conflict of interest. The Planning and Zoning Board is an advisory board to the BOCC. They would not want County staff on the Board.

Commissioner Simpkins stated her main concern was for the County and as it relates to the attachment they were about to vote on. She wanted to make sure the scope of services was correct and what the foundation's scope of services are and what they would be delivering. Commissioner Simpkins asked who applied for the actual Grant? Mr. Dixon stated Gadsden County. Commissioner Simpkins stated it should have it listed as well. Mr. Dixon stated they would amend documents as necessary.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could hear from the Director; it could bring clarity. Chair NeSmith stated they needed to move forward.

Commissioner Green stated he wanted Item 7 to be clear as possible. Although they are applying, they are also giving funding to the foundation. If they get that Grant, they would be able to recoup the money that they have given to the foundation for the scope of services. Mr. Dixon stated if it was allowed in the Grant. Commissioner Green asked if they get the Grant, were they able to utilize that Grant? Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson stated whoever asked for the funds were responsible for the funds.

Commissioner Green stated they were getting ready for Budget season and the \$475,00 that they were going to use out of the American Rescue Plan would not be here in upcoming years. He asked if they were able to budget for Senior Services or same foundation.

Mr. Dixon stated they were budgeted out for 2 years. They will start now allocating part of the recurring revenue to take over that money in 3 years.

Commissioner Hinson stated they needed to do a workshop on American Rescue Plan.

Chair NeSmith asked if they had any more questions on the rest of the items. Commissioner Green had a question for Item 13. He asked if they were able to present what was coming up for the rest of the year at the event. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was able to talk to City of Midway. They gave him a flyer with the County logo on it. Chair NeSmith asked Commissioner Hinson if the Midway Emancipation was a festival they had regularly. Commissioner Hinson stated yes.

Chair NeSmith asked about breaking out the cost for the artists since there was only one total cost. He asked if there were any further questions on this agenda item.

Commissioner Hinson stated last week he asked for Midway and Havana. He asked the County Administrator if they talked to anyone in Havana. Mr. Dixon stated he was working with the City Manager.

Mr. Dixon wanted to pull item 14. They did not complete the fee schedule.

Attorney Knowles stated the Carver Heights folks were still working on the ownership issue. Commissioner Green stated he wanted to move forward with item 15, but he wanted to make sure all documents are in place.

Commissioner Green stated it was not a big of a financial impact because the Board already received funding and done upgrades. If they looked at that amount, \$1 for sales tax.

Ms. Daniels stated there was a name change, owner of Carver Heights are citizens of Carver Heights. Attorney Knowles stated the deed was Carver Heights Senior Citizens of Havana FL Inc. Attorney Knowles stated it was a title issue, he wanted to make sure the Board was aware. Chair NeSmith asked who they were contracting with. Attorney Knowles stated Carver Heights Senior Citizens of Havana FL Inc. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they do approve it, it was contingent that the title or name change needs to take place. Attorney Knowles stated it could be a part of the motion.

Chair NeSmith asked if there were any questions for Item 16. Commissioner Simpkins stated she had concerns as it relates to the income eligibility criteria. It would limit individuals that they would be able to assist; the numbers are very low. She asked if they were just looking at the Seniors or others. She stated she was not able to properly find information for her citizens. She received a call today about a Senior. She asked how much discretion would they have as Commissioners if they approve this.

Commissioner Hinson stated when they go out in the community, they make recommendations to Staff to look at the houses. He stated the BOCC had complete authority and the staff had to go through them.

Mr. Stiell stated if the Board approves this, it would be for \$300,000. The applications would be made to the Staff, and the Staff would review them. If there was anything above that is approved in the application, then the SHIP administrator or the County Administrator can go above that amount.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Administrator if she could speak to Ms. Burns regarding this. Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Burns what were the concerns they had so they knew what they were looking at. Ms. Burns stated the Emergency Repair Program mirrors their SHIP Program. If Commissioners went out and saw something in their district, they would contact the County Administrator, and the County Administrator would contact staff. Then, a Rehab Specialist, herself, and a building official would go do an assessment. Since Monday, she had received around 10 calls regarding the septic system in Midway. The money is greatly needed. She told Commissioner Simpkins that they had income categories. The income in the packets are just the HUD guidelines. Chair NeSmith asked Ms. Burns if there was any existing program that would assist with the calls she received from Midway. Ms. Burns stated they only assist with septic's if it was a health hazard, which it was in this case.

Commissioner Holt stated they had problems with Commissioners going directly to Staff telling them what to do. They needed to beef up the Housing program. She stated the SHIP funds were going low because they do not have the people to help. Chair NeSmith stated he had a lot of concerns on this agenda item. Commissioner Green stated if the \$300,000 was approved, it was already gone. They need to find a way to increase the number.

Workshop ended at 5:56 pm.

REGULAR MEETING (6:00 PM)

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:01PM. He stated they will have a 5-minute recess. Commissioner Simpkins provided invocation. Chair NeSmith led into the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon stated to add Summer Youth presentation under Awards, Presentations, and Appearances. He pulled item 6 and 14.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Mr. Dixon stated Ms. Germany and Ms. Maas will bring a short presentation regarding the Summer Youth Program and what they had accomplished this far.

Ms. Maas appeared before the Board to discuss the Summer Youth Program. This program allows them to provide employment opportunities for the Youth. Ms. Germany, Summer Youth Employee, appeared before the Board. She gave a program status as of today. She stated they have identified 200 placements already. They had 30 completed applications. They were off to a great start and they reached out to more sites this time. They hoped they would get vendors to change their mind. Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure District 2 be represented as well. Ms. Andrews, Summer Youth Employee, appeared before the Board. She stated that was why they saturated the areas with applications this time and made personal contacts. Commissioner Hinson stated everyone had to be a part of this. Commissioner Green asked how many applicants have already been completed? Ms. Andrews stated 30. Ms. Andrews stated the deadline was May 12th to apply. He asked how many job sites were interested in providing work force to students. Ms. Andrews stated 30 confirmed.

Commissioner Holt stated she was glad not getting too close on the situation. She wanted to make sure they know about the May 12th deadline.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she did contact churches and pastors letting them know about the applications. She stated at Carter Paramore they had someone to make sure applications were filled correctly. She wanted to be sure all opportunities are given. Ms. Andrews stated they do make every effort. Commissioner Green stated he was hoping the guidance counselors with the schools are helping students with applications. He asked about advertising. Ms. Steele stated they would have an ad in next week's newspaper. They did not do radio ads. Commissioner Green asked, if possible, to extend the deadline date. He stated they should have had a youth child fair to have open interviews. He stated it was something to consider next year if it was not possible this year. Chair NeSmith asked the County Administrator if they had an electronic flyer that showed the deadline. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson stated Havana and Midway always had lower numbers and wanted to make sure they were represented well. Ms. Maas stated they were not limiting this based off where people lived. Only criteria were the completed application. Commissioner Hinson asked about special needs students. He stated they needed to make sure to include them in the process. Commissioner Green stated they need to have stricter guidelines for the special needs students. Commissioner Hinson stated they had someone working from the school board, Ms. Maxwell. She was picking the kids and talking to the parents about the program.

Commissioner Holt asked if Career Source would be partnering with them. Ms. Maas stated yes. Commissioner Holt stated it should not always fall on the Board; it should be a collaboration.

CONSENT

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

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:
 - a. **April 4, 2023 Regular Meeting**
3. **Approval of Mosquito Control Agreement with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) FY22/23**
4. **Approval of 2024 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**
5. **"Jett Farm Road" Road Name Approval**
6. **~~"Bowers Lane" and "Jerry's Lane" Road Name Approval~~**
Item Pulled

- 7. Ratification of Attachment I to the Agreement with the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Senior Citizen Foundation, Inc.**
- 8. Approval of the FY2023-24 Proposed Budget Calendar**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to

CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.org until noon on the date of the meeting.

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. Citizens are further encouraged to participate via Zoom using the credentials on the County's website. The Board's meetings are also broadcast live on the Board's Facebook page.

Mr. Dixon read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 9. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial): Havana Learning Center Classroom and Gym Addition Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2022-03)**

Mr. Stiell presented the above item. He read through the item.

Chair NeSmith asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak.

Carmen Greene, 1150 E. Tennessee St. Tallahassee, FL 32308

Ms. Greene appeared before the Board to discuss the above item. She asked if anyone had questions.

Commissioner Hinson asked if Attorney Knowles had seen this. Attorney Knowles stated the one concern they had was the traffic study. Commissioner Hinson stated he thought it was a great thing. He stated if they were going to address the issue with the number of students. Ms. Greene stated she was not sure if FLUM put a cap on it. Commissioner Hinson stated if something happened to the kids, they would be responsible for it. The maximum was 24 but it went up to 66 students.

Mr. Stiell stated it was a little of both. When it went through, there was 24 kids housed in an existing 4,266 sq ft dwelling unit. Since that time, it has expanded to include a 1,382 sq ft manufactured classroom building and current student enrollment is 62. Mr. Stiell stated the issue was that they did not increase their well and septic size after they increased the building size.

Commissioner Holt stated all public hearings are in public. She asked how far is the expansion of the gym from what was changed. They looked at the map on page 28 of 65 on the agenda item.

Ms. Greene stated they know they need to upgrade the well and the septic. Their plan was to upgrade the facility to accommodate the 100 students. Commissioner Holt asked if they did the gym later, would upgrades now satisfy the need at the gym. Commissioner Greene stated they were trying to designate areas on the site. The upgrades done now will accommodate the gym.

Commissioner Hinson stated public safety issues come first. He wanted to make sure they had policies in place. They could not go against ordinance. He wanted to make sure the kids are safe.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THIS ITEM WHERE IT INCLUDES ALL RECOMMENDATIONS ON NUMBER 1 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial): Havana RV Park Conceptual/Preliminary Site Plan (SP 2022-04)

Mr. Stiell presented the above item. He read through the item.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 7:08PM.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 7:10PM.

Commissioner Green asked if someone was representing the applicant. Mr. Stiell stated yes. Mr. George appeared before the Board to discuss the above item. Commissioner Green asked if the applicant had reviewed all the suggestions from the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. George stated yes.

Commissioner Holt asked if leaving the property towards Tallahassee, is there a lane there? Mr. George stated there was not a requirement for an acceleration lane, only de-accelerations. Commissioner Holt stated she was weary about the acceleration lane with the RV's. She asked if the property had great drainage. Mr. George stated yes. Commissioner Holt asked which district this was in. Commissioner Hinson stated 1 or 2.

Chair NeSmith asked if anyone from the audience would like to speak.

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

11. Public Hearing: Reallocation of American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to Set up Funding for the Newly Created Elderly Affairs Department

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. Chair NeSmith asked if anyone from the audience would like to speak on this item.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was reoccurring for the next 2 years. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Hinson stated the million dollars could help offset a lot of homes. They needed to list their pardons.

Commissioner Holt asked the County Administrator if funds would be used for Seniors. Mr. Dixon stated yes. She would like to move the money forward.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was under the impression that they were approving it for this year and applying for funding. She agreed with the funding for this year. She wanted to make sure they were staying with that plan. She stated she was in agreement with it as long as they were saying that they were just taking care of the \$475,000 for this year.

Mr. Dixon stated the program had funding for 2 years at \$475,000 from the ARPA money. Commissioner Simpkins stated would like to have paperwork in front of her.

Commissioner Green stated he was under the impression that they were passed the approval part. The County Administrator stated it was a financial removal. It changes the budget, so it must come before a public hearing.

Commissioner Hinson asked about them sitting down together and getting directives. People need help now. If they have the money now, why hold it.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if the budget amendment \$475,000 is just for this year. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Hinson stated the money is not going directly to the seniors. The helpers help the Seniors.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

12. Approval to Award RFQ No. 23-01 Professional Services-Architectural Consulting Services

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:38PM.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:40PM

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY CHAIRMAN NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

13. Approval of Funding to Partner with the City of Midway for the Annual May 20th Celebration

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

14. Approval of Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioner's Department of Elderly Affairs and the Gadsden Senior Services

Item Pulled

15. Approval of the Lease Agreement with Carver Heights Senior Center

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Attorney Knowles stated when they spoke in the workshop, there was a condition that it must be an operating business at the time of signing.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON UNDER THE CONDITION THAT IT MUST BE AN OPERATING BUSINESS AT THE TIME OF SIGNING AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

16. Approval of the Gadsden County Emergency Repair Program

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Simpkins stated the amount needs to be increased from the \$300,000. Also, she wanted to make sure there was input she would be able to have as it related to constituents in her district.

Commissioner Hinson stated once they meet minimum qualifications, then it would be approved.

Commissioner Green stated the amount was too low. He stated Ms. Burns has already located several issues in Midway and so the money would already be gone. He did not agree with them having allocating monies within the district.

Commissioner Holt stated they should approve the item with the money they have. She did not want any false comments. She stated it was false that any Board members have any say so over tax payers' money.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:52PM

Chair NeSmith stated he received a call from a lady about removing a tree in her property. He stated he was not allowed to since it was private property. Chair NeSmith stated he trusted the housing department.

Commissioner Hinson stated they need to educate their constituents the right way. There was a lot of people in need. He stated it was their job to help.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:55PM

Commissioner Simpkins stated they needed to make sure District 2 is taken care of. She wanted a specific amount set aside for District 2. She stated she had someone go to her job telling her there was a need in the district. They could not get in contact with her because her contact information was not on the website. She wanted to make sure her citizens needs are met.

Commissioner Green stated his concern was how low the amount is. If they approve the \$300,000, when could they come back and ask to add to this? He did not want it to linger. He

wanted a timeframe on when they could have it back on the agenda. Mr. Dixon stated the ARPA meeting had been scheduled.

Commissioner Holt stated it could be put into motion if he wanted it to be brought back before that meeting. Mr. Dixon stated by looking at additional monies, they respect the folks that have waited. He insisted that those requests are brought to him and not directly to staff. Commissioner Hinson stated the Board could ask Staff questions. It was ok for Commissioners to ask questions.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure that the Workshop on the 15th included the Housing Department to discuss what they already have in place. Commissioner Holt stated they can discuss this on the 15th and move on.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would second it if it will be divided amongst districts. He asked before they vote on this, question should be about fairness. Everybody in the County needs help.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted clarification. If it was \$300,000 or was it a certain amount per district. Commissioner Hinson stated in writing it was something different. It was different than what was asked.

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

17. Approval to Request Space from HCA Florida Gadsden Emergency for the Gadsden County Elder Affairs Food Pantry

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

Commissioner Hinson stated it was a great idea but he believed in public-private partnership. Commissioner Green stated the motion was for conversation purposes. He stated they need to have a conversation if it was an option. He asked if they were not voting to do a second harvest or food bank. Mr. Dixon said correct.

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

18. Approval of Bonuses for Gadsden County Staff

Mr. Dixon presented the above item. Proposed a one-time bonus of \$3,000.

Commissioner Hinson asked what was the rush with this. He stated he did not mind giving an increase but he believed they needed to start putting emphasis on BOCC staff. He would like to focus on Public Works persons and EMS persons.

The County Administrator stated he agreed with Commissioner Hinson. The first thing they did was raise the base to \$15 an hour. He stated there needed to be climbers for Public Works. He stated they needed to get their salaries to where they can afford to survive and prosper working at the County. Commissioner Hinson asked if everyone was receiving \$3,000 for full time. He asked how soon they could get it. Mr. Dixon stated as soon as they approve it. Commissioner

Hinson stated they needed to look at the County. Mr. Dixon stated they were giving it to each employee.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the constitutionals had authority to provide raises to their own staff. Mr. Dixon stated Yes.

Commissioner Green stated many of the employees are also residents of the County. He would want them to get something, so that was why he supported this.

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

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

Nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon stated he would like to request proclamations for the following weeks: Public Works Week, EMS Week, Family Abduction Awareness Day, and Mental Health Awareness Month.

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

Mr. Dixon stated Friday is May Day with the City of Gretna at 6 PM. It would be a soft kickoff for the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Green stated Leon County would be preparing for their Bicentennial next year. He stated they should go over and see how they would be celebrating. Mr. Dixon mentioned the Bicentennial committee has been meeting.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

Attorney Knowles stated he was requesting another Shade meeting on FCI, it was not able to come to a resolution. There has been a last offer presented by FCI. Also, if the Board does not accept the offer, he wanted to have a special meeting after the SHADE meeting to approve trial counsel. Commissioner Holt stated they needed to look at some recommendations before that time. Attorney Knowles stated he could present the ones he has for them

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins asked Ms. Daniels what was the status with the Attapulugus Highway. Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board. She stated they have declined the lowest bid, so now they have to put it back out. She stated they need consent from FDOT before she can do that. She stated she sent an email today requesting that they put it back out.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned having a walking trail at the Dog Town Fire Station. She wanted to make a motion for a walking trail and book exchange. Commissioner Green asked what would be the fiscal impact. Commissioner Simpkins stated she asked the County Administrator and he stated if she was ready, she could bring it before the Board. She stated this was a request she has had for a while. Commissioner Green stated he would like to see this on the agenda to look at the details. Commissioner Simpkins stated she was requesting it to be placed on the agenda. Commissioner Holt stated she liked the idea but, they needed to look at the parks and bring back a plan. Commissioner Simpkins stated this was just a start, they are just asking for a walking trail.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she received the schedule for the workshops and she requested a workshop but it was not listed. She stated she could not do workshops during 9AM-12PM and she requested different times. She asked for the status of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council. Mr. Dixon stated to his knowledge, they have not met. She asked who was responsible for setting this. They have recreation here that they need to market. She stated they need to use the Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she never received any resumes or anything for the Economic Development position. She asked if there was no one that applied.

Ms. Maas stated they have had a few applicants. They had an interview but the applicant cancelled for a second interview. Commissioner Simpkins asked who handled the first interview. Ms. Maas stated she did. Commissioner Simpkins asked if it was a position that the Board would be appointing, then the resume did not go to them first? Ms. Maas stated no. Commissioner Simpkins stated if someone applies for a particular department, the supervisor for that department should receive the applicant's resume. That was always her experience. Ms. Maas stated the applicants participated in a pre-screening process. If they meet the minimum qualifications, then it goes to the supervisor.

Commissioner Simpkins stated in order for them to be successful on the economic side, they could not do it by themselves. They need to partner with someone. She would like for them to have a workshop to figure out how can they come together.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she asks the questions that she asks because she studies the packets. She had someone come to her job and tell her how could she serve the people if her contact information was not anywhere. She stated she has been on the Board since November, and her information was still not out there. She stated the people in District 2 put her there, and she wants to be respected. She did not feel like she received respect.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like to make a motion to advertise the County Administrator position in November.

Chair NeSmith stated he did meet with Ms. Bradley and the organizational chart workshop is scheduled for the first week of June. Chair NeSmith stated there would be several Budget meetings.

Commissioner Hinson second the motion.

Commissioner Simpkins made a motion to advertise the County Administrator position since the contract is ending in November. That way if they go in a different direction, they would have applicants. Chair NeSmith asked when would she like it to be advertised. Commissioner Simpkins stated now. Commissioner Holt stated was definitely not going to support that motion. She stated that item required more discussion than just at the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson stated Commissioner Simpkins asked for it to be on the agenda. They did not have to vote on it.

Attorney Knowles asked Commissioner Simpkins if she was just asking for an RFP/RFQ to be put out? Commissioner Simpkins stated she would like for the position to be advertised. She asked what was the normal process. Ms. Maas stated it was too soon for applicants. She stated they maybe would start in September.

Attorney Knowles stated there was a motion and second to advertise it, so they needed to vote on that. If there is a request to bring the head hunter back, then they would do that.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST. MOTION FAILED.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt stated she would like an evaluation of the parks. She was hoping they would consider and have request on the budget be done by organizations, profit and non-profit, during the budget season instead of it coming up during the year. She stated she has asked before about the budget being put on the screen. She asked Mr. Dixon if that was a problem. She stated they need an Economic Development Director. Commissioner Holt stated they were not getting anyone to take this position once they find out they have to report to five people. Commissioner Holt made a motion to take the Economic Development position and put it under the Administrator so they could get more applicants.

Commissioner Hinson asked why do they not get the applications first. He asked how could they interview if the Board does not know who was the person they were interviewing.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they ever did head hunters. Commissioner Hinson said they did not do it even though they made a motion on it. Chair NeSmith stated they had not done it YET. Commissioner Holt stated her motion has already been stated so they need to move it.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS MOTION.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green mentioned the Boys and Girls Club. He knew they already made a pledge for \$5,000. He asked the County Administrator how to move forward from where they were with that club.

The County Administrator stated the Boys and Girls Club had met with the Advisory Board. The Board had to make a move one way or the other. The Club wants to have every dime in their pocket first, which would be years away. They have 3 across the county now. They were looking at a 2 or 3 center set up. They were in the budget for \$3.7 million for a new one. He stated the process was about 2 years down the road.

Commissioner Green asked if the County Administrator already had a meeting scheduled with them. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Green asked if he would be able to attend that meeting. Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Chair NeSmith asked the Board if they wanted to take any action. Commissioner Simpkins stated that she needed point of clarification. Chair NeSmith was referring to a Community Center.

Mr. Dixon stated that Public Works and Engineers were looking at the parks. They had evaluated them including east of Gadsden. Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Young if he knew what pieces were available now. Mr. Young appeared before the Board and stated they were looking at swing sets and playground equipment. It would take about 3 or 4 weeks.

Commissioner Simpkins asked Mr. Young about the Pickleball plan. Mr. Young stated he needed a copy of that plan. Commissioner Green stated they needed to find a way to do a climate county survey throughout their County to assess any needs. Commissioner Green mentioned Hurricane readiness would be at Walmart this Saturday from 9AM to 1PM.

Commissioner Green stated Relay for Life had been rescheduled to June 2nd from 6PM until midnight. He stated they would like to make a motion for recognition of services for Pastor Dawkins and the Bostick Temple Christian Center. He stated he was making the motion because they have been consistent over the many years with their food program. Cars are always lined up for it. He wanted to appreciate what they were doing.

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

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson stated the Community Center could help offset some of the challenges faced. He mentioned a young lady who attended Gadsden County High School who passed away in a car accident last week. So many young folks dying and it was a stressful situation. He stated he has not been eating meat and drinking water for mental clarity.

Commissioner Green stated he hoped for the next meeting they will have those themes to look at on the agenda for the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned stripes on the road and asked how it was coming along. He asked if contractors were using the right striping. Mr. Young stated the paint did not last long. They were getting what they paid for so that was why they asked for more in the budget.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they needed to look into the railroad track or if that was something they would repair. Mr. Young stated they did speak to them. The railroad company will take care of the track and the County would be responsible for putting the asphalt.

Commissioner Holt stated they needed to schedule it so they could get more of that information. The city can apply for paving with FDOT to get funding.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Chair NeSmith stated he promotes the Summer Youth program. They need to continue talking about the program. He stated he has a new Legislative Aide named Peggy McDowell. He presented her to the Board. He also presented Jerome Maples to the Board. He wanted everyone to know how proud he was of him and congratulated him for his master's degree.

Commissioner Green also wanted to congratulate the Chair for receiving an award.

Chair NeSmith thanked the County Administrator for the work done at Rosedale Park as well as all the other parks.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to thank the Public Works Department for being there for the people. They did a great job with the recent tornado.

Commissioner Green mentioned a welcome sign coming into Gadsden County that needs some attention.

Commissioner Green stated the key word tonight is strength. They determine the strength of this Board. The strength of the team is in each individual. The strength of each individual is in the team. They are each other's strength. They need to make sure they are building each other even when they disagree with each other. Let's build because we have work to do.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:02 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk