

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER
19, 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
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Chair NeSmith welcomed everyone and asked Bishop Green to give the Invocation. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon said they had a couple of amendments to the agenda. He mentioned adding 9a, Software Agreement, and 9b to Consent Agenda and items 14a, 14b, 14c, 14d, 14e, 14f and 14g.

Commissioner Hinson felt that they should meet next week to address the additional items because there were so many. That way it could be advertised so the public has a chance to see them.

Commissioner Holt said they did not need a special meeting; they approved items at the last meeting that was added. Commissioner Simpkins requested for items to be pulled.

Attorney Knowles said to approve the agenda and if Commissioner Hinson makes a motion to table the items and it passes, those items would not be heard tonight. Commissioner Holt said they needed to do this so engineering could get done. She stated they need to look at them or they will start backing up. She stated some of the projects include road issues.

Commissioner Green asked for a discussion regarding the items and could hash out questions now as they discuss them. He stated if they are not satisfied with them, then they could not vote on them or could table them.

Commissioner Hinson said some items deal with finance and their policy states it must be advertised prior to. He stated there was an additional ten items added and they could be in that meeting until 3 A.M.

Commissioner Green said some of these items were in line items that they have already approved.

Commissioner Simpkins said one of them was not and that was why she was requesting for it to be tabled. She just received some of the items this afternoon.

Mr. Dixon said if it was the will of the Board, they have no problem putting these items on the next agenda. He stated they have been dragging around the process and trying to get things straight with across the street. They should have received them last week and yesterday and they have been advertised on the website.

Commissioner Hinson said he was not against anything, but it was public trust. Anything that impacts the budget must come before the Board. He wanted to be consistent and transparent. He stated to give it one week since this affects the budget.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE ALL ADDED ITEMS TONIGHT UNTIL NEXT WEEK AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE. THE MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ADDING THE ADDITIONAL ITEMS TONIGHT AND CHAIR NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

CONSENT

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

1. Ratification Memo
2. BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:
 - a. August 1, 2023 Budget Workshop
 - b. August 9, 2023 ARPA Workshop
 - c. August 15, 2023 ARPA Workshop
 - d. August 15, 2023 BOCC Meeting
 - e. August 28, 2023 Emergency Meeting
3. Approval of E911 2023 Fall Rural County Grant Application for Eventide NexLog DX Voice Recorder Annual Support, Warranty, and Maintenance
4. Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts-State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and Gadsden Emergency Repair Program (ER)

5. **Approval of Small Counties Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sub grant**
6. **Approval and Execution of the State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement**
7. **Approval for the new road name “Derdan Court” in Woodlawn Fawn Minor Subdivision**
8. **Approval of a Resilient Florida Program Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Gadsden County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment**
9. **Approval of Fuel Service Interlocal Agreements**
- 9a. **Approval of Software Agreement with CoStar Realty Information, Inc.**
- 9b. **Approval of Software Agreement with GIS WebTech, LLC.**

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.

Tracey Stallworth, 770 Selman Road, Post Office Box 1339, Quincy, FL – Bee Farm Proposal

Dr. Stallworth came before the Board and asked for \$10,000 to start a bee farm. He wanted to inform the community about the importance of bees. He stated bee farming is very essential.

Commissioner Hinson stated he has talked about a similar project like this before. He stated there is a bee farm in Havana. It was something needed in the community. He told Dr. Stallworth to inform him of whatever he needs help on.

Chair NeSmith stated they were going to read the packet that was handed out and consider his request.

Debra Outley, 112 Serenity Lane, Quincy FL– County adopting Serenity Lane
Ms. Outley appeared before the Board to request help for the road she lives on. She said the road is in bad shape and asked for help.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 6:24 pm

Commissioner Green asked if Public Works could look at the road. Mr. Dixon said they may request a private road scraping. He said they were working on two that are very involved. He stated they will get with them. Commissioner Green thanked her for coming.

Commissioner Hinson returned 6:26 pm

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial)-Dupont Road Well Improvement Special Exception Use (SEU 2023-01)

Justin Stiell appeared before the Board to address this item and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. This item was requesting to add an additional well to service the Gadsden County Regional Water System.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:30 pm.

Commissioner Hinson questioned whether the public hearing was advertised and it was determined it was properly advertised.

Mr. Stiell continued introducing the above item. He stated the Planning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend approval with the following conditions under Option 1:

1. Approval of the Dupont Road Well Improvement Special Exception Use based on the findings provided in this report and the testimony provided at the public hearing with the following condition:
 - a. Label the right-of-way width on Dupont Road and the setbacks from the building compound perimeter fence to all property line and the centerline of Dupont Road.
 - b. Label the distance from the existing well casing (proposed potable water well site) from all property lines.

Susan Vause, 881 Dupont Road

Ms. Vause is a concerned citizen that lives on Dupont Road and was concerned how this will affect her well and if her well goes dry, who would be responsible to replace her well. She said

when she had a meeting with Commissioner, said if try to sue, would be years before decision made on lawsuit.

Commissioner Green said Ms. Vause stated a couple of things he was going to ask and his dad lives on that road. His concern also was where the water was going.

Anthony Holley, appeared before the Board to address concerns. He stated the Well is being proposed as redundancy to the Gadsden County Regional Water System; being permitted by State and Northwest Florida Water Management. He stated it was not intended to pump more water out, it was intended to be an additional well if one went dry, go off-line, get damaged, etc. He stated it was originally constructed in 2002 as a test well, and in 2007 it was converted to public water system standard. They did another pumping test on August 13, 2022 and went up to 1200 gallons per minute just to test the capacity and had 3.8 feet of drawdown.

Commissioner Hinson asked the Attorney if they had an Ordinance that addressed citizens impacted by different projects in the area. He asked if they had anything that stated they have to notify residents within a half mile radius. Mr. Knowles said Mr. Stiell may be able to comment better on what the radius is but there is a distance requirement where residents have to be notified within a certain distance.

Mr. Stiell re-appeared before the Board. He stated they would find that information on page 6 regarding the Public Notice. There is a 1,000 feet requirement. Commissioner Hinson asked how many residents are on the road. Mr. Stiell did not know.

Chair NeSmith asked Mr. Stiell if the petitioner complied with all requirements according to their Ordinance. Mr. Stiell stated yes.

Commissioner Green asked what was the address again and asked how close was the nearest house and how far was the farthest house. Mr. Stiell stated on page 9, they could see that the site is highlighted in red. Commissioner Hinson asked how many acres? Mr. Stiell stated 57.12 acres.

Commissioner Green stated they knew this has already gone through Planning and Zoning, according to their findings, are they able to work within those means of the things that they found or the suggestions that they made? Mr. Holley stated yes.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if they could tell that citizens would not be affected in the area. Mr. Holley stated yes, they have a model already built in the office. They could look at how much the draw down is going to be at any individual well in the area. The problem was that they did not know what their water level is going to be in their well particularly because they

could not get access to it. If there was an individual that wanted to give them access to that well, to test it, they could potentially do that.

Commissioner Simpkins called Mrs. Vause to the dais. She asked her, since it was a big concern for her, would she be willing for them to test to make sure it would not have an effect on her well? Mrs. Vause said absolutely. She did not mean to sound disrespectful, but they could be saying one thing and then two days later, it could be completely different. She stated she was also concerned with the noise level of the generator.

Commissioner Holt asked what was the water level there now? Mr. Holley stated at that particular well it is 144 feet to the ground. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Holley if he was willing to give a written statement with the information he is giving. Mr. Holley stated yes. He stated there will be some effect on some of the wells, but it would be minimal.

Mr. Holley said based on what he was shown, there are only 4 wells within 1,000 feet. He stated he could address the ones that they know about, 1,500 to 2,000 feet.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Stiell if he knew how many were sent out notices. Mr. Stiell said no, but because they did not know the working conditions of the private wells, perhaps the Board may want to consider sending the notice out for whatever distance they require. For those people to identify they have a working well before any kind of conditions are placed on the applicant.

Commissioner Holt said there was a question about where the water was going. She asked if it was going into the Gadsden County Regional Water System. Mr. Holley stated yes. Commissioner Holt clarified if those people that have wells may have the opportunity to connect to the line if they want. Mr. Holley stated yes.

Mr. Knowles stated the motion would have to be that they address those concerns as stated in the meeting, with the applicant, as conditions for approval.

Mr. Holley mentioned about the generator being brought up. He stated it will have a sound attenuating enclosure and it would only be operating in the event that power goes out within the area or to verify that it is in working conditions.

Robert Hill, 875 Dupont Road

Mr. Hill stated there was some discussion previously as to the necessity for the well and heard that the population has been increasing and it was the reason for the well. He provided papers showing that from 2010 – 2020, the population in Gadsden County has decreased 8.6 percent.

He stated it decreased another 1 percent from 2020 – 2022. He asked where was the necessity for this well.

Mr. Holley reappeared and said, in regards to the population, it was not a necessity in population growth, it is a necessity in redundancy of the system in the event that a well were to go dry. He stated there has been instances in the last few years where they have had water concerns associated with high demand. Additional irrigation to lawns, etc. The water levels have dropped.

John Halas, Talquin Electric, appeared before the Board. He stated Talquin is a non-profit member owned. He stated they serve 20% of the population with water in the County. He stated the well was not for population growth, it was for redundancy and resiliency of the system. They realized it was a critical need to supply water. Mr. Halas stated this portion of the system does serve some critical infrastructure as well, like Gadsden High School.

Commissioner Hinson said he remembered a water shortage in Midway because of low pressure. He still wanted to be careful for the citizens in the area but there was a serious need. He said they needed to have a workshop and bring in someone in so they could make sure concerns were addressed. He knows they need it but wanted to make sure citizens' concerns were addressed.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out 7:19 pm.

Commissioner Simpkins returned 7:20 pm.

Mr. Halas stated they were doing this to meet a critical need and in terms of the permitting, the water management district is the one that provides the assurance for that. He stated they have already provided the permit for this site.

Commissioner Hinson wanted the Attorney to look over everything. He stated it was a serious need. He stated their main thing is infrastructure.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney for help with the motion. Mr. Knowles verified if she was going towards approval. Commissioner Holt stated motion to approve with conditions. Mr. Knowles clarified that one of the conditions was notification of the residents within. He clarified with Mr. Holley that his testimony from earlier seemed to suggest that 3 feet might be a drop, so he would say radius of influence up to 3 feet.

Mr. Stiell said a consideration that the Board could look at is identifying a location that is 1,000 feet or 1,500 feet and placing a testing site and testing in a couple weeks or month to make sure there is no significant drawdown to from that well.

Mr. Halas stated there is an existing private well on the site that they could use to provide this information.

Mr. Knowles suggested 2,000 feet to test and work. The motion to be 2,000 feet of well head to test if any adverse impact to the residents in that radius. Mr. Halas stated in order to put a transducer in a private well, they would have to remove the well pump. Residents would be without water while the test is being conducted. It could take a couple of hours to 24 hours. Mr. Knowles said to include in the motion to give notice to those residents that they are going to be conducting that test.

Mr. Holley reappeared and said the test in April was a 4-hour test. They could run the same test in that amount of time.

Commissioner Holt said she will include 2000 feet and 3 feet of drawdown. She stated the motion would be to incorporate the concerns of the Board which include a testing on the radius of influence of a maximum of 2,000 feet.

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

11. Public Hearing (Quasi-Judicial)-Dupont Road Well Improvement Variance Request (V 2023-01) Consideration of a Variance Order

Mr. Stiell appeared before the Board. He stated this was a public hearing for the Dupont Road Well Improvement Variance Request. He stated they request approval of a variance from Subsection 5402.A.1.d of the Gadsden County Land Development Code to reduce the setback from the property line for a potable water well field from 500 feet to 195 feet.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 7:33.

Commissioner Hinson returned 7:34 pm.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:37 pm.

Commissioner Hinson said they have a 500-foot boundary set back and asked the staff what was the significance of this. Mr. Stiell said the significance of the 500-foot set back was to make sure no incompatible uses are put close to a potable water well to prevent any kind of contamination to public water.

Mr. Knowles said he thought Commissioner Hinson's concern was what would prevent a waste water treatment plant from coming in. He stated they would not be able to put those things that would contaminate the well head without having to come back before the Board before anything could change.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

12. Approval of an outstanding invoice pending payment from the Clerk of Court Finance Department.

Mr. Dixon said items 12-14e was what was bumping into with the Clerk's office. He stated the items appear to be contractual in nature but many of the items the Board already has contracts with providers.

Mr. Dixon explained this item was for an appraisal done for New Life and was done as they began to contemplate to purchase that building for community center. Once done, they realized the Boys and Girls Club were no longer interested. Commissioner Green said this was done in May and the job was completed.

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

13. Approval of Task Orders with AE Engineering for Special Needs Shelter Preliminary Engineering Study

Mr. Dixon said this item was for approval of task order with AE Engineering and believed the work was already completed. This was also another issue that had been bouncing around awhile.

Commissioner Green wanted to verify if both of these items have already been budgeted. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner Green said he wanted to know for clarity.

Commissioner Simpkins asked when was it sent over to the Clerk and the reason for denying it. Mr. Dixon said the first thing is every separate task order is a contract and, in BCC opinion, it is not a contract. They were hired to do work. Ms. Daniels said a section in the contract with AE indicates that all task orders had to be brought to the Board and they did not realize that was in the contract because they have contracts approved by the Board and usually do task orders from the approved contract. Commissioner Simpkins said she did not think it fell on the Clerk for that and would like that clause to remain. They need to make sure on their end, all invoices

are put in in a timely manner so they could be approved. She also knew the County Administrator was granted a certain amount; Attorney Knowles stated \$35,000 threshold. Commissioner Simpkins stated there should be a quarterly report done. Mr. Dixon said they will bring a report to the next meeting.

Mr. Dixon said he has had \$200-\$300 cakes that go unpaid for months. He said he hated to say worse things about anything, but things get caught up, bills get caught up for no apparent reason. He stated they will come up with a process and bring it to the next meeting to address all these issues. Commissioner Simpkins said she felt they needed to make sure they were on the same page with the Clerk's office and were being efficient. She stated she has no problem with checks and balances but they need to make sure their information was being put in in a timely fashion and if it was coming back to them for whatever reason, they need to make sure it comes to the Board then. Commissioner Simpkins stated if there is still a problem with the Clerk's Office, then a conversation needs to be had. She asked with the \$35,000, was a report supposed to come with that and was that part of the approval? Mr. Dixon said that was a report they offered to create and do to ensure the Board that things they were doing were well within the perimeters set by the Board.

Commissioner Green said he remembered the conversation well and asked they get those reports because he wanted to be assured what was being spent so there would be no arguments or heartburn. He stated they need to earmark it starting today and have a quarterly report every 1st meeting of the third month.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dixon if he could make a written request for the Clerk's written policy and procedures on paying invoices. She asked who handled contracts and Mr. Dixon said Ms. Daniels office.

Commissioner Hinson said they had an engineering firm for 2 years? Mr. Dixon said less than a year. Mr. Dixon said the way they do business was different from the previous Engineer. This company follows standards that have been incorporated by the State. Commissioner Hinson said the engineering firms are vital to the economic growth in the County.

Commissioner Hinson stated he was not sure if the Engineering Firm knew who their bosses were. It was them and he has yet to see them. Normally, they would call the Commissioners up and introduce themselves. Roderick Myrick, AE Engineering, appeared before the Board to introduce himself as the President. He stated he has been in meetings before and he also did not market to the Commissioners. Commissioner Hinson said he specifically made sure they were the engineers because they were a local, minority company. He stated it was good to have a relationship with them and he did not have anything against them.

Commissioner Holt asked the Attorney if what Commissioner Hinson said was almost a threat. She stated they should not tell an employee or contractor “I hired you and I can do...”, that implies too much. They should not use that in a public meeting and not something that should be implied in a meeting. Attorney Knowles said Commissioner Holt has told him she is his boss before and could not say that was a threat.

Commissioner Hinson said what he was implying was that he understood the situation and he was trying to clarify to the Engineer that he had no problem with him. He stated what he said earlier was that they hired a County Attorney, Manager and Engineer.

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

14. Approval to Submit Applications to the Florida Department of Commerce (FDC), Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program Grant Project

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it seeks approval to submit applications to the Florida Department of Commerce for Capital Projects concerning the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program Grant Project.

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

14a. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc. Task Order for Grant Application, Research, Preparation and Submission related to Lighting and Sidewalks in Gadsden County

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it seeks approval of a Task Order for AE Engineering to provide Grant Application Preparation/Submission Services related to the SCRAP, SCROP, CIGP, and BSCOP projects.

Commissioner Green wanted to remind the Board that a lot of the time taken up is because of getting off track on things not pertaining to that item. He stated they have time in their comments to say things. He stated it should not take as long to get through Agenda items if they stay on task. He stated in the last few meetings, he has tried to be mindful to stick to what was in front of him.

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

14b. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc. Task Order for Grant Application, Research, Preparation and Submission Related to Lighting and Sidewalks in Gadsden County, FL

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it seeks Board approval of a Task Order for AE Engineering to provide Grant Application Research, Preparation and Submission related to lighting and sidewalks in Gadsden County.

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

14c. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc. Task Order for Grant Application and Research Assistance Related to Parks and Recreation

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it seeks Board approval of a Task Order for AE Engineering to provide Grant Application and Research Assistance related to Parks and Recreation.

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

14d. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc. Task Order to Conduct an Atlanta Street/MLK Blvd. Roadway Improvement Assessment

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it seeks Board approval of a Task Order for AE Engineering to conduct an Atlanta Street/ MLK Boulevard Roadway Improvement Assessment.

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

14e. Approval of AE Engineering, Inc. Task Order for Engineering and CIP Support Services for the Gadsden County Public Works Department

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it seeks Board approval of a Task Order for AE Engineering to provide Engineering and CIP Support Services for the Gadsden County Public Works Department.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to table this item. She stated she had some concerns on the projects listed. She wanted to table it because it has a fiscal impact of \$32,000. She stated she did have a conversation with the Engineer. She mentioned that the Task Order was also not signed.

Commissioner Holt asked if work had been done. Commissioner Simpkins stated the work part was not the issue. The issue was that some of the projects were not necessarily under AE Engineering. Commissioner Holt stated she was glad Commissioner Simpkins brought that up because she wanted to know who else did the work. Mr. Myers stated this was submitted July

18th He stated some of them were current projects that they have worked on such as Point Milligan and Attapulugus Highway. He believed this task was to set a budget so that when he does get calls, and they go out to a road doing an evaluation, there was a mechanism for them to be paid.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she knew Potter Woodberry Road has been closed for a minute. Curtis Young appeared and said Potter Woodberry was closed for a minute but AE was the one that did the CEI work. Commissioner Simpkins asked how long ago did that project end. Mr. Young stated it was around earlier this year. Commissioner Simpkins stated Mr. Myers had no problem with her wanting to table this.

Commissioner Holt asked if these jobs have been done. Mr. Young stated most of the jobs have been done. Some are upcoming jobs. Commissioner Holt stated they were looking to go ahead and take care of it so they can get the upcoming jobs done. She did not want them to get behind.

Mr. Dixon stated they have no problem tabling this. For clarity, he stated the type of contract they have has in the past been done based on the job.

Commissioner Green said he understood Commissioner Simpkins issue with this item but he wanted to make sure they are paying for the work that has been done. He stated if they have had projects completed, was there a way to determine what has been completed and how much is due. If the work has been done, they should pay.

Mr. Myrick stated he has no problem tabling this. They were doing the work for the County, whatever they are asked to do. Commissioner Green said he appreciated his humbleness and appreciated Commissioner Simpkins concerns but if they were on schedule to get these projects completed, why would they not want to pay?

Mr. Myrick stated the \$32,000 was just an estimate. Commissioner Green asked if the \$32,000 was something to draw from and they would not utilize it at this particular moment. Mr. Myrick stated yes.

Commissioner Hinson said he felt uncomfortable talking about this in an open meeting especially with the young man doing a great job and he did not want to be in a meeting talking about this. He stated there were too many people trying to make an argument but they were still dealing with a business person and he was not a part of this problem. He stated the County Administrator gave Mr. Myrick guidelines and they need to be the ones to put a system in place.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she had a conversation with Mr. Myrick and he understood why she wanted to table this. She needed more clarity and understanding.

COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 2-3 BY VOICE VOTE AND THE MOTION FAILED.

Commissioner Simpkins said on some of the task orders they have signatures and this one does not. Mr. Dixon said they were under the impression they had authority to do those.

Commissioner Green asked Mr. Knowles if there were any rules broken with the task order not being signed. Mr. Knowles said as Dixon said, was under belief it was under \$35,000 threshold and should have been paid without Board approval and the Administrator could authorize. He did not think there was an issue with it not being signed but he did heed Commissioner Simpkins concerns.

Commissioner Hinson said he has always been consistent with if any Commissioner wants to table an item, to always support that decision. That was why he wanted to table this.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED.

14f. Approval of the Updated (Tentative) Timeline of Events for Gadsden County Bicentennial Celebrations

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks approval of the updated (tentative) timeline of events for the Gadsden County Bicentennial Celebration. He stated they have a new list of events and they encountered a situation with the Clerk's Office regarding where they decided to direct billing to and is sending projection that something is wrong and it misuses what the Board is attempting to do. He stated, for example, if there is a line that says advertising and promulgated for the most part by Public Works to signage and designed by Ms. Steele's office. If they decide to bill to Public Works as opposed to where the staff requested it be billed to, it causes a budget upside-down with Public Works budget. He stated the budget they set aside and the Board approved, the Clerk's Office is saying no they did not want to bill there, they thought it was better to bill to a different department. He stated a lot of times it happens without notifying them. Certain lines items have a negative balance and the money was gone and they were wondering why. He hoped in the next meeting there will be more clarity. In the meantime, they were still having a problem that they met with the Clerk's Office about. He stated it gives no great pleasure to sit and talk about it, because he did not know what to do. Mr. Dixon stated it has become an issue and it was very evident that very personal

decisions are made about very public decisions. He was asking they direct the Clerk to pull things from line item they ask to be pulled from.

Commissioner Green said there were so many things he would like to say as it relates to this item and have already approved \$200,000 and he did not want to continue to have this conversation without the Clerk being present. He is an elected official just as they are and he was well aware there is an issue as it relates to this particular Bicentennial and he would like to ask him, as elected official, to be at the next meeting so they can hold a conversation. Commissioner Green stated that he could assure other counties preparing celebrations such as this were not having roadblocks that they were experiencing here. He could not compare to what Tallahassee was spending, but can guarantee they were spending triple of what they were spending here. He asked the Clerk to come to the meeting and stated it would “be nice to see him more than once every blue moon” as elected official but that was his prerogative.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:48 pm.

Commissioner Hinson asked if it was an additional \$150,000. Mr. Dixon said no. Commissioner Hinson said this was not in the pot of \$200,000 and they have spent well over \$200,000 already. Mr. Dixon stated the money that was given to Gretna and cities was ARPA money. Commissioner Hinson said the Board gave direction and thought it came from that, they did not say for it to come from ARPA.

Ms. Daniels said there was an initial \$200,000 allocated to the Bicentennial and some of the events they already had, spent about \$65,000 of \$200,000 allocated to Bicentennial and \$134,000 remains.

Commissioner Green said for the sake of clarity, he wanted to make sure they were not asking for \$150,000; they were staying within \$134,000 that is remaining. Ms. Daniels said attached was estimates of what it may cost. They will stay within \$134,000 remaining for the Bicentennial. Some other events were all from separate allocation of funding and not related to the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the Board knew, and Ms. Daniels said yes.

Commissioner Green said at this point, he wanted to make sure they stay within the budget of \$134,000 that is left. He wanted to make sure there was no additional money being requested from what they already approved.

Commissioner Simpkins said based on the item, even though it was being requested for the change from Bicentennial to TDC, they really have spent \$65,000 already and now \$22,393.78, now at \$87,000. They were only changing it up and saying to let the Tourist Development

Council pick up \$22,393. She stated part of their problem as it relates to the Clerk, can only speak for her, has no problem with checks and balances and whatever it takes, she was not going to jail, if it requires him to do checks and balances, ok. What they can do, on each item, like writing blank checks. If they have an event scheduled for October, they should already have who the vendor is, cost breakdown, and if they had that, she did not believe there would be an issue. The issue is they are putting out numbers and she wants to see a breakdown, did not want to see just numbers. Events should be scheduled out.

Commissioner Green said they were not going to solidify an artist without a deposit. That was from his experience. Commissioner Simpkins said she was not debating about solidifying an artist. When they call an artist, they will tell them what the cost is.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not mind going to parties, but there was a time and place for everything. In 2023, they have 2 major pressing things in the County, housing and fire services.

Commissioner Holt said they should have thought about that before voting. What they decided for the Bicentennial was months ago. She stated they need policy and procedure from the Clerk's office in writing. They have another item coming up for \$25,000 going toward Havana "Party in the Park". If they look at where their pulling money from, and if they stay within what they said they were going to do, when looking at how they want to do it, they can have his policy and procedure on how he wanted things done.

Mr. Dixon said they did not want them to think they have not done their due diligence. They have had calls with the Clerk's office, met with the Clerk's office, and the auditor trying to get clarity. He did not want to give an assumption that something wrong was going on, whether he should be followed by what thus says the Board or thus says the Clerk. If he asked the auditor in front of the Clerk at what point do they need to send as much detail to get things approved, the Bicentennial program, the Board approved \$200,000 for the program, how low did he need to go within that \$200,000 with details. The Auditor said he did not need to send anything else, everything else ought to be approved. Does he know the Board wants more information, absolutely; will they give more information than that, absolutely; do they get to decide whether or not they fund the "Be Out Day" at Shanks, that was not Clerk, that is the Board's action. It goes too far in terms of what they direct him to do as opposed to what they think BCC ought to be doing. That was the problem they were having. Not whether someone was taking dollars or playing with money, it was about whose philosophy is at work.

Ms. Daniels wanted to provide clarity. Of the \$200,000, the \$22, 393.78 was part of \$65,000 that should have been charged to TDC but was taken from the Bicentennial. This asking that \$22,393.78 moved out of \$65,000 and gives \$22,000 more available dollars and would be \$155,000 or \$156,000 versus \$134,000. This is moving to TDC because they agreed to help sponsor the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Holt said that was part of it and when they go to events sponsored by TDC, that is what it was supposed to say. They should follow what the Clerk says but wanted to make a point that they have the same options as other counties. They could file complaints. She stated there are a lot of Boards that do not have problems that theirs does and that was why they do not have to. She thought it was better to have something in writing. They could compare with what they're told they need to do to State Statutes.

Commissioner Simpkins said the reason they need a breakdown was because the Board approved \$45,000 for the July 4th event. She asked Chair NeSmith if he remembered what they approved for that in Chattahoochee. Chair NeSmith asked if they approved \$45,000. Commissioner Simpkins said to date, they spent \$52,827.63. That was why they need a breakdown of what costs are so that way events do not cost more than what they agreed on and making sure nothing is unexpected. They need to make sure to stay within the budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked what they were approving. Mr. Dixon said they were approving the timeline of events-directing the Clerk to move money from one line item to another. Commissioner Hinson said they first need to figure out what was spent and he willing to bet they already spent \$200,000-\$300,000. Commissioner Green said he could not agree with that because they have not been given the money to spend.

Commissioner Hinson said the money was released for Chattahoochee, and the money was released for Shanks. They need to make sure they bring facts to the table.

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

14g. Approval of Funding to Partner with the Town of Havana for the First “Party in the Park” Event

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. This item seeks Board approval of funding to partner with the Town of Havana for the First “Party in the Park” Event. The Town of Havana is requesting \$25,000.

Commissioner Holt asked if they applied for Tourist Development dollars? Mr. Dixon stated they have; they are making this request in the spirit of other cities that have received ARPA funds. Pumpkinfest is coming from the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Hinson said the reason he was voting for this was to be consistent. Commissioner Hinson made a motion to approve this item. Commissioner Simpkins made the second with discussion.

Commissioner Simpkins said her concern was that it was to come from department 54805 and they do not have funds available in that account. Mr. Dixon said Ms. Daniels would respond to that.

Chair NeSmith said while Ms. Daniels was looking for that information, he wanted to make sure this money was not for a party, it is a celebration to bring the community together. The County does not fund parties. They support activities that bring communities together with hopes of bringing resources outside the County into the County in order to enhance tourism. Commissioner Green said based on that, it would be hard to give them the money based on what it is called. They need to be fair across the Board.

Commissioner Simpkins said the funds are not in that budget and asked what account did they want to use. Mr. Dixon said if not there, in the interest of time should the Board so support, they will be looking for it. Ms. Daniels said there has been expenditures that have hit Commissioners' budget that were beyond the County Commissioners' control. Normally, if there was not enough funding in one line item and funding in another line item, they just all kind of cancel each other out. They can look around at some other line items that do have funding in them that could cover because they look at the budget as a whole. Commissioner Simpkins said she did not want it to be said that it was the Clerk's fault. Ms. Daniels stated there will be some budget amendments in the next meeting because they have to close out this fiscal year.

Nancy Saunders appeared before the Board from Havana and said she will make sure the name "Party in the Park" is changed due to them not funding parties.

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

CLERK OF COURT

15. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

16. Updates

Mr. Dixon thanked them for meeting with them individually regarding the budget and will be bringing updates on the "pig" situation.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

17. Updates

Attorney Knowles said there was a settlement in one of their outstanding lawsuits and they need to schedule a Shade meeting. He needed a motion to approve this meeting.

Chair NeSmith asked for a spreadsheet for lawsuits since November 2020. He said they have had a lot of ongoing issues and wanted to see a spreadsheet with every issue. They need to know how these situations occur. Mr. Knowles stated he turns in a yearly report to their auditor, Purvis Gray. He was sure to be able to get a sheet for the Board.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the Historic Preservation Grant for the Courthouse and asked if any other property qualifies. Mr. Dixon said if they knew of anything historic, to let them know.

Allan Meeks said they were ranking next week and the grant has closed out and will find out next week if they will get it.

Commissioner Holt stated she has been approached about fire hydrants and at one time they had a program dealing with them. Mr. Dixon said he needed to review that program.

Commissioner Simpkins asked who does the request for the testing of the hydrants? Mr. Dixon stated he believed Chief Walker stated Lake Talquin tested their own lines. Commissioner Simpkins asked if they were able to request Lake Talquin to test their hydrants? Mr. Dixon asked if there was a reason. Commissioner Simpkins stated because she was getting requests. She stated the hydrant near Shady Rest Road is facing the wrong way. Mr. Dixon stated he would have the Chief check it.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was at a FAC conference. She stated the way they said they market their County was through YouTube and she thought about different areas in the County and how they could market.

Commissioner Simpkins stated thank you for beginning the work for the park. She has been getting calls about them seeing trees being cut down.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to know the process for the Tourist Development Council and how it works for citizens wanting to apply. She wanted to know how it works and asked for it in writing.

Commissioner Simpkins wanted to make sure they were actively looking at the insurance because it was going up.

Commissioner Simpkins asked what was the building situation with GCDC. Mr. Dicon stated they were looking to put everybody in one space and it would free up that building.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked Commissioner Hinson about the Health Department in Havana moving out and if they have some plans for billing or something like that.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to see schedules and will get with the Administrator.

Commissioner Holt stated she was hoping to plan a trip to Bonifay. They need to be competitive. She hoped they could take some trips and look for money. Commissioner Holt mentioned about looking into some transportation money.

Commissioner Green said he was glad Commissioner Holt brought up the housing situation. He asked if they could consider container homes when they start working on whatever ordinance and regulations.

Commissioner Holt said also in that meeting they looked at zoning and there are things they can do now that they were unable to do before.

Chair NeSmith mentioned the time and stated he did not want to hold up anyone waiting on them. He asked Dr. Stallworth if he was expecting some kind of action from them regarding the Bee Farm proposal. Dr. Stallworth stated at the last meeting he attended, there was money that was awarded to two non-profits, one was Athletic Hall of Fame and the Wellness Center. He wanted to see if he could get the bee farm up and running for pollination.

Chair NeSmith stated to the Commissioners that he was very clear on what was going to happen and not only has he received a call from Mr. Stallworth, but has received calls from others. He was clear that they needed policies and procedures in place.

Commissioner Hinson stated when he looked at the budget, he could not find that line item where the \$45,000 was pulled. Chair NeSmith stated it was approved. Commissioner Green stated it was moved to general funds.

Chair NeSmith said he was very clear that they did not have a process and now they have Dr. Stallworth present and there will be more after him because he has gotten calls from two organizations, one of them being a sorority.

Commissioner Simpkins told Dr. Stallworth that when she made the motion last week for that \$1000, she had a chance to go through and have a conversation prior to the meeting. She has not had an opportunity with him to have a conversation. She asked for an opportunity to look over his information and then have a conversation with him.

Dr. Stallworth said that would be unacceptable to him because when they opened up the ARPA funds, they skipped a process. He was a part of that program then.

Commissioner Green said they were familiar with the Wellness Center; they have made presentations to the Commissioners. He felt compassionate for the people in his district. He said Dr. Stallworth was not being denied and he knew the benefits of a bee farm. He said he did not want to see any organization fail.

Mr. Dixon said the Board reserves the right to waive their rules and do things they do. A Commissioner made a motion and it takes at least 2 to go along with it. A Commissioner has offered to take up his issue. The Board does not owe any business anything. If he was wanting funding, the best way to get it is to have a commissioner or 2 that would fight for it.

Dr. Stallworth said when he was watching what took place 2 weeks ago, Commissioner Simpkins said she was very familiar with that entity and Commissioner Green was very familiar with the other entity. He asked the other Commissioners if they were made aware that that was going to be taken place. He stated the problem was processes that were being skipped. He stated he cared about Gadsden County and he was about action. If they want to skip the process, then he has no choice but to abide, but he does not like it.

Chair NeSmith stated to Dr. Stallworth that he knew all the Commissioners very well and as he has said before, they need a process. They now have an opportunity to schedule a workshop and get it done.

Commissioner Holt stated they did have a process for non-profits, it was for them to present to the Board during budget season. She asked Mr. Knowles his opinion.

Mr. Knowles said Commissioners have brought items that was not on the agenda. The Board can waive their rules to a certain extent, it was up to them. As long as they were not making an illegal move, it was their prerogative. He agreed with Chair NeSmith that they need a policy on this.

Commissioner Holt said to workshop it and put policies in place. She thought they should approve Dr. Stallworth and stated they were not going to approve any more until they get a policy in place.

Commissioner Simpkins stated she was not saying she would go against it. She was just asking for a chance to review Dr. Stallworth's proposal and have a conversation with him.

Dr. Stallworth said had he known he needed to talk with the Commissioners individually, he would have.

Commissioner Green said he wanted Dr. Stallworth to understand it was not an attack on him, but as all said, this was new to the Commissioners. Has Wellness Center to come before the Board. Hope he understands not against him.

Dr. Stallworth said they needed a process.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green wanted to make a public announcement for the Lake Talquin public hearing on Wednesday, September 27 at 10:30 am.

Commissioner Green asked about signage coming into the city out of the Midway area and asked the County Administrator if he knew of any timeline as it related to that particular signage that is on Highway 90. Mr. Dixon said a lot of signage is old and they will be bringing it back with updated signs. They were looking to create a new sign as well as one for the Bicentennial.

Commissioner Green thanked Angela Sapp and Karema Dudley for the Love Where You Live, it was a great event.

Commissioner Green wanted to let firefighters know they are appreciated throughout the County. He stated it was Fire Services Appreciation month. Commissioner Green stated they have had a lot of projects on the Board that have been approved. He was not sure where they were with the Boys & Girls Club and the manager. He wanted to know when could they close a deal. Mr. Dixon stated they were still working with the owners; the site was still available but by the next meeting he will bring decisions for the Board to decide.

Mr. Kwik appeared before the Board regarding the North Florida Rural Health.

Commissioner Simpkins said if they were discussing funding when they have the workshops, they need to include other health agencies. Commissioner Holt said they have done that with the other two clinics over the years. They were trying to establish one in Chattahoochee.

Commissioner Simpkins said when looking at the request, the other clinics need to be at the table. They were talking about \$1 Million a year.

Mr. Kwik said the health department does not provide primary care and that was comparing apples to oranges. Commissioner Simpkins said she brought up the Health Department only because Commissioner Holt brought it up. But she was referring to the Jessie Furlow Center and Havana.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted a workshop with them and not the other groups. She wanted to figure out how they could provide within that radius some healthcare. They were not going to give any money in a workshop anyway.

Mr. Kwik said each business has a different business model. They have done a lot of work and research to make sure they were successful in Gadsden County. They have put together a program to show them that this collaboration works.

Chair NeSmith asked how many patients have they seen and what day did they open. Dr. Thompson stated they opened on August 15 and they have seen 30 patients in person and telehealth. 37% have been uninsured or underinsured.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, Vice-Chair, District 1

Commissioner Hinson stated one issue they were having in Gadsden County, looking at the census, it was kind of misleading because of COVID. He thought this issue needs to be addressed because of land. He mentioned the one house per 20-acre issue. He stated they need to revisit the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. He stated this used to be an agriculture county. They needed one house per 20 acres because it was an agriculture community, but it was not that anymore. He stated they needed to re-visit that and see if they could modify their plan.

Commissioner Hinson stated they have been talking about meeting for the last 20 meetings. He stated before they have a workshop on any department, they need to sit down and plan it first. He stated healthcare should be at the top of the list. He stated they need to prioritize their workshops.

Chair NeSmith asked Commissioner Simpkins how she would like to handle this. Commissioner Simpkins stated maybe they could give dates and each person fill out their form with available dates. Commissioner Simpkins mentioned having Fire as the first workshop. Commissioner Hinson mentioned the library as the second workshop. Commissioner Green mentioned non-profits. Chair NeSmith stated they want the third one to be on healthcare. Commissioner Hinson stated they have to throw in Housing as well.

Commissioner Holt left at 10:53 pm.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Chair, District 3

Chair NeSmith stated he followed-up about the generator that the Board directed him to speak to the School Board about for Havana Magnet. He was informed that Ms. Whaley was working with the School Board for a Grant to replace the generator. Mr. Dixon said the process could take two years.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:59 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, CLERK