

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN  
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 AT 6:00  
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**  
                  **Opal McKinney-Williams, Assistant County Attorney**  
                  **Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk**

**Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm, welcomed everyone, asked Commissioner Hinson to open the meeting with an invocation, and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

**Amendments and Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Dixon asked to add Item 13a-Approval of Health Insurance Rate Increase and payment and Item 13b-Approval of Settlement with Figgers Communication, Inc.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

**Awards, Presentations and Appearances**

**1.     **Recognition of Clarence Bryant****

**2.     **Recognition of Christopher Holt****

Chair NeSmith said they had a presentation for Mr. Christopher Holt.

Commissioner Green read aloud the Recognition and it was presented to Mr. Holt.

*Commissioner Holt arrived at 6:11 p.m.*

Mr. Holt said a few words and thanked everyone for their support.

**3.     **Acknowledgement of Recognition of Rev. Sterling Barkley, Sr. previously presented on August 19, 2023****

**CONSENT**

Commissioner Simpkins asked to pull items 7 through 11.

Commissioner Hinson asked to pull 13a since he had just received the item and asked the reason for the increase in the insurance. When

Commissioner Hinson also asked to pull item 6-Approval of SHIP Annual Report and Certification so it could be explained to the public.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. COMMISSIONER GREEN OPPOSED.**

4. **Ratification Memo**
5. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
  - a. **June 13, 2023 Budget Workshop**
  - b. **July 14, 2023 Special Meeting**
  - c. **August 8, 2023 Workshop**
6. **Approval of SHIP Annual Report and Certification**  
Item pulled for discussion
7. **Approval of Appointment/Re-appointment to Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board**  
Item pulled for discussion
8. **Approval of Appointment/Re-appointment to the Big Bend Continuum of Care (CoC)**  
Item pulled for discussion
9. **Approval of Appointment/Reappointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team**  
Item pulled for discussion
10. **Approval of Appointment/Reappointment to the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee**  
Item pulled for discussion
11. **Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members**  
Item pulled for discussion
12. **Approval of E911 2023 Fall Rural County Grant Application**

**13. Approval of Flood Plain Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Greensboro**

**~~13a. Approval of Health Insurance Rate Increase and payment~~**

Item pulled for discussion

**13b. Approval of Settlement with Figgers Communication Inc.**

**ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

**6. Approval of SHIP Annual Report and Certification**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said was an annual close-out report of monies not spent in the program.

Commissioner Hinson asked the number of houses completed, etc. and if the information was captured here. Mr. Dixon said it was. Commissioner Holt stated on page 7 of the item, there were 35 applications submitted and 5 of those were denied.

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

**7. Approval of Appointment/Re-appointment to Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board**

Commissioner Simpkins said items 7 through 11 could be discussed together but the Assistant County Attorney suggested they be discussed individually. Commissioner Simpkins asked who decided who was on the committees. Mr. Dixon said they have placed who previously served back on those committees.

Commissioner Simpkins said she was interested in serving on the Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board. Commissioner Holt agreed.

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

**8. Approval of Appointment/Re-appointment to the Big Bend Continuum of Care (CoC)  
**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THS ITEM.****

**9. Approval of Appointment/Reappointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

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

**10 Approval of Appointment/Reappointment to the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

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

**11. Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members**

Mr. Dixon introduced the item and said it was for approval of the appointments to the Value Adjustment Board and he stated the appointments currently were Kimblin NeSmith, Commissioner Hinson and Gay Steffen.

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

Mr. Dixon said he misspoke, he said that position was currently held by Bradley Munroe and new appointee would be Gay Steffen.

Deputy Clerk, Marcella Blocker, spoke up to clarify that Ms. Steffen could not serve as she no longer owned homestead property, Chrissy Shorter Arnold had agreed to serve in that capacity with Board approval and the previous year the Board hired Louis Baptiste to serve as Board Attorney.

**COMMISSIONER HOLT RESCINDED HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN RESCINDED HIS SECOND.**

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO REAPPOINT COMMISSIONER NESMITH, COMMISSIONER HINSON AND CHRISSY SHORTER-ARNOLD TO THE VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD.**

**13a. Approval of Health Insurance Rate Increase and payment**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said was for approval to accept the health insurance increases and payment. He said they recommended the County absorb the 4% increase in the amount of \$118,460.88.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was bid out, if there was any competition. Mr. Dixon explained the agent does not change or impact the price, the price is set by CHP.

Commissioner Hinson clarified he meant not the agent but the company itself. He asked if the price could be brought down any. Mr. Dixon explained the County had a great plan and have used it as a reason to come to Gadsden County.

Commissioner Simpkins said she would like to have a conversation with CHP concerning urgent care and after-hours care in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt said also HCA could qualify as a provider under CHP.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a workshop with CHP regarding these concerns.

Mr. Dixon said he was glad it was brought up, they have built 3-4 new centers in Leon County.

Commissioner Holt said also HCA has a clinic and they could build one here.

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

**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](mailto: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 the above statement aloud.

**Willie Earl Banks & Company, PO Box 2394 – Gadsden County Athletic Hall of Fame**

Mr. Banks explained they were a non-profit organization and was present to request the County to become a sponsor and he gave a quick overview of the organization. He added as of 2022, 38 have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. He said their black-tie gala would be held September 30<sup>th</sup> and would be their fifth annual gala.

**Pastor Willie Gaines, 5775 Ben Bostic Road, Quincy, FL – Community event**

Pastor Gaines appeared before the Board and said they were having their third annual trash round-up this Saturday and asked the Board to continue to be a part of it as they have in the past.

**William (Bill) Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Mil Rate Increase**

Mr. Farr appeared before the Board and requested that the millage rate stay the same as last year. He said if the taxes keep going up, eventually people would be taxed out of their homes.

**Cathy Farr, 564 Middle Creek Road, Mil Rate Increase**

Mrs. Farr appeared before the Board concerning the millage rate and requested the mill rate not be raised. She said people with newly refurbished or built houses, their tax rate would go up. She said their taxes were proposed to go up approximately \$800.00.

**Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL – Sycamore Road**

Mr. Watson appeared before the Board concerning the bad condition of Sycamore Road. He asked for a workshop to discuss the condition of roads in the County.

**Kyle Kwik, 680 Maple St., Chattahoochee, FL 32324 – Low-income pool**

Mr. Kwik appeared before the Board along with Col. Micky Presha and asked the County for \$1 Million from the Indigent Tax Fund. He explained this would be a fee for service and if patients were not seen, they would not be paid. He said they were asking the County to allocate \$1 Million in a fund and as they see patients, the money would be drawn down for primary care, dental, mental health, pharmacy, labs and transportation. He said on year 2 they were asking the County to allocate \$100,000 through the IGT to ACHA for uncompensated medical care costs and costs of medical services for the uninsured. He stated it would not cost the Gadsden County anything because North Florida Rural Health, before drawing down from the pool, would provide \$100,000 worth of services to the Gadsden County citizens. He further stated they were not asking for anything free or trying to bring a financial burden to the County.

Commissioner NeSmith said this matter needed to be workshopped as this was a lot of information and Commissioner Simpkins agreed.

Commissioner Holt said they needed to come to a workshop and she had asked Senator Lawson about the LIP program.

Commissioner Simpkins said this definitely needed to be workshopped and wanted to make sure when that happened, they had the information as to the percentage of citizens that were uninsured in Gadsden County that would be receiving the services.

Commissioner Hinson said he appreciated everything they were doing on bringing services to Gadsden County. He felt this was contradicting as they have a facility in Havana that was a fully functional facility providing services and the Board refused to put an air conditioning unit in so people now have to go to Tallahassee for services. They needed to have a workshop regarding the situation in Havana first.

Commissioner Green thanked them for the presentation. He added the situation in Havana was different but both were serving the County.

Commissioner Holt agreed with looking at the health of the County but expected any business coming before them to bring resources.

Chair NeSmith said a workshop would be held.

**Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy – Sycamore Road**

Mr. Watson appeared before the Board concerning the bad condition of Sycamore Road. He asked for a workshop to discuss the condition of roads in the County.

Dr. Tracy Stallworth, 770 Selman Road – Ordinance #2024

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**14. Public Hearing-Legislative-Consideration of Ordinance 2023-04 Revising the Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance, Chapter 6 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said the Ordinance was asking to eliminate some prohibitions that relate to the sale of alcoholic beverages in the unincorporated areas of the County. He said currently the Ordinance prohibits the granting of a license to sell or dispense alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine, within 1000 feet of an established church, school, or publicly owned and operated playground.

**Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director**, appeared before the Board to further explain the revised Ordinance. He explained the current Ordinance did not allow for any business that came into the County to sell alcohol within 1000 feet of a church, school, or publicly owned and operated playground. He said there were very few schools or parks but showed a map that represented churches and the 1000-foot buffer that was required. He said the cluster was close to Interstate 10 and the cities. If the dots were removed, it would allow the opportunity for businesses to locate within the County closer to the city limits that would be able to sell alcohol, including restaurants, grocery stores, etc. He said part of the requirement for the sale of alcohol was it was only an accessory use to a primary use, which meant it would have to be a gas station, restaurant or something of that nature in order to sell alcohol.

He added that previously they met with Impact Gadsden Interfaith Council and they raised concerns regarding stand-alone liquor stores. The Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan that was previously approved by the Board, does not allow for stand-alone liquor stores in the County. Any stand-alone liquor stores, as far as they know, would be within the municipalities of the County and the County has no control over that. He read aloud, for the record, a letter from Impact Gadsden. He said there were a few issues raised in

the letter, 1) stand-alone liquor stores, but as previously states, they were not allowed in the County; 2) any proposal to open a stand-alone liquor store shall be presented to the community at large, IGIC and other clergy associations of the County, shall be notified a minimum of two months prior to board approval. He added while they may not notify the community at large, they are required to notify all individuals within 1000 feet of that property boundary and that happens at a minimum of 2 months in advance. He said there were representatives present from IGIC if there were any more questions. He said they would like the churches added back in at 500 feet from the property boundary.

Commissioner Green said he was a part of the IGIC council and asked if he would have a conflict in voting in regards to this matter.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:49 pm.*

Ms. McKinney-Williams said in looking at voting conflicts in the Code of Ethics for local government officers, there would only be a conflict if him voting on that would result in private gain or loss.

Commissioner Simpkins asked where this particular lay-out for the proposed Ordinance came from. Mr. Stiell said they looked at other local government ordinances related to alcohol and used those as a template.

*Commissioner Holt returned at 7:52 pm*

Mr. Stiell said Land Development Codes allowed for a church to have a development order open for an unspecified amount of time, they do not expire, which reduced the cost of them building or changing their church in the future. Commissioner Simpkins asked about restaurants and bars and said she did not agree with removing the total restrictions as it related with churches. She looked at other counties and Leon has restrictions as it related to churches and did not seem to have a problem with economic development.

Mr. Stiell said from a planning standpoint, when companies look at the Land Development Code, Comprehensive Plan and Code of Ordinances from a development standpoint and they see the alcohol ordinance, it's an immediate no for them.

Mr. Dixon said from what they were hearing, this is not quick fix, but people are going to the website, looking at the rules and seeing how difficult it is to come to the County. A good example was West End Grill, which was in close proximity to a church. There is no particular company asking, the County is just reviewing and one thing mentioned to them was liquor stores.

Commissioner Simpkins said she did not have a problem with restaurants and felt they needed to take a look at that was presented to them with the Ordinance.

Commissioner Green asked if they knew the estimated footage in Shiloh and there was an old convenience store that was located across the street. When it was a convenience store, they sold beer and wine there, how were they able to do so then and cannot now? Mr. Dixon said they were there before the State created the Land Development Code.

Commissioner Hinson said beer and wine was different from liquor. Beer and wine could be sold without a license.

Commissioner Holt asked if she was pastor and bought land to put a church on, would that prevent liquor from being sold within a certain footage? Mr. Stiell said that was correct. She said that was a problem and asked any restrictions for anyone to open church? He said no. She said pastors needed to help fix this problem.

Commissioner Hinson said he had conflicting thoughts and wanted to make sure if a 5-star restaurant or hotel wanted to come to the area, they were able to come. He asked how long churches had to build before the restriction was removed. Mr. Stiell said it never nullified. He said he was on the Board when they agreed for a store to sell alcohol; a few years later they created a full-fledged liquor store. They need to have a conversation to change the Code with the help of churches. They did need to make sure there was not too many liquor stores in the area.

Commissioner Simpkins said they also needed to look at the health in the County. She was not against restaurants but still felt they should be a certain distance but did not want to prevent economic growth.

Commissioner Green said there was no way they could vote on this item right now, but they have talked about this when he first got on Board and this is one that needs attention. Commissioner Holt asked that the map be put back up and she said they were going to have to restrict the numbers some way. The numbers keep populating. Restrictions also need to be placed on the church's development orders.

Commissioner Hinson said they may want to consider revising the work "alcoholic".

Commissioner Green said they could not forget about the Midway interchange that would be impacted.

Mr. Dixon said what he was hearing, from another perspective was not keeping churches out or prohibiting, if they locate in certain areas, they would lose their potential to prohibit others from coming into that corridor.

Dr. Tracy Stallworth appeared before the Board.

*Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:29 pm*

Dr. Stallworth said "Rome wasn't built in one day and wasn't destroyed in one day". He said population is drastically decreasing.

*Commissioner Green returned at 8:31 pm*

Dr. Stallworth continued and said they had to figure out something and felt it could be solidified.

**Rev. Chris Jordan, 359 Quail Ridge, Havana, FL**, appeared before the Board. He was glad they clarified earlier when they said "removing the dots" and that was losing churches. They need to consider what they were trying to do and when they look at the ordinance, the "i's are dotted and t's are crossed".

**Pastor Jefferson Flores, 901 Bellamy Drive, Quincy, FL**, appeared before the Board. He asked they remember the important part churches play in the community.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not for adding additional liquor stores but was for restaurants that could do 70/30 ratio to food and alcohol.

Commissioner Simpkins thanked Impact, Elder Moss and all the other pastors, this was just one of many issues that need to be addressed. She asked that they show up for other issues and let their opinions be heard.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for coming out.

Mr. Dixon said their doors were open for anyone that would like to meet with the County.

Chair NeSmith said this would be workshopped to be able to get into the essence of this matter.

Commissioner Green said, as an active member of Impact Gadsden, they have only been in existence for two years but they have been very involved.

Commissioner Holt also mentioned that farmers that have applied for a loan up until 2022 that was turned down, there will be a meeting at the Extension Office on Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to help the farmers apply on-line.

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

**15. Public Hearing-Consideration of Ordinance 2023-05 Revising Rules of Procedure and Decorum for the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an amendment to Ordinance 2023-05 which would add certain provisions to the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances amended the BOCC's Rules of Procedures and Decorum.

*Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:55 pm.*

Chair NeSmith asked what the update was. Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Comments at the end of the meeting would be limited to three minutes and shall not be interrupted during their comments. The time used during the interruption of one Commissioner's comments by another Commissioner shall be deducted from the interrupting Commissioners comment time.

Commissioner Simpkins said she did not want them to put anything in place where they were trying to mute fellow commissioners.

*Commissioner Green returned at 8:56 pm.*

She added there may be a night when they may have a lot of items to discuss or talk about and she did not agree with it. If they want to put in that they would workshop every meeting, fine, but they were already limited and she did not agree with three minutes.

Chair NeSmith said his purpose for the time limit was for them not to be extensive and go on for 5-10 minutes. He said they could train themselves to be very precise and on point. She recommended it be 5 minutes.

Commissioner Green said he was glad for more clarity. He also wanted to throw in 5 minutes as there are a lot of issues that may come before them that they may need to address.

Chair NeSmith said this was the Board's rule and it was flexible.

Commissioner Holt said there needed to be something in there that the Commissioners meet with the Administrator before the meeting and then they could discuss the bulk of the questions.

Commissioner Hinson said they were having a public hearing on Commissioners' time but they have millions of dollars for infrastructure that they were not talking about.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to give some clarity as it related to the item that Chair NeSmith has brought to the Board. They all have equal opportunity to bring items to the Board.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Green made a good point. Commissioner Hinson said he has brought several items to the Board, summer youth, health, emergency housing and time was of the essence and they have a lot of funding for different things and they need to focus on items that could benefit the community and the citizens.

Commissioner Simpkins said since they were discussing as it related to the Board, she was looking at types of meetings and schedules, and when they were requesting workshops, based on the agenda item, it stated the Chair or the Board by majority vote may call a workshop meeting of the Board. She believed they needed to start in the meeting, call the workshops that they would like to have scheduled. She said they vote for them and they are not scheduled. She said they were voting on the budget and they have not gone through the items on the budget.

Ms. Daniels appeared and said September 12<sup>th</sup> was the first Public Hearing and tentative adoption of the millage rate and that has to be conducted at that meeting. The final hearing would be on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Simpkins said that would be a problem for her if they were voting because although she has met individually with the budget director, and did not have a problem with meeting individually with the staff members, but she wanted to have a chance to talk with her counterparts and could not do that outside of the chambers. She said they were voting on the budget but had not sat as a Board and gone through the items and there were some that she felt they needed to discuss.

Chair NeSmith asked the Administrator what they would be voting for on September 12<sup>th</sup> and he responded they would be voting on the first approval of the budget and the millage rate.

Ms. Daniels said September 12<sup>th</sup> would be the first public hearing regarding the budget and adoption of the millage rate. The second public hearing, which would be the final public hearing for the adoption of the budget, would be on September 19<sup>th</sup> where they would adopt the final millage and the final budget.

Chair NeSmith asked Commissioner Simpkins if that would not be enough time for them to look at the issues that concerned her. She said if they have only three minutes at that public hearing on the 12<sup>th</sup>, she did not think they would go through that budget thoroughly as a Commission.

Mr. Dixon said he and staff discussed that morning if the Board felt additional meetings were needed prior to and after the first public hearing, they were open to workshops if it was the pleasure of the Board. Mr. Dixon asked about changing that date and Ms. Daniels explained notification has already been sent out.

Commissioner Simpkins asked for a workshop prior to September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Holt said if they approve the budget and do not go over, they could move money around within the budget.

Mr. Dixon said the Board reserves the right to amend the budget every meeting. What they set in place is what they think their budget would be for the year and the millage rate would be. The millage rate cannot be changed.

Commissioner Simpkins said she understood they make amendments throughout the year. Commissioner Hinson said he thought they should have a workshop prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> because one year the meeting went until almost 11:00.

Chair NeSmith asked the pleasure of the Board.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A BUDGET WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 3:00 PM AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.**

Ms. McKinney-Williams mentioned there was an executive meeting that same day at 4:00 pm.

Mr. Dixon stated in the public hearing, they were really approving big numbers and they could still have discussion and the numbers could be changed on the final day.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the budget was on the website. Ms. Daniels said the tentative budget has been placed on the website.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE ORDINANCE TO FIVE MINUTES AND IF THERE WAS A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TIME, THE BOARD WOULD SEEK APPROVAL FOR THE ADDITIONAL TIME.**

Mr. Dixon said Robert's Rules of Order attempts to make the meeting flow and they may be doing a hurt instead of helping themselves.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS-LIMIT TO FIVE MINUTES BUT IN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES WITH BOARD APPROVAL, COMMISSIONER MAY SPEAK FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO MINUTES**

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**16. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc. Task Order for Environmental Assessment of Proposed Gadsden County EMS Site**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said the task order was presented to the Board for AE Engineering, Inc. to provide an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed EMS site.

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

**17. Ratification for Approval for Chairman to sign Older Americans Act Grant Contracts**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for ratification for approval for the Chairman to sign the Older Americans Act Title III and Nutrition Services Incentive Program and the American Rescue Plan-Older Americans Act program standard contracts provided by the Area Agency on Aging for North Florida, Inc. The contract begins August, 2023 and ends September 30, 2024.

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

**18. Approval of Bridge Renaming Policy**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for direction and approval of Policy 2023-003-Bridge Renaming Policy.

Commissioner Hinson asked the reason this was brought to the Board. Mr. Dixon said the board has encountered a number of requests to rename bridges.

Commissioner Green said in the last recommendation made, they said policies would be put in place. He asked where the application fee of \$500 came from and could they consider \$250. Mr. Dixon explained it was not only the costs of the sign, it was to discourage people from coming before the Board and asking. It was like a road renaming; the road should not be renamed that neighbors know nothing about. It would help prevent people from abusing the policy.

Chair Nesmith added when they raise the money for the renaming, it would mean a lot more to them.

Ms. McKinney-Williams said there was a blank that needed to be filled in. Mr. Dixon explained the blank referred to how soon and how often and generally it was a year if they were turned down.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS, THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.**

**CLERK OF COURT**

**19. Updates**

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**20. Updates**

Mr. Dixon said they were looking at the GCDC building, now that they have a new facility, that meetings could be held there and he was requesting that the lease be taken back plus there was a sublease that the contract did not allow; the sublease should have come back before the Board for their approval. He said the GCDC will be meeting in the new location at the Marie Brooks Gallery.

He said they had a long weekend of Bicentennial opportunities and it was well attended by the whole community.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**21. Updates**

Ms. McKinney-Williams said she had nothing to report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS**

**22. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2**

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION FOR THE GADSDEN COUNTY BOCC TO BE A PLATINUM SPONSOR (\$1,000) FOR THE GADSDEN COUNTY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.**

Mr. Dixon asked that they direct him to address that by using other funds.

Chair NeSmith said whatever they decide would set a precedence and at the next meeting there would be more organizations looking for funds. He added that while he was behind the Hall of Fame, they need to set a process.

Commissioner Simpkins said, as she mentioned before, they have asked for and have not workshopped things that have been requested.

**COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS AMENDED HER MOTION TO GIVE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORITY TO FIND FUNDS.**

Commissioner Holt said they have no policy in place and until they do so, in the past when an organization came forward, they gave contributions individually. They need to put a policy in place.

Commissioner Green said he knew he could expect to hear the comments he was hearing about no policy set in place. Every situation was going to be different and that was the reason for the need to have a non-profit organization workshop.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to have a system in place. They just offered the Boys and Girls Club \$500,000, a non-profit organization, \$450,000 to Senior Services, Health Council funding as well. He said he also understood they funded the Big Bend Classic in Tallahassee at Frenchtown.

Commissioner Holt said they put in place what they see with line item.

**CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HOLT AND CHAIR NESMITH OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Simpkins asked for a copy of all contracts in place. She said she received an email concerning MediumFour and Ms. Daniels said they have hundreds of contracts.

Commissioner Simpkins asked for a contract for graphic design services for MediumFour, Ms. Daniels said an RFP was put out and has not been awarded. Commissioner Simpkins asked if the contract has not awarded, do they still do business with that vendor? Ms. Daniels said there was some type of arrangement in place before the RFP put out. She asked for a follow-up regarding that.

She wanted to give a thank you to the G200 committee for an awesome job this weekend.

**Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4**

Commissioner Holt asked Ms. McKinney-Williams about a survey Mr. Murray on Woodberry Road turned into Mr. Knowles and she asked about the status.

She was glad to see the healthcare part come before the Board as it was definitely needed in the County.

She said there is a Discrimination Financial Assistance Program and the deadline is coming up for any farmer that applied for a loan before 2022 that was turned down. She also said they did not have to live in Gadsden County, it was for anyone in the region. She asked for a policy in writing from the Clerk's Office for how they process checks to vendors.

She added they did good in discussing the ordinances tonight.

**Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5**

Commissioner Green said as it was discussed, a few months ago former Commissioner Sherrie Taylor came before them and after her asking for assistance to her center, he has given to that center and has attended fundraisers. He asked if there was any area that funds could come from and asked for \$45,000 for the Wellness Center.

**COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR \$45,000 TO GO TO THE WELLNESS CENTER FROM LATCF FUND AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND.**

Commissioner Holt said her response was the same because they had no policy in place. If the group or individual had come before them and they decided they were going to set aside funding and they set aside funding, everyone has the same opportunity to come before them, then she could go along with the process. That way everyone would have an opportunity to apply.

Chair NeSmith said he has been consistent throughout because of having no policy in place.

Commissioner Hinson said the Chair he voted for the Boys and Girls club to receive \$500,000, that was a non-profit organization. Then he asked the attorney if there was a monetary amount they could vote for without it being an agenda item.

She said she was not aware of a monetary threshold. If there is a motion and second, they could take it for a vote.

Commissioner Green said in defense, that organization has been here several times along with the citizens that attend that center.

Chair NeSmith asked about the LATCF fund. Ms. Daniels said it was a part of COVID Relief funds received by the County and she further explained it was only \$100,000.

Commissioner Holt said they could do this but one thing, they advertised when they were going to give out money, that policy needs to be looked at.

Ms. McKinney-Williams said she was not aware of any monetary threshold but it would not prohibit the Commission from moving forward.

**CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. CHAIR NESMITH AND COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED.**

Commissioner Green thanked the Cooks Landing community for coming out for the townhall meeting.

*Commissioner Holt stepped out at 10:37 pm*

He thanked everyone that attended the "Be Out" Day, the Stroll, etc. and said the turnout was terrific.

He asked for an update and said they still have the situation with hogs invading onto private property.

Regarding the approval of the Bicentennial, they have done a few things, and wanted to piggyback on what Commissioner Simpkins said. He thought they were doing what they knew how to do as it related to advertising and everything has had the logo of G200 on it but they will never reach everybody.

He said there will be a Clean-up day at Gadsden Arms Projects on Sunday from 10-2 pm.

He also asked for procedures from the Clerk on his policy on paying bills because he has heard issues. He also would like the Clerk to come in and have a conversation with them regarding the issue.

Mr. Robbie Jones was on the line and he had a meeting with an IFAS qualified specialist.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 10:42 pm.

Mr. Jones said the group of pigs has been trapped and euthanized. There are other wild hog groups they are working on trapping. After the meeting it was discussed to have a workshop for wild life services to come in and discuss trapping county wide.

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 10:45 pm.

**Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1**

Commissioner Hinson said the only way to get rid of the population of pigs and hogs, was to bring wolves and panthers back in town or like they did in Blountstown, pay people for each hog they get.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE PASTOR WILLIE LAMB AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS.**

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO RECOGNIZE RESIDING ELDER TAN MOSS AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

He also thanked FAMU and FSU for their win.

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

Chair NeSmith thanked Emergency Medical Services for the work in preparing for the hurricane they did. The Staff was amazing and was so proud of the work they did at West Gadsden Middle School and Gadsden High School.

Commissioner Hinson asked Chair NeSmith to speak with the Superintendent to fix the generator at the Magnet School so it could be used for a shelter.

Ms. Daniels said the Local Mitigation Strategy also has that generator on their list and was seeking grant funding.

**COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO GIVE THE CHAIR INSTRUCTIONS TO SPEAK WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT TO MAKE SURE THE GENERATOR WAS IN WORKING ORDER AT THE HAVANA MAGNET SCHOOL AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.**

Commissioner Green pointed out that while they empowered him to speak with the Superintendent, that did not mean he could make him do that, that was a totally different government.

Chair NeSmith apologized for missing the Bicentennial weekend but had to attend a family reunion.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
September 5, 2023-BOCC Regular Meeting

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED  
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:55 PM.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk**