

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 4, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He said, for the record, Commissioner Green was in route.

Pastor Charles Morris appeared before the Board for the Invocation, then the Chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Item 5 and move it to 14b as it was not required to be a Public Hearing.

Commissioner Green appeared at 6:08 p.m.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

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

Th

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - October 23, 2021 Emergency Meeting**
 - November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting**
- 3. Approval for Adopt-A-Road Agreement with Tillman Road Cleaning Squad for Tillman Road**
- 4. Public Officials Bond Review**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on January 4, 2022. 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.

Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL 32351 appeared before the Board. He thanked them for the excellent job they did during 2021.

He asked the commissioners to observe the three C's:
Continue to show care for the citizens that they serve;
Commitment
Civility

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2022-001 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2022

Moved to 14b-did not require public hearing

6. Public Hearing-Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-015 Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, FL, Amending and Adopting Rules of Procedure and Decorum for the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

Mr. Dixon said this was the second reading of proposed Ordinance 2021-15 which would add to the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances certain provisions amending the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners' Rules of Procedures and Decorum.

Mr. Knowles said this was the second reading.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments and there were none.

Commissioner Hinson said Item 5 stated Commissioners should limit their comments to a maximum of six minutes per item. Chair Viegbesie said this was discussed during workshops with regards to time.

Mr. Knowles said his recollection was they would have a timekeeping mechanism and was what the Board agreed on.

There was further discussion regarding the amount of time each Commissioner would have to speak.

Chair Viegbesie said something he had observed, aides would be employees of the County. His concern was, nothing comes to the Commissioners without going through the Administrator. His question, if commissioners are granted the opportunity to have aides, if they're asked to do something for the commissioner, they would have to get permission from the administrator.

Commissioner Holt said that was not in this amendment and they should move on. All employees were under the Administrator.

Chair Viegbesie said his concern was not a part of this item right now, but how they could incorporate it in the future.

Commissioner NeSmith said this was a second reading and Mr. Knowles said yes. Commissioner NeSmith said he concurred with Commissioner Holt. He said that was a conversation for another time as they could come back and amend this in the future.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval to Confirm the County Building Official

Mr. Dixon said this was to confirm the appointment of Roosevelt Morris as the new Building Official, he was not new to the County as he has worked here in the past.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.

Chair Viegbesie welcomed him back home and looked forward to great things.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.

8. Approval to Confirm the Growth Management Director

Mr. Dixon said this was to confirm Mr. Justin Stiell as the Growth Management Director for the Planning and Zoning Department.

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

9. Approval to Award Bid No. 21-21 for Pest Control Services to Rudd's Pest Control

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for board approval to award Bid Number 21-21 to Rudd's Pest Control for County pest control services.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any other bids and Mr. Dixon said there were no other bids submitted.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

10. Approval to Lease One Type 1 2022 Chevy 3500 Frazer Ambulance

Mr. Dixon said this was for approval of a lease agreement between GCBOCC and Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of one type 1 Chevy 3500 HD Diesel Fraser Ambulance in the amount of \$218,447.00.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A QUESTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the lease payments would be about the same and Ms. Daniels said yes.

Chair Viegbesie asked if this was a lease with option to purchase or asked was the payment going toward owning.

Commissioner Holt said in the contract they would give the option to buy but it did not mean it would have to be bought.

Mr. Knowles pointed out on page 3, this was a type of lease/purchase.

Mr. Dixon said this was as much a financing tool as it was anything else.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

11. Approval of the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Matching Grant for Emergency Services

Mr. Dixon said this was for approval of the Florida Dept of Health, County Matching Grant application for Emergency Services. Chief Hood was attempting to replace all vehicles and seeking grant funding for replacement of a quick response vehicle.

Commissioner Green asked if the \$25,000 was included in the budget and was told yes.

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

12. Approval of the East Gadsden Park at St. Hebron Bid Award No. 21-22

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board to award East Gadsden Park at St. Hebron bid number 21-22 to Kimmel Development Services for the construction of a basketball court. He said the fiscal impact would be \$61,396.40 and there was a \$50,000 FRDAP grant. The remaining \$11,396.40 would be funded from the Parks and Recreation budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH A QUESTION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was enough money left for the other four districts out of recreation. Mr. Dixon said he did not know right off but they were looking to enhance all of the parks.

Commissioner Green said in reference to the park, were people able to utilize the park as things were getting done?

Chair Viegbesie said he was directly involved and citizens have been using the park. The only thing they really want is a walking trail.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

13. Approval of the Johnson Controls Agreement for Suppression Gas Systems Test and Inspection-FM200 and Dry Sprinkler System

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board for approval of the Johnson Controls Agreement and Diagnostic Test for the Assessable Suppression Gas Systems in the Information Technology Server Room and the FM 200 Suppression Gas System in the Communications Center.

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

14. Appointment of Commissioner and Alternate to the Canvassing Board

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said they need to appoint a commissioner and an alternate to the Canvassing Board.

Commissioner Holt nominated Commissioner Hinson and Commissioner Hinson refused.

Chair Viegbesie said he would like to nominate Commissioner NeSmith and Commissioner Green as the alternate.

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

14b Public Hearing-Approval of Resolution 2022-001 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2022

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Resolution 2022-001 and for authorization for the Assistant County Administrator, Finance Director, and Senior Accountant to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary.

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

CLERK OF COURT

15. Updates

There were no updates.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

16. Updates

Mr. Dixon said the commissioners will be receiving a calendar for the next 3 months for activities. Also, they will be receiving documentation on how to plan to deal with aides and they could submit feedback.

Chair Viegbesie asked for an update of the roof to be able to allow citizens to come back in the building and the removal of asbestos.

Mr. Dixon said it was not a simple equation. They opened the wall to address the problem and were trying to slow roll it but as quickly as they could. It was not a simple process.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they had rescheduled the CARES Act and American Rescue workshop for the next meeting and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Chair Viegbesie said the NACO meeting would absorb the second meeting in February.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

17. Updates

Mr. Knowles thanked everyone for their prayers for the death in his family.

Mr. Dixon said they all know that Omicron was moving quickly through Gadsden County and they have met with the Health Department and were gearing up again. Gadsden County has one of the higher vaccination rates in the state however Omicron does not seem to care. There is a number of employees out now with Omicron and wanted to put everyone on notice it is as easily transmittable as they say it is. If there are any doubts, please get tested.

Commissioner Viegbesie said his comment was, this County government does not have funds to require masks and vaccinations but was encouraging everyone to wear masks and get vaccinated.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she would like for the County to apply for a FRDAP grant for St. Johns Park, Robertsville park and Friendship park.

She asked the Administrator to look at older vehicles and ones that may need to be rotated out.

They need to look at funding for the renovation of the building.

She asked they consider a mandate for minimum salaries for Sheriff deputies and EMS personnel.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had a few things:

Speaking of Omicron, he had the opportunity to visit a dental office other day and they had a sign on the door to call a number and someone would assist them.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 7:01 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson continued and said they have less than 3 weeks to meet the contractual agreements or were they going to extend the contract with FCI. Mr. Dixon said based on what he could come up with, whether a special meeting or the next meeting, to show them where they were and they would get an opportunity to decide. He said he was going to meet with the attorney to see what the options are. Commissioner Hinson asked if they have met with FCI and he said no. Commissioner Hinson said they need to have special meeting because the deadline is February 1 to fulfill the contract. He thought the Board needed to fulfill the entire contract and buy the 25,000 hotspots, there was a need for them.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said he must reiterate, he thought it was going to be on the agenda. He said to the attorney he sent a letter about the contract between the Administrator and the Board. Chair Viegbesie said he would address that. There was an issue and the concern was removed because the Administrator tendered his resignation from the Health Council. It was his opinion there was nothing else to discuss. Commissioner Hinson said, as he has in the past, he wanted to make sure he was cleared. He said the County pays a percentage that goes to the Health Council and wanted to make sure it was cleared. He asked the attorney how it would affect the decision moving forward.

Mr. Knowles said to uncloak some concerns, the Administrator could provide a letter of resignation.

Chair Viegbesie said yes, the County Administrator has resolved the issue by resigning from the Board. It has been tendered but he did not know if the Health Council has met and approved it yet because they do not meet regularly.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the concern was a matter of ethics, the Board, as a body, cannot be sued with regards to ethics, only an individual could be sued with regards to ethics.

Commissioner Hinson said they could take money from a contractor but they have to recuse themselves in the future.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the County Administrator for meeting with him earlier.

He said when he met with the Administrator, he asked for and a list of workshops coming up because they have work to do. They need to find ways to enhance the budget.

He hoped everyone had an awesome holiday season.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green wished a Happy New Year to everyone. He said they have a lot of work to do but they could do it. He welcomed all new employees.

He thanked the Tillman Road Cleaning Squad for adopting Tillman Road.

He asked about the security of the building.

Mr. Dixon said they would be looking at the building this week or early next week. They will figure out security and ingress into the parking lot.

Commissioner Holt wanted to apologize to Commissioner Hinson for earlier. She said she was doing something and when she concentrates on something, she starts to hum.

She said they needed funding for events that they know will be regular events and money needed to be set aside for them.

Chair Viegbesie thanked her for her comments.

Mr. Dixon said staff met this morning to talk about Christmas in January and as of today, they were putting together a calendar of year-long events. It is going to be a herculean challenge.

Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make sure they put numbers on stuff.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said earlier when Bishop Green spoke and when Pastor Morris gave the Invocation, it looked like what they had in mind was what already had been put in his spirit two shares his comments today.

"Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success".

In this new year, borrowing the words of Martin Luther King Jr.

Commissioners, we have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of collaborative love and honest dedication into the veins of our county's growth and prosperity.

Note, "If everyone agrees on everything, then someone is unnecessary". So, I declare that it's okay to respectfully agree to disagree agreeably. "There is never a wrong time to do what is right".

General Powell once said that: "Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off" and "people should not let their egos to be so close to their position".

Commissioners let's KEEP PEOPLE BEFORE POLITICS. BECAUSE, THE ONLY POLITICS THAT MATTERS IS THE POLITICS THAT GETS US TO A BETTER PLACE.

For the good of Gadsden County, Sen. Chris Coon of Delaware once said that "Politics is the art of he possible not the perfect".

Commissioners this is something to seriously consider.

Creating a: "Gadsden County Dept. of Economic Development, Restoration & Resilience.

Thank you and God bless Gadsden County".

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:33 p.m._and returned at 7:33 p.m.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:35 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN WORKSHOP OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND
FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 18,
2022 AT 5:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Ronterious "Ron" Green, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the workshop.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on January 18, 2022. 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion Regarding the Re-Allocation of Funds for the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan (GCARP) Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented for discussion regarding the re-allocation of funds for the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan Program. He said they have paid out a number of businesses already for small business assistance, resident assistance, food card, churches and religious organizations, non-profit, non-profit healthcare, and direct funding. He said what they had remaining was a total of \$776,100.00. Subsequently in meetings they have voted to approve a purchase of a single ambulance in the amount of \$255,000 and to reimburse the sheriff's office for \$9000 for security detail provided at the GCARP Resident Assistance Food Card event. He said they were asking the Board to fund \$260,000 to the GCAARP Small Businesses Assistance Program for applications that are currently in the GCAARP portal and under GCARP team review; \$252,100 that is for discussion.

Chair Viegbesie clarified Staff was asking to shift \$260,000 to the GCARP Small Businesses Assistance Program for applications currently in the portal and under team review; shift \$255,000 to Emergency Medical Services to purchase an ALS ambulance; shift \$252,100 to Emergency Medical Services to purchase an additional ambulance; and reimburse \$9,000 to the

Gadsden County Sheriff's Office for security detail provided at the food card event. And he then asked what the remaining balance would be and Mr. Dixon replied zero.

Commissioner Green said his first question was the \$260,000 for the and Small Business Program, would that cover all applicants. Mr. Dixon said that would cover the subsequent applicants that were found to be qualified to receive funding. Commissioner Green said he also knew the importance of having the second service vehicle as well.

Commissioner Holt said the \$260,000 once already set aside and Mr. Dixon said \$255,000 would cover the first ambulance and the \$252,100 would cover the second ambulance if they decide to do that.

Chair Viegbesie said they have already approved spending of \$9,000 for the Sheriff and \$255,000 for the ambulance.

Mr. Dixon said they have already identified businesses to receive the \$260,000.

Commissioner Green said in recognition to what Commissioner Holt said for businesses, would the portal have to be opened back up? Will the County have to pay Integrity? Mr. Dixon said Integrity got paid whether they do lot of work or little work.

Chair Viegbesie said if they decide to put \$140,000 into additional small businesses, how would the ones that would qualify be determined?

A spokesperson for the Integrity Group appeared at the podium said Fredericka Hamilton was on Zoom and wanted to be recognized.

Fredericka Hamilton, Project Manager for Integrity Group, appeared via Zoom and wanted to add that the \$260,000 that was discussed for the small businesses was for the 26 small businesses and there are 28 Small Businesses that should have \$280,000 allocated that were approved and were recommended for funding and each business would receive between \$8,000-\$12,000 depending on their documentation.

Chair Viegbesie said his understanding was, if they were looking at \$280,000, may be \$20,000 to come from the \$140,000 to leave \$120,000.

NeSmith said was in-line with closing comments from previous workshop-think that now have better direction to go in, start planning now and if need to allocate funds, we could develop plan for long range

Commissioner Green said it seemed they all were on the same page in reference to approving the allocations and was this the same \$140,000 that commissioner Hinson mentioned for the homeless?

Commissioner NeSmith said Commissioner Green brought up an excellent thought. They need to come up with a plan.

Commissioner Holt said they need to approve and set aside the \$120,000 for discussion later.

Commissioner Holt said her desire was an and for more funding for small business.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED
AT 5:37 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A CARES WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JANUARY 18, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1-appeared by Zoom
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4 – appeared by phone
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the workshop to order at 4:09 p.m.

Mrs. Blackshear gave the Invocation. Chair Viegbesie led in the Pledge of allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

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Commissioner NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion Regarding the Re-Approval of Funds for the Gadsden County CARES Act

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said they were gathered to discuss the re-approval of the CARES Act Residual Funding previously approved on June 15, 2021 by the Board. He said the total grant award was \$7,967,316. To date \$2,980,406.39 is remaining. Of this amount \$1,765,000 was earmarked for the broadband project utilizing Figgers Communication, Inc. (FCI), leaving a balance available for reallocation of approximately \$1,360,000. After the broadband project he broke down the numbers as follows:

Programs

Building Management System	\$ 15,000
IT Enhancements/Licenses	25,000
COVID 19 Media Campaign	75,000
Granicus Website Services	87,000

New Positions:

County Operations Coordinator	65,000
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Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
January 18, 2022 – CARES Act Workshop

Grants Coordination (Contractual Services)	50,000
Grants Monitoring	50,000
Senior Housing Specialist/SHIP	45,000
Communications Tech/Motorola, etc.	58,000
Budget Technician/OMB	36,720

Projects:

Gadsden Youth Initiative	60,000
Renovation of Public Works Vehicle Repair Area	200,000
Renovation of Public Works Common Area	100,000
Commission Chambers Redesign	150,000
Architecture/Engineering for Shovel Ready Projects	<u>200,000</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$2,981,720</u>

Commissioner Holt said she was looking at the positions and did see the need for the positions and the shovel ready projects.

Chair Viegbesie asked about the new positions and this was one-time money and the positions would be re-occurring.

Mr. Dixon said the positions were very necessary positions and were needed now more than ever as they begin the upward mobility.

Commissioner Green arrived at 4:18 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said the question was about positions and they were needed. The Senior Housing Specialist is needed and goal this year is to do 30 houses as opposed to 4 that was done last year.

Chair Viegbesie said his concern was this was one-time money from the Federal government and he wanted to know how they would budget to continue the positions and how it would affect the other services provided.

Mr. Dixon said the Clerk informed them last year they had \$2-3 Million in the SHIP Housing/Hurricane fund. They made sure they got that into the marketplace but realized they did not have enough people to get this into the marketplace, nor the right kind of people to run other programs so they could feed the low income or those that needed the SHIP housing and other programs.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to restate in representing the people of Gadsden County, they need to enhance the County's revenue. In order to serve the County properly, the revenue is needed to do so. He said the Citizens deserve a \$1 Million budget next year.

Chair Viegbesie asked they stay on task for this workshop as there was another workshop scheduled after this one, followed by the Board meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith said his comments was in-line with what the Chair said. How could they fund the salaries if they did not enhance their revenue?

Commissioner Nesmith asked how many people were in the SHIP department and Mr. Dixon said there was a total of three.

Commissioner Holt said after Hurricane Michael, FEMA recommended no less than five people in that department and she did not see any positions they could do without, they needed to adjust the budget.

Chair Viegbesie said the positions would be recurring so they would need revenue to continue to carry the positions.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much was in the General Revenue fund. Ms. Daniels said the General Fund balance was \$5.2 Million; the unassigned fund was \$3 Million.

Commissioner Hinson said even though he understood what that meant by assigned and unassigned, could it be explained to the public so they would better understand.

Ms. Daniels said unassigned is revenue in the fund that is not restricted or assigned to any particular source; assigned meant it is assigned to a particular fund.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much should they have in reserve. Chair Viegbesie said he could not tell specifically, but when the representative from Purvis Gray gave the range he felt it healthy for the County to have should be enough to carry the County for 30 days in the case of extreme circumstances.

Mr. Knowles said Florida Statute provides that reserve for contingency may be provided which does not exceed 10% of total appropriations and the reserve may not be more than 20% of total appropriations.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the percentage of general fund that was in reserve. Mr. Knowles said the most recent audit on the Clerk's website for fiscal year 2020, as of fiscal year 2020, the County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$21,327,792, an increase of \$2.596 Million in comparison with the prior year. Of the approximately \$21.3 Million total fund balance, unassigned fund balance was \$3.5 Million and is available for spending at the County's discretion. The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County and has a decrease in fund balance of \$207,772 and the total general fund balance was \$5,466,689 of which \$3,584,011 was unassigned. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare unassigned fund balance to total general fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 17.33% of total general fund expenditures, excluding transfers.

Commissioner Holt asked, if possible, to post general information before a meeting and the public would be able to see it.

Mr. Knowles explained this information was on the Clerk's website. **(NOTE: The public can find the information by looking at gadsdenclerk.com under "Audit Reports".)**

Commissioner Holt asked to carry the \$140,000 over to the next meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said one question he had about CARES, and he had spoken briefly with the County Administrator about it, he included \$100,000 to the homeless budget the year before (he was appearing by Zoom and with surrounding noise, became inaudible to understand what was being said).

Chair Viegbesie said what has been determined, the remaining money to be spent in the CARES Act, which was \$2.9 Million, the amount that has not been allocated to be used is \$140,000. When this item comes up for discussion at the regular meeting as to what they should be doing with that remaining money, that would be the time to advocate for the \$100,000 of that to be allocated to the homeless issue.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 4:54 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

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Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting, called it to order at 6:04 p.m.; asked Rev. Gregory to give the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Item 11.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

Mr. Dixon asked that Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Hinson abstain from voting on the Consent agenda due to a conflict with item three.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Ratification Memo
2. Approval of Minutes
 - November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting
3. Approval and Signature for Special Assessment Lien SHIP Housing Rehabilitation Program or Emergency (ER) Program

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator’s Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission

meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on January 18, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Green read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

4. Approval of Actuary Services for required OPEB Report Optional Post Employee Benefit

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to renew the agreement with McGriff Insurance Services, Inc. to provide actuarial services for the preparation of the required 2021 OPEB report.

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

5. Approval of the Agreement for Update to the Gadsden County Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element with the Apalachicola Regional Planning Council (ARPC)

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 to improve the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

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

6. Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Gadsden Connector Bus Service from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024

Mr. Dixon said items 6, 7, 8 and 9 were all interconnected as they were agreements with Big Bend Transit. He added this comes to the Board with a slight rate increase. He said there would be a rate increase going up to \$5,900 per month and was attributable to increases in salary, health and vehicle insurance, vehicle costs and fuel and will costs.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE WITH DISCUSSION AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 6:16 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie said there was a request, especially from the seniors, as to signage as to where the bus stops were so people would know.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 6:17

Commissioner Holt asked the amount of the increase and was told \$1,000.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if it was known what caused the shortfall. Mr. Dixon said that was the increase they gave them. Commissioner NeSmith asked what caused the increase and Mr. Dixon said it was what he mentioned above.

Commissioner NeSmith then asked if they have a schedule of bus stops and times and was told yes.

Mr. Dixon said with the upgrade to the website, they will be able to highlight programs.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

7. Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Continuation of Gadsden Express Services from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it sought approval for Gadsden Express to provide express bus service to and from Gadsden County to the central bus terminal in Tallahassee with limited stops along the way. He said the county would fund the Gadsden Express beginning October 1, 2021 thru September 30, 2024. He added there is 50,000 allotted in the FY 21/22 budget for the Gadsden Express Service and the anticipated fares to be collected from riders is approximately \$13, 100.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had reached out to the City of Quincy? Mr. Dixon stated that was the next item.

Chair Viegbesie asked where this was in the budget.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the board and said they get grant from City of Tallahassee through StarMetro. We have \$50,000 in the budget and they pay the other \$50,000.

Commissioner NeSmith questioned the last sentence in the outline of the Fiscal Impact where it stated the county pays Big Bend Transit the full amount monthly and bills StarMetro for one have the cost. Ms. Daniels explained the county paid the monthly amount of \$9,455.40 less fares collected first and then get reimbursed.

Commissioner Green said the Administrator made mention when he has a conversation with the City of Quincy, is there a possibility they will be able to help? Mr. Dixon said he could ask because this serves all the cities.

Commissioner Hinson felt they should ask the City to join in, they utilize every place in Quincy, they just stop in other cities.

Commissioner Green said in the conversation maybe all cities could be included, based on the amount of services.

Commissioner Holt said this was an agreement they had a long time ago with the City of Tallahassee. She said there was not infrastructure money coming down and she felt this was an

item they could work with including Apalachee Regional Planning Council on planning element for the Comprehensive Plan.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson felt they should meet with BBT every couple of months.

Commissioner NeSmith questioned why the contract started October 2021 and it was now January 2022. Mr. Dixon said they were working on contracts as fast as they could. They have still been providing services.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

8. Transportation Agreement between the Gadsden County BOCC and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to Provide the Quincy Shuttle Bus Service from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024

Mr. Dixon introduced above item and said it was for approval to renew the transportation agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and Big Bend Transit, Inc. to provide the Quincy Shuttle service in and around the City of Quincy.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A COMMENT.

Commissioner Holt asked to be provided the number of ridership.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they receive the numbers and was it required in the contract and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Chair Viegbesie asked to make it part of the quarterly report when they provide ridership data to make it available to the Board.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR THE VOTE. Th THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

9. Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Tallahassee (c/o StarMetro) and Gadsden County, FL

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the city of Tallahassee StarMetro to utilize the city of Tallahassee StarMetro grant funds from Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) to pay Big Bend Transit for the Gadsden Express Service from October 1, 2021 thru September 30, 2027 and authorize the chair to sign.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith said he was hearing Tallahassee, StarMetro, how was it different? Mr. Dixon said they were all different in that the transportation part was different and they appeal

to a different grant for funding. All of it was designed is to get people into and out of Tallahassee. He said each line required and a different line of funding.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. Microsoft Enterprise Annual Renewal

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to renew the agreement with Microsoft for a three-year term, beginning October 1, 2021 thru September 30, 2024, as required by the terms of the existing Microsoft Enterprise Agreement.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the contract starting October 2021 and this was now January 2022. Have they been providing services? Mr. Dixon said yes and explained this was a renewal of the contract.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. ~~Motorola Project Maintenance Contract~~

Item pulled

12. Re-Approval of the Gadsden County CARES Act Residual Funds

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Re-Approval of the CARES Act Residual Funding previously approved on June 15, 2021. He said it was workshopped earlier in the day and they were asking for the approval.

Chair Viegbesie said if he recalled correctly from the workshop there is \$140,000 that was not currently allocated. Mr. Dixon said that was correct. Chair Viegbesie said the discussion in the workshop was that \$20,000 of that would be put towards...Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board at the podium.

(Mr. Dixon asked her to take over for him as there was a disruption in the lobby and he stepped out.)

Chair Viegbesie said of the \$140,000, during the workshop they agreed to move \$20,000 of that to the American Rescue Plan to add to the \$260,000 to make it \$280,000.

Commissioner Hinson said in 2020 they were able to make a commitment to communities to use the money for homeless programs and use the rest of the funding for the Small Business and residential Program. He said they could make changes. The Havana Community Development has asked for help the past 10 years and they have been unable to help. He was in Gretna and was impressed and saw there were needs in Gretna as well. He wanted to award the City of Gretna \$250,000. He said they need to help those that need help in the County. He asked for \$600,000 and Commissioner Holt asked to add Gretna in. When he went there, he understood. He would like to share half with Gretna. He wanted to make a bold move and

hoped to have Commissioner Holt and the Chairman's support along with everyone else. He proposed \$250,000 for HCDC and \$250,000 to the City of Gretna.

Chair Viegbesie said that conversation was what the workshop was about. They have already approved spending \$255,000 of that on an ambulance, approved reimbursing the Sheriff's Office \$9,000 for detail during the Resident Assistance food card distribution. He added what they discussed and came up with during the workshop was \$280,000 should be allocated to help small businesses that need assistance. He said if they do that, the \$768,000 will go to zero. He asked which one was not a priority, the ambulance or the sheriff. He said all they really had was \$140,000.

Commissioner Hinson said this was a work in process and could change on a dime, nothing was in concrete. This money went into the general revenue. The Board voted to give \$100,000 to the homeless program.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked for the sake of time, for Commissioner Hinson to make a motion on how he wanted the money spent.

Commissioner Hinson said they could take the money out of the budget to redesign the Commission Chambers. He asked the Board to restore the money that was set aside for homelessness.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO ADD \$250,000 TO HELP CITY OF GRETNA; \$250,000 TO HELP HCDC AND \$100,000 TO ASSIST WITH THE HOMELESSNESS IN GADSDEN COUNTY. HE ALSO STATED THERE WAS MONEY IN THE GENERAL FUND TO PURCHASE AMBULANCES.

Commissioner Green said he thought they were calling numbers for Item 13 and not for Item 12.

Chair Viegbesie said the motion is for of the \$1.77 Million, that \$600,000 be spent on Commissioner Hinson's proposal.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were discussing the CARES Act and was told yes. She said they have to have shovel-ready projects and need to have programs in place. She wanted Havana and Gretna to have money but they have to have money to keep ambulances running. She said they just need to vote and move on.

Commissioner NeSmith said they have a responsibility to utilize the public's money carefully. \$600,000 was not enough money for what the building needs, they need an overall plan.

Commissioner Hinson asked to put the allocation of funds on the screen. He said the last budget they voted for, they voted to provide for these positions. They voted to add positions on the CARES dollars. He asked why they took the homelessness money out of the budget.

Commissioner Holt said there was a lot of false information being given out tonight. FEMA recommended these positions in 2019 and they did not follow the recommendations. They

have approximately \$140,000 to use. They could apply for grants to help Havana Northside. They need the positions and need to have shovel-ready projects.

Commissioner Green wanted to recognize the Mayor of Gretna and City Manager that was present. He added he would like to have the opportunity to sit with Havana and Gretna to see what plan they could come up with. He said he did not know the needs the homeless have, they need details.

Chair Viegbesie said if they were going to deal with homelessness, they need someone in the Housing program.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO RESERVE \$140,000 TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO AT A LATER DATE AND APPROVE THE ITEMS IN THE AGENDA FOR THAT ITEM. COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

13. Re-Allocation of Funds for the Gadsden County American Rescue Plan (GCARP) Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Re-Allocation of funds for the Gadsden County American Rescue plan program. He explained in the workshop held earlier, what was recommended of the \$776,100 remaining that \$280,000 go to GCARP Small Business Assistance Program to fund the 28 businesses that were already approved for funding; buy an ambulance for \$245,000; a second ambulance for \$242,00 and \$9,000 to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for the security detail provided at the GCARP Resident Assistance Food Cart event that was held from August 9 through August 13. He said that would zero out the remaining funds.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they were talking about 4 ambulances the County would purchase in a year? Mr. Dixon stated they bought them because they were needed. They have 2 backup ambulances that were now being run continuously and the new ambulances have over 300,000 miles on them. He said the wait for a new ambulance was over a year and they did not have the luxury of waiting that year.

Commissioner Hinson said that made sense. He added when he gives out information, he wanted to make sure it was accurate and if he was inaccurate, he apologized for it. He said there was over \$5,000,000 in the General Fund and if it was that big of an issue they can always use the money from the general fund. He said he recalled when they voted on the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan, none of them saw the budget. It was presented the same night and they voted on it without knowing what was in the budget. He said to Chair Viegbesie, if he said something that was not true to please let him know.

Chair Viegbesie said he did make a statement that was not true. He said when the American Rescue Plan was presented at the workshop, Brenda Holt was the chair, not himself. He said he has told his students that the quantity of words used does not determine the quality of the statement made.

Commissioner Hinson asked Chair Viegbesie if he voted on something that night he had not seen and the Chair responded no, because it was presented to them that evening.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM WITH \$280,000 FOR SMALL BUSINESS; \$240,000 FOR THE AMBULANCE; \$242,000 FOR A SECOND AMBULANCE AND \$9,000 TO REIMBURSE THE SHERIFF AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

14. Economic Development Professional Services Contract with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Economic Development Professional Services contract between the Gadsden County BOCC and Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center. He explained the contract was not due until September 30, 2023. He said this contract along with item 15 was brought to them for direction. The board asked for contracts to be brought to them so they could see the verbiage and direction that was in the contracts. He said they do not get much information when it comes to this contract and they need to provide for addition in the contract. When they do receive information, it is limited.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to make sure he understood clearly that the Board was possibly paying for services and getting no detail what they were getting for what they were giving funding for. Mr. Dixon said yes. Commissioner Green asked if the information has been asked for. Mr. Dixon said they did not want to ask until they had direction from the Board.

Commissioner NeSmith said Commissioner Green asked one of his questions but asked if they have at a current contract. Mr. Dixon said yes. Ms. Daniels explained this was a renewal of the contract.

Mr. Dixon said both of the contracts for Item 13 and 14 were up for renewal and but the items were workshop worthy. He said given the Board's recent understanding of some economic situations, these programs were hand in hand and if they were going to make some moves in the future and if they were going to be partners, they needed to be given real direction by the Board.

Chair Viegbesie stated they just heard from the administrator as to the policies that they, as the decision makers, should make.

Commissioner Holt said the Board spoke before that they wanted to have in-house economic development or contracted economic development services. She felt this needed to be workshoped desperately.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE ITEM 14 UNTIL THEY HAVE A WORKSHOP AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

****Board returned to Item 14****

Commissioner Holt stated she would make a motion to rescind but she was not present. Chair Viegbesie said that did not mean in person.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MOVED FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ITEM 14 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

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

15. Economic Development Professional Services Contract-Gadsden County Development Council

Mr. Dixon recommended to table item 15 as well as it pertained to the same as item 14.

Antonio Jefferson, Chairman of Gadsden County Development Council, appeared before the Board. He asked they not table this because they were into the second quarter. They were not aware the contract expired. He added they do report to the Board at the request of the County Administrator. To workshop this item, they would have to close their doors until a decision is made. He asked they renew the contract.

Mr. Dixon said they were not recommending they be defunded, they were recommending to look at the contract. He said they have no intention of not paying them but need to talk about the contract in its entirety.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they have been paying GCDC, have they also been paying the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce as they were in the same situation. Mr. Dixon said he was not recommending either be defunded.

Commissioner Green asked how soon could it be workshopped so there would not be any issues.

Chair Viegbesie said the Attorney just brought some implications into the conversation. Mr. Knowles said if there was no contract with either, they would not be paid.

Chair Viegbesie said they had already tabled item 14.

Commissioner Holt said to recommend they continue for the next 60 days and they need to know what both were doing. If they were going to pay the Chamber, they need to report what they were doing and they could revisit that item when they finish this one.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO OFFER GCDC 60 DAYS OF PAYMENT UNTIL THEY MEET AND SEE WHAT THEIR PLANS WERE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith said he was trying to understand the motion. They are paid quarterly and was the motion to pay them for 60 of the 90 days. Commissioner Holt said the reason she said 60 days, it would give them 30 more days to look at any problems. Commissioner NeSmith asked if would be prorated? Mr. Dixon said they would be paid through the second quarter.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO PAY GCDC THROUGH THE SECOND QUARTER AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said they were the Board and had to be careful, it was easy to make a motion and easy to take a vote. He said they dropped the ball to wait to the last minute and they were being punished. They have 30 days to terminate the contract. He said they need to move forward, they have other pressing things.

Commissioner NeSmith said he did not know the date of expiration. Mr. Jefferson said the date of the contract was not the issue for them in looking at it. They assumed when they were asked to come before the Board and they adopted the budget with GCDC included, they felt they would not have to negotiate a specific contract. They assumed they would be renewed. They felt the issue of the contract would be just a formality of what they would continue to do. Commissioner NeSmith said they have been having discussions all year concerning economic development. He said they need to have an overall discussion concerning this.

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson said something they need to take to heart with this item. He said they were talking about \$60,000.

Commissioner Hinson said he agreed with Commissioner Nesmith in that they need in-house economic development. He said they will be moving in that direction.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:32 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked when the second quarter ended and was told March 31st.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:38 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said they could meet in February and get a plan together.

Mr. Dixon said his recommendation was for a strategy session and not to put them out of business.

Commissioner NeSmith said the Administrator capsulated what he was going to say. The issue is they have to do something different. If they continue with the same, they will have the same outcome.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

**** They then returned to Item 14****

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

The Deputy Clerk stated there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Mr. Dixon asked if they wanted to cancel the second meeting in February. He said they were looking at trying to have a meeting on February 18th for some special items. Chair Viegbesie said he knew three and maybe all five commissioners will be at the NACO conference and felt they needed to look at cancelling.

He said today is the Small County Coalition Day in Tallahassee; tomorrow is Legislative Day in Tallahassee. He said they will convene at 8:30 at the Marriott at Cascades Park.

In conversation with Dr. Cooksey, they are moving to daily vaccinations and testing from 8 to 5 PM at the hospital. They will be doing PCR and rapid testing and no appointment was necessary. He said there was also a new vendor looking to set up services Chattahoochee way to make sure that area of the County was well taken care. The school testing is for asymptomatic and was doing a rapid PCR test and that result come back in 20 minutes. They are testing for COVID, flu and RSV in order to try to keep the schools open. He said they were testing and finding 27-30% positivity of those that have been tested. He said there has been minimal hospitalization because of vaccinations. They were not aware of any deaths from Omicron. He said right now they did not have any of monoclonal antibody vaccinations in Gadsden County, they are exercising that at FSH to maintain a low infection rate. He said they were also vaccinating children 5 and older.

He said there was a Meet and Greet of the Gadsden County Interfaith Prayer Team, RSVP required on Saturday, January 22nd at the Havana Community Center from 9 – 11:00 a.m.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Updates

Mr. Knowles asked for an Executive session in regard to a case that is right for settlement.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 8:55 p.m.

He will get with Ms. Bradley to schedule.

Commissioner Holt asked who the meeting was with. Mr. Knowles responded it was with Eric Krebs, outside council assigned by Florida Association of Counties for a pending lawsuit, Woodard v. Gadsden County, a sexual assault at the library.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

19. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said they have an Ordinance of building and rebuilding on the replacement of homes and wanted it brought back because once a house or mobile home has been demolished, it has to be replaced within a 2-year period according to their Ordinance.

Also, she would like to look at a partnership with the City of Tallahassee on transportation to see how they could better use the infrastructure money once they receive it.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:59 p.m.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he talked to the County Commissioner about the issue dealing with Figgers Communication and their contract was set to expire February 1st. He asked for an emergency meeting to discuss and extend their time to at least a year to identify 25,000 hotspots. He said it would be challenging for them to give service for less than 25,000.

Mr. Knowles said since they had been in the meeting, he received an email from Mr. Bebe asking for a meeting next week.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR ANOTHER YEAR. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Holt asked the Administrator if he had been working with FCI and asked if he had any suggestion on how to extend in order to work out what they need to work on. Mr. Dixon said they have been trying to work with FCI all along and had what they thought was a good idea, ran it down to the sources. They went back to their representative and gave them the idea, asked what they thought and heard nothing. He told them time was running out. They just received an email this afternoon. If they will not come to the table, he did not know what to do. Commissioner Holt asked if 30 more days would give enough time to do something. Mr. Dixon said it would be 30 more days. If they ask for at a meeting, they will have a meeting. Commissioner Holt said she did not see the email and asked it be sent to her. She said she would like to end this and hopefully could help some citizens in the community. Commissioner Holt wanted to know if they were interested in meeting. Mr. Dixon said they asked for a meeting and unless the Board said otherwise, he planned on meeting with them.

Mr. Knowles said they were meeting on February 1st, the day the contract expires and could discuss then.

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking at the email, it was sent out Friday and received Monday. He asked the Administrator for all emails between the Administrator and Figgers and said he was ready to bring this to closure.

Chair Viegbesie asked how many representatives with Figgers have worked with the County Administrator on this item.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a public records request of all communication between Figgers Communication and Ed Dixon so he could see for himself what has transpired.

He said he asked about the situation with the homelessness program and was told they had to have information. He said there were a lot of people that live in abandoned houses. He said there was also a major problem with mental health in the county.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said Commissioner Holt brought two issues to his attention and he concurred with her on the recommendation on houses that were burnt or destroyed. Mr. Knowles explained the Ordinance.

Commissioner Holt clarified her comment and stated she wanted to give them an opportunity to beautify the property, to give them more time, like 5 years instead of 2.

Commissioner NeSmith asked in order to amend, what was required. Mr. Stiell said it was in Section 3 of the Land Development Code.

Commissioner NeSmith asked who initiated contact for the FCI meeting and Mr. Dixon explained an email just came in during the meeting today.

Mr. Knowles said they sent an email to FCI last week discussing the plan they had for the devices, asking their input and informed them of the timing of the nature of it and they responded today asking for a meeting next week.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Dixon if he had a chance to read it and he said he just glanced at the email. Commissioner NeSmith asked if he felt they could move forward and Mr. Dixon said he had no idea, he knew the county's intentions and had no idea their intentions. He said they have asked for a meeting and unless he was told different, he would meet with them and try to determine what their intentions were and would get back with the board.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green said he received a call from a constituent from the Lake Talquin area about a Neighborhood Watch program and he was going to reach out to Colonel Collins with the Sheriff's department. He also asked if the administrator to give him guidance if he th th knew anything about Neighborhood Watch programs.

He said he was glad to hear the County Health Department extending their hours/services regarding COVID. He then added that the public could order their own home test kit for COVID. He said to go to [COVIDhometest.com](https://www.covidhometest.com).

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said he would talk on one topic mentioned several times. During the Rural County Economic Summit in St. Augustine, they had a presentation/workshop on homelessness and affordable housing. He forwarded the presenter's information to the Administrator to schedule a meeting with him to explore possible assistance on aggressive pursuit of mitigating homelessness and enhancing affordable housing in the County. He said the meeting would involve the Administrator, Assistant Administrator and the SHIP department.

He said he had the opportunity to meet with some gentlemen and there is an ordinance they need to consider putting in place and was a property registration ordinance. He said this would help address the plight in the County. He gave the card to Mr. Dixon and asked him to explore.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure before getting into it, they had all the information as he did not want to take people's property. Chair Viegbesie explained this was not taking people's property.

Chair Viegbesie said he has always, before making any recommendations to the County Administrator, suggested the county administrator invite them to come before the body so questions could be asked.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK AND COMMISSIONER HISNON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie said finally, his comment was something for them to think about. He went to a meeting today and what he was told did not make him happy.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT THE GADSDEN COUNTY COMMISSION CREATE A GADSDEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESTORATION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:40 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 1, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to order at 6:04 p.m. Invocation was given by Ronald McCloud and then the Chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon stated he would like to add item 8a in reference to the Shade Meeting that was held earlier.

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

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. Approval of Minutes**
 - December 7, 2021 Regular Meeting**
 - December 21, 2021 Regular Meeting**
- 3. Training for Gadsden County Sheriff’s Office Employees**
- 4. Breath Test Operator Renewal Course CJSTC #951**
- 5. Commanders Academy – Class 10**
- 6. Approval of Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien Dated February 3, 2014**

7. **Approval of a Joint Resolution with the Board of County Commissioners of Jackson County to the US Corps of Engineers**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on February 1, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Green read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. **Approval of the Modification #1 to the State-Funded Small County Emergency Operations Center Design Initiative Grant F0073, Approval of the Joel Sampson Architect, Inc.**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of the Modification to the State-Funded Small County Emergency Operations Center Design Initiative Grant, approval of the Joel Sampson Architect, Inc. task order for professional architectural services and approval of The Integrity Group work authorization for Professional Grant Management services.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked if this was a reimbursement grant and Mr. Dixon stated yes.

Commissioner Green asked if there was an estimate of allowable costs. Mr. Dixon explained if they did something outside of the grant it would be on the county.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

- 8a. **Shade Meeting**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO PERMIT THE WARNER LAW FIRM, ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY, TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT WITH PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IN CASE NUMBER 2020 CA 236 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR GADSDEN COUNTY FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO BUT NO MORE THAN SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000) CONTINGENT ON APPROVAL OF PAYMENT BY THE COUNTY'S INSURER WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COUNTY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A DEDUCTIBLE PAID TO THE COUNTY'S INSURER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Green stated he would have to refrain from voting due to a conflict.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9. Motorola Grant Applications

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Motorola Maintenance and Support Agreement in support of the Motorola CapMax radio system which supports Law Enforcement and Emergency Services in Gadsden County.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Ms. Daniels said the funds were coming from the Radio Tower Budget and then will have to be budgeted each fiscal year to accommodate the maintenance agreement.

Commissioner Green said it stated due to the age of the equipment, did we know the age of the equipment and the longevity of same.

Mr. Dixon said this was equipment purchased 3-4 years ago and has set in a warehouse and has been aging and that was the reason for bringing the contract as warranties were going out on the equipment.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked the Administrator for meeting with him yesterday and asked during the several years the equipment was dormant, did we have a service agreement? Mr. Dixon stated no.

Debbie Giles, Motorola Solutions, appeared before the Board with James Parker. She said they went from three tower sites to five tower sites to give additional coverage. Any issues when the equipment went into the field, they took care of and now this is to maintain the equipment.

Commissioner Hinson said he supports this and was why he made a motion to approve.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

10. FDOT Grant Applications

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said was for FDOT'S SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP programs. He said the county must select four roads and two bridges to apply for.

Five roads and two bridges were recommended and they must choose from the selection.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE PROVIDENCE ROAD IN DISTRICT THREE, MT. PLEASANT ROAD IN DISTRICT FOUR, DOGTOWN ROAD IN DISTRICT TWO, AND RICHLANDER CREEK IN DISTRICT FIVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner NeSmith said it was his understanding in District 5, that is a bridge.

Justin Ford, Dewberry, appeared before the Board and stated that was correct and the last two selections on the list were bridges and they could apply for two bridges. He said of the five roads listed, they need to choose four.

Commissioner Hinson asked about Iron Bridge Road, it has a lot of traffic and was anything in place for that bridge?

Mr. Ford said some improvements were coming to the road, have had designs for a year and bids would be coming in a few weeks.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Mr. Ford if the roads were in a certain order and he said no. He said part of Old Federal Road was in District 3. Mr. Ford explained Old Federal Rd they were now doing was the western part.

Mr. Dixon said the real choice is Aspalaga Road and the second part of Old Federal Road.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could stay on these and get them taken care of. She asked about Old Federal and Mr. Ford said the eastern half was done. She asked which was the worst road and was told Aspalaga is. Old Federal Rd has more traffic.

Commissioner NeSmith said he has received complaints about Aspalaga and Providence but has received none on Old Federal Rd. He said if he had to remove one, he would take off Old Federal.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CLARIFIED COMMISSIONER HINSON'S VOTE TO SAY THE ROADS WOULD BE ASPALAGA ROAD, PROVIDENCE ROAD, MT. PLEASANT ROAD, DOGTOWN ROAD AND THE BRIDGES AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. Gadsden County Mobile Health Unit

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and pointed out a typo, the date in the background should be August 17. He said it was also requested that the Board store and maintain the mobile health unit.

Commissioner Green asked with the money coming, would that suffice the upkeep. Mr. Dixon explained it would be \$10,000 for the first year.

Commissioner Holt said she spoke with the Administrator and the contract needs to be between the organization and County as all purchases has to go to the County.

Chair Viegbesie said upon hearing the statement from Commissioner Holt, who would be storing and maintaining the unit and Mr. Dixon said the County. Mr. Dixon said the grant is to the Health Council.

Commissioner Holt said if you have property, it has to be the County's property. They were the ones that set up the Health Council.

Commissioner Hinson said he was going to approve but was thrown off with the County having to provide maintenance. Would they be reimbursed and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to approve and Chair Viegbesie said he had three hands up and asked him to wait.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the unit was being purchased by the Health Council and Mr. Dixon said the funding was coming from the State, the Council asked the County to make the purchase and the County will be reimbursed. Commissioner NeSmith asked if the County would own unit and Mr. Dixon said no, the health council will own and will operate it. Commissioner NeSmith said liability comes with the unit.

Commissioner Green said the concern is who would insure the vehicle. Mr. Dixon said it would be under the Health Council.

Commissioner Holt said the language on the contract said Gadsden Community Health Council, on behalf of Gadsden County Health Council and thought would be Gadsden Community Health Council and Gadsden County Commission.

Mr. Thomas wanted to add to what Commissioner Holt said, generally when legislature deals with a local group, they like to go through the unit of local government and want them to have ownership to make sure it was kept up and maintained.

Chair Viegbesie said in hearing what he heard, was there any urgency to approve right now? Mr. Dixon said yes.

Commissioner Holt said if any changes were made it would be between the Health Council and the County, but this has to be approved tonight.

Commissioner Hinson said he heard a lot of things, noticed they put \$250,000 into it to get the matching grant. He asked if the County would be reimbursed \$400,000 and was told no, it would be \$250,000.

Mr. Dixon said this was an ongoing grant and was time sensitive. He said he would suspect the Health Council would not want to own the unit.

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

12. Proposed Broadband Services Agreement Extension

Mr. Dixon said they received documents earlier.

Mr. Knowles said as they all were aware, the contract expired today. He said he and the Administrator had a discussion with FCI yesterday. FCI is requesting an additional 6 months to distribute units with a potential board discretion for an additional 6-month beyond the six months so if they agree to that today, the first six months extension would go into August, then a subsequent six-month extension would run into February of next year. He said the Administrator has spoken with the Superintendent, the County will initially purchase 6 to 8000

devices and donate them to the School Board for their distribution to faculty, staff and students. FCI is also proposing an additional amount for a total of 12,500 devices. He said this would be half of the original contract.

Commissioner Hinson said if they were going to extend, they should stick with the original contract so citizens could have access.

Commissioner Green asked what was the energy of the School Board to taking on donated devices.

Mr. Dixon said the superintendent was hopeful. This was an opportunity to get hotspots to the students.

Commissioner Green asked in the timeframe that has been given, people that needed hotspots, why haven't they made an attempt to get devices if there was a need.

Commissioner Hinson said he knew someone that lived almost to the Georgia line and they received one but the County put a cease and desist order in place. Even so, FCI continued service to those people.

Commissioner Green said in hearing that, if the County caused conflict, they owed the extension.

Mr. Dixon said for point of clarity, while the cease and desist was put in place, it was also lifted by the Board.

The Clerk said he had not had the chance to review and it still seemed to be a request for advance payment and that was problematic. He cannot pay for devices up front and for services not being used. Second, the Finance Director has made several requests for a W-9 from FCI and still has not received same. They need to have that. Third, this has been going on since 2020, and from the Clerk's perspective, this deal was designed for one company and feel there should be disclosure here; the Commissioners ought to think about that. If you received multiple contributions from multiple companies associated with this person, there t should be disclosure made in front of this Board. He felt there was a moral, ethical and may be illegal requirement that they do that.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had a number of questions. He said he received multiple campaign contributions from FCI, his company and persons related to his company towards his campaign and was public record. He said if he needed to disclose any additional information, he would be more than happy to do so. He wanted to make sure it was on the record. He said there were multiple concerns, could the County purchase and donate the items to the School Board. Was the County being asked to amend the original contract or extend it.

Mr. Dixon said they could do nothing; they could amend the contract to some form of degree to extend it, and according to what they requested, to give a six-month option totaling one year to move some hotspots, a total of 12,500. Mr. Dixon said the Clerk referred to advanced payments, was that something new as he had not seen it.

The Clerk clarified it was in a memo he sent out a year ago and felt it was still relevant.

Commissioner NeSmith asked to refrain from voting. Mr. Dixon said he could not abstain.

Mr. Knowles said if he had a conflict of interest, it must be disclosed on a certain date and (reading from the Disclosure Form):

(a) a measure came up or will come up before my agency which (check one or more)

- 1) If you received a special private gain or loss;
- 2) Have a special gain or loss of a business associate;
- 3) Received a special gain or loss of a relative;
- 4) would receive a special gain or loss by someone by whom he was retained; or
- 5) could abstain if a special gain or loss, which is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principle which has retained him.

Or, if he just felt uncomfortable, if he felt there was a conflict he may have, if he had discussions with the bidder outside of the Board, he would need to fill out the form, announce it on record, explain why he believed he needed to abstain and submit the form to the Clerk within 30 days of the date of the meeting. He said he could abstain but if he chose to do so, he could not continue in conversations regarding the item.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the direction the attorney was giving him and Mr. Knowles said he did not know the nature of the conflict.

Commissioner NeSmith said there were contributions made during his campaign.

Mr. Knowles stated he was sure there were contributions made by a lot of vendors. He added he did not think a donation to his campaign would create the conflict.

Commissioner Holt asked if they were going to hear from the company and after, she may have more questions.

Chair Viegbesie asked to hear from the representative of the company.

Rose Garrison, Esquire, spoke but said she was not appearing as an attorney. (She was calling on a different matter and was asked to wait until they were done with this item.)

Jerry Moskowitz, consultant for FCI, appeared via Zoom. He humbly asked for the Board to approve to give them an opportunity to perform and hand out the remaining units. He also asked for favorable support.

Chair Viegbesie said as the Clerk said, he just received the item as well. He said to the Administrator, the Gadsden County School district has approximately 4,576 students enrolled and even if they go that route and add staff he did not think it would be close to 6,000 and they were talking about 6000 to 8000 going to the Gadsden County school district. He said that was already over and above the amount. He asked if an assessment had been done to see how many devices were needed? It would not be a hotspot going to each student, but to each household. This issue been around almost 3 years. The sense of urgency was not as much as three years ago. He asked if he could tell how many cell towers been installed since 2020, he knew they have installed at least 2-3. The need is not as urgent as it was in 2020. Since then,

many households have better, greater and faster internet service. Even if they are given the hotspots and the County pays for the first 3 months, who would pay after that? They will have dead hotspots after that time and will still have the same problem with no service because the citizens will not be able to afford the subscription to get the connectivity with the units. He then asked about the attestation and how they could make sure that those items were actually given to the citizens and there is in attestation showing that the citizen actually received the units. He added they have been talking about roads that need to be paved, have a hospital that has so much square footage that is dilapidated and health specialists that would like to come to Gadsden County but there is no room for them. He said they needed monies to be used to improve services that would bring those health specialists to the building. He stated this was an albatross that he wanted over with but not with wasting what little money they have.

Commissioner Hinson said they had a workshop last year and 4-5 years ago. He asked the Board to strengthen the broadband infrastructure. He said that was why he made the motion to approve Motorola.

Commissioner Hinson made a motion to approve 12,500 devices, extend the contract 6-months or a year.

Commissioner Holt said she did not have a chance to finish her question on the conversation with the superintendent. Was there any documentation on what his procedure would be and will it have to go before School Board? Mr. Dixon said no, he has not told them what his procedures would be. Commissioner Holt said it would be helpful to have that and her concern was she did not want to get the School Board involved and they could not settle it. If there are any problems, who would it fall back on? Mr. Dixon said he was sure the Superintendent would have it come back to the County. Mr. Dixon said they never had the chance to get that in depth with it because they never knew if FCI was interested. The issue was not with the items themselves, it was more of with the operation of the item. They never had the opportunity to explore it all the way through because they were never delivered. If they make an agreement or extension, they need to have something from the Superintendent. If they have that, it would be a no-brainer. She asked how do they settle this right now? She would like to hear from the company about her concerns.

Chair Viegbesie asked if Mr. Moskowitz had any comments. One concern as far as working with the School Board, this was an idea from the Administrator and they appreciate him identifying where they think there is a need. They do think there is still a need and was why they asked for the ability to hand out additional devices. They also agree that some needs that were there initially no longer exist. He thought they could perform fairly quickly on how the units would be handed out with the accountability that was necessary so they could make sure the cares act and the Federal grant program was adhered to.

Commissioner Holt said there was a request for a W-9 and they need to receive that and there was a request for payment. She asked if they were going from this date forward, excusing the invoice that was already submitted and they will get the County a W-9.

The Clerk said Finance booked the \$1765.20 and can still make payment. He said Mr. Dixon and staff went through all the documentation submitted and determined they were owed \$1765.20 and his staff went through the paperwork and confirmed what was concluded. They booked the

money because they did not have a W-9 to make payment. There were several attempts made to get that through the Administrator from the Finance Director. They did approve the bill for \$40,000 and Mr. Thomas sent an email that said they determined it was inappropriate approval of expenditures because it was already concluded they were awarded \$1765.20 and there was nothing to back up the \$40,000. He said they need a W-9 and can make the payment of \$1,765.20. Commissioner Holt said with the W-9, they can pay the \$1765.20 and the \$40,000 will be null and void. Mr. Thomas said it was the Clerk's position it was an improper expenditure of payment.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was a spokesperson for FCI.

Mr. Markowitz said it was hard to hear and what he heard was about the money that was owed to FCI for their previous performance. He said that was a separate issue from this and they will work with the County and the Clerk's office on that.

Commissioner Holt said with this proposed renewal, hotspots will be delivered to the school and is FCI expecting payment at that time. Mr. Markowitz said he was having a hard time hearing her comment. Commissioner Holt said if FCI delivers the hotspots they want to be paid, then there is a connection issue. If you receive the product, you get paid and they are not connected up, then the product is no good.

Mr. Markowitz said he would like to sit with the Clerk, at his convenience, to make sure they were adding the correct accountability in place. He said there was already a lot in the contract and will not have to redo; they will assess the amendment.

Commissioner Holt said they had hiccups before and never worked.

Mr. Markowitz said they have a current viable contract with a dispute that was ongoing and he did not want to get into their position about the dispute. He said they will deliver the units if the amendment is approved; they will come with three months service.

Commissioner Holt said on the original contract, it was for delivery, will receive a certain amount of money and they would pay for the service in two different payments. If they extend the contract, were they saying the same terms apply? Mr. Knowles said no, because they were effectively changing the distribution. Mr. Knowles said service unused, the County would be reimbursed for.

Commissioner Holt said the County would receive the product and pay them for the product; then they would be paid for the three months connectivity service. That would be two different parts of the contract and to different payments. She said the units would be delivered to the School Board and that would have to be verified also.

Mr. Knowles stated in the document, Section 5.3 defined the payment terms and said the County shall be obligated to remit for payment to the Clerk of the Circuit Court the itemized invoice within 30 days of receipt of the itemized invoice. Pursuant to section 5.2, the County shall pay FCI the \$38.60 device the and \$32.00 service fee per device. He said pursuant to the particular clause, it would be one invoice.

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Mr. Thomas said he was saying to the Board that he had a problem with that clause and that was reflected in a memo he sent to them in January last year. That is still an advanced payment problem. They are still trying to get money up front and then they can run and the devices would not be distributed and service not had and that was a problem.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she said with the way it was laid out, when do they pay and what do they do. The Clerk is letting them know there is a problem and he's going to stop it. She said if they were going to do this or not, either way was fine, it needed to be laid out so they do not run into problems again.

Mr. Knowles said it sounded like the best way, when the devices are distributed and activated, they will be paid for.

Commissioner Holt said if they were going to extend the contract, it has to be in there. Mr. Knowles said he thought they needed a new document. Commissioner Holt said if they approve this, that clause needs to be there that says delivery, connection, service. She said how they want to amend the contract needs to be in the motion.

Chair Viegbesie said they were about to vote on something that involved another entity with the School Board. The Administrator has not had a conversation with the Superintendent. Now they were about to include a whole other government and they have not been consulted.

Chair Viegbesie said the School Board has through the CARES Act, more money for broadband than the County. He said the they were about to spend their money when law enforcement and public safety is in jeopardy. He said killings were going on and they have this money to save the lives of citizens. He asked they not be narrow minded because of one service; for them to look at the County as a whole.

Commissioner Holt said what they need money for was what he just said. The kicker is they need something from the other organization, have to have an amendment, and get all this straightened out tonight. She said to Commissioner Hinson the agreement they were looking at has to include those things. She also thought there needed to be an addendum to state that the School Board agreed to take delivery.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they were getting stuck with the School Board. They have other options, there was the Florida State Hospital, Trulieve, Walmart, etc. He said not only the School Board, he said they put everything out there and what the County/FCI need to work from that point. He did not think they should narrow it down to just the School Board.

Commissioner Holt said without those items in there, why not extend the contract 30 days and these terms get put in or they don't. She added either that or it would not fly.

Commissioner Hinson said he was saying to extend the contract until they got the language right.

Commissioner Holt said her suggestion is have 30 days to get the language together. She asked the Administrator what he felt about the situation.

Mr. Dixon said it has been the Board's wish to work to make this thing happen. If they had reported three weeks ago, they thought they had a good idea; talked to FCI and it is FCI who waited three weeks. If they are going to wait three weeks to do something again, the County is here and has always been here. He said they could not talk to the School Board because they couldn't say what FCI would be able to do. If he has a concern, it is a concern that has always been there.

Commissioner Green said he thought the collaboration opportunities would be great, however he felt they were beating a dead horse even considering talking to the School Board and haven't had that meeting with them to collaborate.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:09 p.m.

He felt FCI should consider having a contract with the School Board themselves in order to get rid of the devices as opposed to the County taking the responsibility of making that happen between the School Board and the County. He said they were just receiving the document and agree to a 30-day extension so they could possibly come back to the table and there might be a different contract. But as it relates to the school board he thought they should allow all them to build a relationship with the Superintendent and the School Board members.

Commissioner Hinson said that made sense. Then a check could be written directly to the School Board.

COMMISSIONER HINSON WITHDREW HIS PREVIOUS MOTION; MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND UNTIL THE FIRST MEETING IN MARCH AS PRESENTED BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER GREEN AND COMEBACK BY THE NEXT BOARD MEETING.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:13 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they were extending the original contract or which were they extending.

Commissioner Hinson said if there was heartburn or challenges, they may have to have another meeting so they could talk before the last day.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said the School Board has not told them anything and she wants things in writing. She said (terms) give 30 days to first meeting in March, receive the W-9, deliverables and how they will be delivered, the School Board has to agree to accept it and that was with the connectivity and service.

Mr. Knowles asked if they were bringing back on March 1st a new contract to the Board?

Commissioner Holt said that did not faze her one bit because they could not do what they were doing before because they were delivering to the County.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:17 p.m.

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Mr. Knowles said what if the School Board said they did not need any hotspots. Commissioner Holt said if the School Board said no, it would not work anyway.

Commissioner Hinson asked about other places and Commissioner Holt said they were talking about one place.

Mr. Knowles asked for clarity and said FCI was requesting that the school board did not accept delivery of the devices for whatever reason or a certain number of devices, FCI is still asking to be able effectuate distribution as they would under the current contract.

Mr. Markowitz had questions also. He said the motion is for FCI and the County do have 30 days to hammer out the terms of an extension and amendment. They were getting 30 days of an extension to bring forward an amendment and the amendment will contemplate the beginning to (inaudible). If for some reason the School Board is not interested in the units, FCI was asking for a chance to hand out 12,500 units to other places and they will have a period of performance in the amendment as it comes back to them in the first meeting of March.

Commissioner Green said that brought a little clarity to him. The extension is for a better plan. If the School Board says no, he did not want the County to take responsibility to take delivery and how the devices would be distributed. He was asking for an extension because after today, there was no longer a reason to have the discussion. He wanted to clarify his reason.

Chair Viegbesie asked how they would attest as to who received the devices or would it be as it was before.

Commissioner Hinson said during the summer they had food cards and was the same thing. The Board has the capability to do that.

Commissioner Green said the card program was different.

Commissioner Hinson said the County's heartburn was delivery.

Chair Viegbesie said this Board, as Commissioners, makes policies. The execution rests on the shoulder of the County Administrator. The Administrator and staff will be looking at how this could be effectively distributed and accounted for, not the Board.

Commissioner Holt said if Commissioner Hinson would say School Board, she would second, but to nothing else.

Commissioner Holt asked the Administrator if he was negotiating with the Superintendent and he said yes.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH IMPROVEMENTS FOR 30 DAYS FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND 30 DAYS TO WORK OUT KINKS AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Chair Viegbesie said he would make a motion they do nothing and Commissioner Holt said he did not have to make a motion for that.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT UNTIL THE FIRST MEETING IN MARCH, HAVE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND FCI REACH OUT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD AND NEGOTIATE ABOUT THE SCHOOL BOARD RECEIVING THE HOTSPOTS AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH	NO
COMMISSIONER HINSON	YES
COMMISSIONER HOLT	YES
VICE CHAIR GREEN	YES
CHAIR VIEGBESIE	NO

MOTION PASSED 3-2

At this time, there was a person that asked to speak that attended by Zoom.

Ms. Garrison said she was a resident of a Homeowners' Association on a private road. She said their first question was the process of submitting private roads for County maintenance under Ordinance 2021-010.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 8:35 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie suggested a meeting with the County Administrator and the Director of Public Works to get the questions and concerns addressed.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 8:38 p.m.

CLERK OF COURT

13. Updates

Mr. Thomas said he was just learning they may not have received his recent emails due to their email being down and handed out reports to the commissioners. With all accounts combined there is a total \$34,639,884.14. Of that approximately \$12,000,000 is in the General Fund and of that amount, approximately \$4,000,000 is unrestricted fund balance. The rest of the \$8,000,000.00 will be spent during the course of the fiscal year to fund the budget. The Transportation fund has \$2.8 Million; however, they did appropriate about \$900,000 to fund their current year budget. Fund 127 is HHRP hurricane housing money and a good bit of it may be already allocated but in terms of cash there is \$1.5 Million in cash. He pointed out fund 144 CARES Act residual money there was \$2.9 million in cash there. Fund 156 is the SHIP Housing and there is \$678,000 in that account. Fund 194, the American Rescue Plan has \$1,998,000 in it.

Mr. Thomas said in fund 140, Indigent Ordinance Surtax there was \$1.1 million of un-disbursed money and that goes back to their hospital contract starting in March 2020. He has mentioned this before and said the board used to give quite a bit of money to Capital Regional and under the new contract they only wanted \$200,000 and never figured out what to do with a remainder. That has now accumulated to \$1.1 million. He said they may want their attorney to take a look at it, but his understanding of the Ordinance is it could be used for construction at

the hospital or it could be used for indigent Health Care. He said Fund 661 the Hospital Endowment Fund, there was \$1.6 million there and this is dividends and interest earnings off of the Trust. This also could be used to do work at hospital or for equipment at hospital. He said the Hospital Trust itself is not included in those numbers but the Hospital Trust is now valued at \$11,738,000.

Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Thomas to explain what the Hospital Trust was. He said the Trust was set up in the 1950s by private groups to benefit the County in order to make improvements to the hospital and has accumulated over the years. The County has gone to court to get use of some of the money a couple of times. He said the County does receive a portion of the interest earnings off of it and that is probably sufficient to do whatever they need to do with the hospital. He said the interest earnings were \$1,664,000 that is in their account they could use without going to Court to make improvements at hospital. He said the actual trust itself is valued at \$11,738,000 and there is not easy access to that money, it can only be approved by the courts.

Commissioner NeSmith asked who controlled it. Mr. Dixon said the Board did.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 8:46 p.m.

Mr. Thomas explained the bank was the trustee and they control the investments. He said the County Administrator and he, although he has not yet with this County Administrator, would meet periodically with the Chair of the Hospital Board to discuss it. Mr. Thomas said there has been previous discussions about the hospital, and the Chair brought it up tonight. Capital Regional only leases a portion of a building and they have the emergency room. During negotiation the issue was brought up about potential developing some of the undeveloped areas of the portion they lease to put in additional beds. They rejected that idea because their plan was to expand the emergency room area in the portion of the lease. But, there is a huge portion as the Chairman mentioned the other night that was demolished in 2008 that was never put back. The County controls and owns that. This is potential money that can be used for that. The clerk stated his take on the statute is the State has the right potentially to call back the indigent tax money. They reserve the right under the statute if they determine that is not being used. He said from time to time he needs to remind them of that.

Vice-Chair Green asked if he could give them the total amount of usage of dollars they were able to use at the hospital? Mr. Thomas said the dividends and interest was \$1.6 million, the half cent indigent tax money that is undistributed is \$1.1 million.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:49 pm

Mr. Thomas said someone mentioned the CARES Act earlier. He said before December 2020 they could not use it for physical structures and that program ended and the money that is there now is the County's money. They were originally awarded \$7.6 million and have left of that \$2.9 million. They have obligated some things that Mr. Dixon wants to spend some money on and there is the Figgers contract.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the Administrator their options with regard to the indigent or surtax the Clerk mentioned. What could they use the money for?

Mr. Dixon said the Clerk just explained that in one thing they were doing, they were working with the health department. He said they were number one in getting a new health department in Gadsden County. The question was how could they create a better situation for the citizens in terms of the health department. He said how could the increase access to Health Care, could they invest in the hospital in certain ways where doctors' offices are provided free space if they would come and stay in the County. He said the problem was not building buildings but the profit margin the doctors make when they are in Gadsden County as opposed to Leon County.

Mr. Thomas said that was something to pursue with the state legislature about funding the actual building of a health department. And Mr. Dixon explained that's what he meant, they were number one on the State's list and the state would build it.

Commissioner Hinson asked for an email of the breakdown of indigent funds. Mr. Thomas said it has been emailed already been understood they did not receive it with the email being down. Mr. Thomas said they collected \$2.2 million in the tax, the most ever collected. They paid \$645,835 on the debt, the bond issue on the Emergency Room portion of the hospital. He said the Gadsden County Health Department received \$573,000, the Health Council received \$81,120; Capital Regional received \$240,000.

Commissioner Hinson said they have Neighborhood Health in Havana and at one point they started rejecting people because they did not have funding. He thought they received money from the indigent sales tax at one time. Mr. Thomas said at one time the Board gave organizations a one-time funding. He said the board to decide if they want to put back the kitchen and dining room at the hospital or some rooms before giving funding out to other organizations. He explained in looking back there was a statute before the ordinance that prioritized the hospital first and then branched out into the different areas and organizations that could receive money. He said there was an existing health plan that was passed in 2008 along with the Ordinance that was passed then and would advise them to review it before they start distributing the money. He said Capital Regional was receiving money to defer the costs of indigent health and they concluded that they were making enough money and if they received more of the County money, they did not want to be obligated to expand services. When they receive gov't money they have to be accountable and was why they wanted to reduce the amount of money they were receiving. He said that was why they were now in the position on how to distribute this un-disbursed money.

Commissioner Holt said the ballot was passed in 2008 for hospital to reopen the hospital. She stated the Clerk said the State could call it back. Mr. Thomas said they have not heard from the yet because the auditors have not yet identified it specifically in an audit report. Once that happens it would bring it to the attention of everybody because everyone receives a copy of the audit report.

Mr. Thomas said he wanted to mention some smaller funds. Fund 178 Boating Improvement has \$85,399 and the State periodically asks about. Commissioner Hinson mentioned Joe Budd off Lake Talquin highway and Joe Adams Road and Mr. Dixon said they had talked about rebuilding those docks. Commissioner Hinson then mentioned Iron Bridge Road and said there was a little river there and thought the County owned that little part. He said they'd needed to start looking at that because growth was headed that way.

Mr. Thomas said there was another fund he would like to mention, Fund 101 Dori Slosberg that had \$114,987 in it. He said the County Commission voted to add \$3 to traffic tickets and can only be used for driving improvement or driving programs at public or private schools.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

14. Updates

Mr. Dixon said their next meeting was canceled and the next one would be on March 1st.

He said they will be doing some things for Black History Month.

He said things were moving with the Legislature.

Chair Viegbesie had a question for him and the Public Works Director. He said at one point they had talked about having a couple of pits for the millings from the road resurfacing could be kept to help with repairing of roads. He said they were about to start resurfacing some of the roads and was the contractor taking the millings with them or would they have pits where the millings would become property of the county.

Jeremiah Lee, Public Works Director, approached the Board. He said at the last pre-construction conference they discussed having milling pits so they would be able to take it from the road as they scrape it to be used on other roads as needed.

Chair Viegbesie asked for a Pt. Milligan Road update. Mr. Lee said it was out for bid.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Mr. Lee for being there tonight.

Commissioner Holt asked to get an update every two weeks on the roads.

Commissioner Hinson asked the progress on the senior citizens, they were saying they had not been paid yet. He said Midway had not received their funds. Mr. Dixon said as far as he knew everyone had received their funds. Mr. Dixon said they were getting ready for a big meeting because they have to figure the senior citizens out. He said they will be having a meeting for the senior citizens.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

15. Updates

Mr. Knowles said the State has entered into the second opioid settlement through Janssen. He said after the last meeting the Chair asked them to discuss a property registration ordinance and they had the initial meeting and believe they will be presenting at the first meeting in March.

Mr. Knowles also said he and Mr. Stiell will be getting together in looking at section 5300 of the Land Development Code per a request by Commissioner Holt.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

16. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt had no comments.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson had no comments.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Mr. Dixon for the fence repair at Rosedale Park. He thanked the Administrator and Commissioner Hinson for representing the people of the County at the Capitol meeting with State Representative Ramon Alexander.

Commissioner Hinson said he received a phone call and the trash price has almost tripled.

He said they need a workshop on goals, objectives and finances. He thanked the Clerk for his update.

He said when he first arrived on the board there were some contracts it came to his attention immediately and asked where they were with their legal representatives' contract? Mr. Dixon said it was due now and would be on the next meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when the contract would end. Mr. Dixon said it would end at the end of February. Commissioner NeSmith said by the time of the next meeting the contract would have officially ended and technically they would not have contractual legal representation at the next meeting.

Mr. Knowles stated he did not think the Clerk would pay them if there was no contract.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had the latitude to extend it. Mr. Dixon said he would talk to them in the morning. Commissioner NeSmith said his understanding was they have the opportunity to extend for another year. Mr. Knowles said that was correct.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought they had dropped the ball and did not know the contract was due at the end of the month. If they had, they should have done something earlier with regards to the extension that was in the contract. Now that they have found out it was here, he thought they needed to do something so they would have legal advice and legal opinions that was not interrupted. If appropriate, he would entertain a motion this evening to either in extend, renew or whatever to extend for one more year so there is no break in the legal representation.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR SIX MONTHS AND BID THE CONTRACT. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many years the County Administrator's contract was for, two or three years. Mr. Dixon said the original was for three years. Commissioner Hinson said to vote for two years and go from there.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT FOR TWO YEARS AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION AND SUBSEQUENT VOTE.

Commissioner Holt suggested they do the extension for one year because it was not on the agenda and was under the impression when they do the agenda, items that involve money had to be advertised.

Chair Viegbesie said her point was well taken but there was a motion and a second and they would carry the motion.

**CHAIR VIEGBESIE ASKED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE.
COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked the vendors for Service Day.

He said he received a call from the Tuggerson Group in regards to payment they had not received. Mr. Dixon says there has been a conversation with Integrity.

He thanked the Clerk for the update and agreed a workshop was needed regarding the funds.

Commissioner Holt said a contract was up and should have been brought before them and she would be bringing those issues back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie expressed his sympathies to Mr. Lee.

Mr. Lee came before the Board to thank them for their condolences.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:38 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A MEETING OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM , VIZ:

Present: Carolyn Ford- Chair
Brenda Holt
Jeff Dubree
Keith Dowdell
Peter Patel
Linda Dixon
Decorkus Allen

Staff Present: Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Leslie D. Steele, Tourist Development Director
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

Due to the restrictions on gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting and public hearings may be viewed by accessing the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/GadsdenCountyBOCC. Those wishing to provide public testimony for the meeting and public hearings will be able to do so by accessing the Zoom platform, with virtual meeting access details that will be posted to the Gadsden County website, www.gadsdencountyfl.gov. Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items should schedule or notify the County Public Information Officer at 850-875-8671 or emailing media@gadsdencountyfl.gov at least 3 hours before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Public comment for the meeting and public hearings should be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the day of the meeting in order to allow sufficient time for provision to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and public hearings. Any comments submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 5:59pm.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Members introduced themselves. The members present are as follows:

Carolyn Ford- Chair	here
Brenda Holt	here
Keith Dowdell	here
Linda Dixon	here
Decorkus Allen	here

3. Presentations

4. Citizens Requesting to be Heard

Ms. Steele said there are no citizens requesting to be heard.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Gadsden County Black History Month Celebration- (Georgette Daniels, Gadsden County Assistant Administrator, and Leslie D. Steele, Tourist Development Director)

Ms. Steele introduced the item. The Black History Month Celebration would highlight three honorees. The budget director is requesting permission from the Board to spend up to \$25,000 for the Celebration.

COMMISSIONER ALLEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST WITH COMMISSIONER HOLT SECONDING THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 5-0 VIA VOICE VOTE.

6. NEXT MEETING- March 21, 2022

7. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chair Ford adjourned the meeting at 6:01pm.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FL

CAROLYN FORD, Chair
Tourist Development Council

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 1, 2022 AT 4:30 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Ronterious "Ron" Green, Vice Chair, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie brought the workshop to order at 4:37PM and called for the invocation to be led by Vice Chair Green before the pledge.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on January 18, 2022. 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioner NeSmith read the above statement.

1. Discussion Regarding the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Broadband Planning Toolkit Project and The Integrity Group, Inc. (TIG) Proposal

County Administrator Mr. Ed Dixon introduced the item and Mrs. Sheree Keeler of the Integrity Group. He stated the purpose of the presentation is to provide background on the DEO Office of Broadband, the DEO Toolkit Planning process, and TIG's proposal to facilitate Gadsden County in implementing the Toolkit and completion of DEO reports.

Mrs. Keeler came before the Board to begin her presentation.

The mission of the DEO Office of Broadband is to work with local and state government agencies, community organizations, and private businesses to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband internet throughout the state, specifically in small and rural communities. Through these partnerships the Department encourages investment and grant funding opportunities for the broadband program that focus on the expansion of broadband.

Mrs. Keeler explained the **State Strategic Plan**: created strategic plan to increase and improve the ability of, access to, and use of broadband Internet Service in Florida by June 30, 2022, and biennially thereafter. Must include a process to:

- Review and verify public input on the broadband Internet transmission speeds and availability
- Review Federal broadband activities, and
- Funding sources.

Local Technology Teams: build and facilitate the local technology planning teams to work closely with rural communities to:

- Understand current broadband availability
- Identify assets for broadband deployment
- Build partnerships with service providers
- Identify underserved and unserved residents and businesses
- Identify funding opportunities, and
- Provide assistance when applying for Federal grants for broadband Internet Service

Broadband Map: develop a map of broadband Internet Service availability throughout the state consistent with the FCC Digital Opportunity Data Collection Program, which must

- Identify where broadband cable networks exist, services available to end users, gaps in rural areas, and
- Download and upload transmission speeds.

Mrs. Keeler also stated that DEO must receive and verify public input to identify and locations in which broadband Internet Service is not available, including locations with transmission speeds below the Federal Communications Commission standard of 25 MBPS downstream and three MBPS upstream. The map must be completed by June 30, 2022.

She then explained terms that would be used in the presentation.

Technical Assistance: provide technical and planning assistance to rural communities.

Broadband Opportunity Program: establish the broadband opportunity program to award grants to applicants who seek to expand broadband two bonds served areas, rulemaking for the program (subject to appropriations), and apply for Federal funds.

Public Use: encourage public use of internet service through broadband grant programs.

FCC: monitor, participate in, and provide input on Federal Communications Commission's proceedings that are related to the geographic availability and deployment of broadband Internet in Florida.

Ms. Keeler stated there are two purposes of the Broadband Planning Toolkit. The first is it helps DEO meet its statutory directives and provides guidance to local governments to ensure consistent data collection methods, verification of data, public participation, and the reporting of finding some local governments. The second, it provides local governments a framework and

templates for a national broadband planning that can be used for seeking grant funds and be incorporated into the State Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Keeler explained there are nine steps to the process: engage stakeholders, assemble a team, identify community priorities, harness the data, considered digital inclusion, assess resources and infrastructure, engage local Internet providers, evaluate solutions, and develop and execute solutions.

Under the first step, stakeholders would be categorized as elected officials, communities, citizens, businesses, nonprofits, nongovernmental, and local technology planning team. Along with this, there is an ongoing process to inform, engage, seek input, share information, and collaborate on ideas.

For assembling a team, the team should include those from industries within the community. Some of these categories include libraries, tourism, agriculture, and healthcare. Team members represent his or her organization for industry sector. They are:

- Involved in every step of the broadband toolkit planning process.
- Can do it to his or her respective state corporate groups.
- Provide information to generate a countywide and inventory of existing broadband projects, grant funding, infrastructure, geographic data, zoning data, and other elements as identified.
- Provide input and collaborate to build consensus for countywide priorities, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges, goals, and solutions for the completion of the Gadsden County Toolkit Report.

Next step is to identify community priorities, the local technology planning team should review the overall goals of the state's broadband efforts, the current status of broadband availability within the county or region, and their role in meeting broadband goals.

Harnessing the data is about the public's opinion for business and community surveys and a public meeting on the topics of:

- Community needs,
- Broadband consumption/utilization, and
- Expansion efforts.

Public input will give a snapshot in time of current broadband services in the price that citizens are willing to pay for such services. DEO has provided sample surveys to ensure data is collected consistently and uniformly across all local governments.

Ms. Keeler explained the next step is Consider Digital Inclusion. She explained this that ensures that communities and businesses have access to robust and affordable broadband, broadband connections, Internet enabled devices that meet their needs, and skill sets to access and use broadband services and capabilities. The planning team will identify digital literacy goals for the County's Final Broadband Report based on harness the data reporting and perspective from the industry whom they represent. This is followed by step six, assess resources and infrastructure. Each team member and engaged provider will be asked to complete the Broadband Planning Inventory template provided by DEO.

Mrs. Keeler explained step seven would be to engage with local providers. She suggested engaging with them early on in the process. She also encouraged the Board to present ideas to the team, participate in SWOC and Facilities Inventory Assessment from the provider perspective, and assistance that eight which is to identify and evaluate potential short term and long-term solutions to gaps identified in the “Harness the Data” step.

Step eight would be to evaluate solutions. The team and engaged providers would list and evaluate potential doable solutions and doable strategies to consider for the expansion of broadband.

Ms. Keeler explained the final step of the process which would be develop and execute solutions. Within this step, she explained they would be required to review all findings in draft Broadband Toolkit Findings Report, encourage public input, host a board workshop, refine the draft, and finally the board approval of the Final Broadband Toolkit Findings Report.

Ms. Keeler introduced The Integrity Group’s proposal to facilitate Gadsden County in the implementing of the Toolkit and completion of the DEO reports. This would involve implementing that DEO Broadband Toolkit Planning process, document the process and provide Project Management Services, encourage public participation to input, encourage citizens to test broadband speed to populate DEL Broadband map, and solicit and gather data and information from the public and the Team. The Integrity Group would also compile and analyze data and information gathered, build consensus among the Team, and compile preparing finalize DEO required reports.

Commissioner NeSmith mentioned a local city having its own broadband company that was able to distribute Internet to its citizens. He continued and said he believes the county should control as many resources as possible, Internet being one of them, to provide the best services to those citizens.

Chair Viegbesie said the timing of this workshop is appropriate because of broadband being the topic of discussion at a convention he recently went to in Washington. He also mentioned that there are multiple funding opportunities for broadband and counties. He referenced the telecommunications program with USDA and said each county should be in contact with the broadband department with the state.

Chair Viegbesie suggested The Integrity Group stay connected with the County Administrator to continue working with the state office above to ensure the county receives funding.

Commissioner Hinson said the county needs to make sure they are compliant with the bidding process. He said he has nothing against the material in front of him but wants to ensure the county can get a better product for less.

Commissioner Holt pointed out that the proposal is for up to \$200,000. She said she needs to know the hourly rate for The Integrity Group and that she would like those that are out doing the surveys to get paid. She also asked if towers are included in the equipment.

Ms. Keeler said the proposal is to get into inventory for the resources the county has and to find solutions for what resources are needed.

Commissioner Holt reiterated that she wishes those doing the surveys are compensated and also community friendly.

Commissioner Green said he agrees that those doing the surveying should be compensated with a stipend of some sort. He wanted to make sure that is included in the budget.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:01 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 1, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.; Pastor Jackson gave the Invocation and Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon said he would like to pull Item 9 from the Consent Agenda and add it as 11a. (Deputy Clerk added it as Item 9 in Items Pulled for Discussion.)

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Proclamation Honoring the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)**
The board presented a Proclamation to representatives of the National Association of Women in Construction and the Proclamation was read aloud.

Kerwyn Jones Wilson and Jackie Carrouth Wilson were present and received the Proclamation.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A 10-MINUTE RECESS AT 6:17 P.M. AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie reconvened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

- 2. Presentation Regarding Vacant Property Registration Ordinances**
Mr. Knowles introduced the above item.

Clifford Johnson, Break Point Law, LLC, appeared before the Board and gave a background as to what his firm does and how it could benefit the County. He said in 2008 a major boom of foreclosures and vacant properties and found that the mortgagees and entities or not taking care of the properties as they were supposed to. Because of such it left a lot of problems in

the municipalities. Ordinances started being implemented that required mortgagees to register foreclosed properties. He said that would create local contact in case there was a problem with a bank owned property so they can be contacted. He had they been able to do a very good job of getting compliance rates of the registrations and registration fees up to about 95% and it gives the county a really good tool of code enforcement. He said it helps to ensure the properties are being maintained and property values hold. He said the ordinance would only require banks to register and there was no requirement on the homeowner. He said the responsible party would pay a reasonable registration fee to cover cost of administration of the VPRO program and related code enforcement efforts. The fees are typically in the range of \$150 to \$300 semiannually or \$300 to \$500 annually.

Commissioner Holt said property has been repossessed and the company is not maintaining the property; his company would approach the mortgagee and asked what they would do. He said after the filing of the Lis Pendens, they would contact the individual, make sure they were aware there was an ordinance that required them to register and give them a time period to do so, if they do not then they would send letters on behalf of the county working with the county attorney, if they do not register and pay the fees and they would be taken to Code Enforcement hearings, present the evidence in front of the Magistrate and hold them accountable. He said that they would also make sure they were boarding up the properties and they did what they were supposed to under the code. She asked how they are paid and he said they would work strictly on contingency. If they do not collect then they are not paid.

Commissioner Green said this caught his attention with no costs to local government.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the closest local government to Gadsden they worked with and he believed it was Orange County.

Mr. Knowles said he looked at it and the only concern was the legislature has the new Business Impact Statement requirement that they are imposing on ordinances so before anything was implemented they needed to make sure they were in line with that and they have the appropriate staffing with Code Enforcement and other municipalities. He said it definitely was something needed and would keep blight out.

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking at this from the citizen's perspective, he was on the Value Adjustment Board and he expressed concerns about people being put out of their homes.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Johnson how his firm would address the concerns of a commissioner with the expedition of the foreclosure process after it had been filed.

Mr. Johnson stated it was a valid concern and what they do is completely separate from the foreclosure laws. It does not affect the foreclosure laws that the banks have to adhere to. He added that nothing they do would have a financial impact on the borrower or residents of the county.

Commissioner Holt said if they were to adopt the policy, would they have to have clause in there that the occupant not been evicted.

Chair Viegbesie said the reason he took interest in this ordinance was a desire to find additional sources of revenue. He added this would be workshopped before adopting.

Commissioner Hinson felt the timing was wrong right now.

Commissioner Green said for the sake of clarity, this was not an agendaed item, it was just making them aware.

Commissioner NeSmith said he has listened to the comments and as the Vice-chair stated, they were not voting on anything. He would like to schedule a workshop so they could better understand.

Commissioner Hinson said on his behalf, he has been on the Value Adjustment Board forever and he was concerned that what they were talking about here might affect a lot of the citizens.

Chair Viegbesie said there was nothing in writing and the Ordinance had not been drawn up, this was just a presentation of a service.

Mr. Dixon said this was about whether or not the bank maintains the property, if the bank maintains the property, there is no problem. He said this was like Code Enforcement that they already have in place.

CONSENT

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

- 3. Ratification Memo**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - **January 4, 2022 Regular Meeting**
 - **January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting**
 - **February 1, 2022 Regular Meeting**
- 5. Ratification of Proclamation for Black History Month**
- 6. General Release-Case No. 01-2021-CA**
- 7. Approval of the E911 Spring Rural County Grant Application for E911 System and MapSAG Annual Support and Maintenance**
- 8. Approval of Resolution 2022-003 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2022**
- 9. ~~Approval to Sell Surplus Equipment/Vehicles at Auction~~**
Item moved to 11a
- 10. Approval of the 2022 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Amendment No. 1 to the SC208 Agreement**

11. Approval of the Lease Agreement with Quadiant, Inc.

11a. Approval to Sell Surplus Equipment/Vehicles at Auction

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

9. Approval to Sell Surplus Equipment/Vehicles at Auction

Mr. Dixon said the supplied list was incomplete; there are two tool boxes to be added to the list.

Commissioner Holt said on the trailer, that should be 48 feet not 48 inches and Mr. Dixon said yes. She said at one time they had auctions here, do they no longer do that?

Commissioner NeSmith asked where the auctions were held? Commissioner Holt responded at one time they were in Midway and used to be in Tallahassee.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on March 1, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the above statement.

Mimi Robinson (appeared via Zoom) and her concern was about dogs-was not available.

Commissioner Hinson said they needed to have a workshop on animal control because there had been a lot of concern regarding animal control.

Ms. Robinson (appeared by Zoom a little later) and said last year she was bitten by a dog and proper protocol was not followed by staff.

Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson appeared before the Board. She passed out information regarding April being "Donate Life Month". They would like to be able to light up the Courthouse yard with the green and blue that represented Donate Life Month. She wanted to make sure everyone understood the importance of organ donation.

Commissioner Green thanked her for her hard work in the County.

Katrina Tuggerson of The Tuggerson Group, thanked them for their support and services, she had the opportunity to work with The Integrity Group with getting funding out with the CARES Act and ARP programs. She said there were a few hiccups with Integrity at the end and she would not go into that. She was present to let them know she was still able to work with

Gadsden County as the prime, not as the sub-contractor. She said the reason she was there was the Administrator reached out to her to make sure they had a minority contractor. She said if she had trouble as a sub-contractor, she thought about the smaller people that were not able and had the resources she had and was connected to.

Beth Cicchetti, Executive Director of Gadsden County Development Council (GCDC) appeared before the Board. She had several things she wanted to mention to the Board members:

- 1) The Ad Valorem tax exemption is due to expire this year and she encouraged them to bring forth an item to renew it as it helped them retain 320 jobs and add upwards of 40 jobs through Coastal Forestry Sources and with the absence of the qualified targeted industry tax refund at the State level, this program was what set them apart and made them more competitive in Florida. She said an email was provided on February 11th with all the items they could consider to bring this item forward as an item for the commission.
- 2) Also, the Gadsden County Strategic Plan has been completed and was included in the Agenda item for later this evening. She said she did notice that on-line, the strategies for the plan had been left off so she brought copies.
- 3) She invited them to come to the GCDC virtual meeting on March 22nd where Amazon will be the key note speaker.
- 4) She asked they reconsider the workshop they had said they would schedule at a previous meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

12. Approval of The Integrity Group, Inc. (TIG) Work Authorization 2022-004 to Facilitate Gadsden County in Implementing the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Broadband Planning Toolkit Project and Completion of DEO Requested Toolkit Reports

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for approval of the TIG work authorization to facilitate Gadsden County in implementing the DEO broadband planning toolkit project and to completion of the DEO requested toolkit reports.

Commissioner Holt asked if they could consider minority-based contractors within this contract. Mr. Dixon explained minority participation was something that is considered with every contract. As Ms. Tuggerson said, they reached out to her for that particular contract in an attempt to make sure that the communities are recognized. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to make sure that was looked at.

Commissioner Holt stated she wanted to make sure they looked at that before they closed out on the contract.

Commissioner Hinson said it was also imperative they bid out items to be fair to others.

Commissioner Green said he knew this item was time sensitive, was there time to do that being they were presented with dates?

Chair Viegbesie said what he was thinking, if this was very time sensitive, if they would consider those businesses and individuals that may be brought in as “sub partners”.

Commissioner Green said there was no disrespect with Integrity, but they were not the only company that does what they do. Maybe another company that put a bid in could provide services without having subcontractors.

Mr. Dixon said the concern did not fall on deaf ears. The reason for the reward of a master contract was for expedience. The money is out there right now but what level will be out there in three months? There is an appropriate time but believed Integrity was the best group for this at this time. The point right now is that they are on the main line with a few things that they were trying to not only keep pace with but to gain pace. His recommendation was to go with Integrity.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have in the past had similar consulting contracts with other groups?

Mr. Dixon stated he had not been in office but a short while, did not have that and perhaps it could be provided. He said they were looking at the number of all, the kind of people they were looking for, the kind of affirmation and the level it must be presented.

Commissioner Hinson said they were still a government and must follow their own ordinances and policies. He said there could be lawsuits from other people who wanted to do it. That was the purpose of the ordinance setting their policies and procedures and they must adhere by it. He pointed out anything over \$25,000 must be bid out and this contract was for \$200,000.

Chair Viegbesie said this was an item on the Agenda and asked if Mr. Dixon had a comment.

Mr. Dixon said they have master contracts with architecture, master contracts with engineering and do not bid those out. This has a federal component to it and if they were using ARP dollars, those folks have to be authorized to be certified. This is straight-forward and not that simple.

Commissioner Hinson said Mr. Dixon said some very smooth words; they have an ordinance and if they were not going to follow their ordinance, then they were a renegade county. When the architect has a project, he brings plans and explains.

Commissioner Holt said the part between the County and Federal Government, she felt Integrity was perfect; the part between the street and Integrity was what she was interested in. Getting the survey is what they need to do. Her concern was to make sure they have someone that can go after money within the timeline. Second, compile the data and get it to the State of Florida. The third thing was to get it in a timely manner.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there was anything improper with the Agenda item. Mr. Knowles said he would side with the fact a procurement of services as pursuant to statutes are always best when they are bid out. He did not think there was anything improper, they do have a master agreement with Integrity that was signed before he and Commissioner Green joined the Board, this was a task order underneath that and was well within the rights of the

Board to do. However, if the is Board concerned with a lawsuit or heartburns, they could prepare an RFP and advertise it.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there was anything improper about this agenda item and Mr. Knowles stated no, this was a work authorization for an existing contract.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Knowles, Tuggerson has said they did not want to be a sub-contractor, could it be rectified as far as having someone gathering information, doing the surveys? Mr. Knowles said since they were dealing with federal dollars, it was already in Code of Federal Regulations that a) they should try to use minority contractors, and b) in the Integrity contract there is a carve-out for local. If they wanted to make the change, they could include something that would carve-out a certain percentage or certain deliverables. The Board would have to identify that that was so he could make the changes.

Chair Viegbesie said that comment was why his though process and why he interrupted the Administrator. Whoever makes the motion could be contingent in including a local minority firm as a partner to this process, not a sub-contractor.

Commissioner Holt wanted to know from the Administrator his opinion if they wanted to include a local minority contractor.

Mr. Dixon said it was easiest was to give him direction.

Commissioner Hinson said this was something to think about. He said Integrity would get a percentage regardless.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the Administrator if that was the way the contract was written? Mr. Dixon said no.

Commissioner Hinson said he was here before Mr. Dixon was and they did the contract. If not mistaken, there was no costs to the Board, their fee was included with the amount received.

Commissioner Green said it has been clearly stated that Integrity has a good relationship with the county as it relates with getting federal money. They may not be as good in the community and need that to be able to get as accurate information as possible, but feel like they were behind in paperwork. He wanted to see them move forward and adding a partner to the project but how do they advertise and make it available for a partner to come and if they decide to go with The Integrity Group. Mr. Dixon stated he thought they would direct the Manager.

Chair Viegbesie said what Commissioner Green said was what his thought process was. They do need local minority participation in this project. If they decide to go in that direction, the approval of this item should be contingent on the inclusion of a local minority business, not as a subcontractor, but as a partner and could be a minor partner to the major organization in this process.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if Commissioner Holt had a motion.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT CONTINGENT UPON A LOCAL MINORITY PARTNER BEING INCLUDED. MR. KNOWLES ASKED TO AMEND THE CONTRACT OR THE TASK ORDER. COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID TO AMEND THE TASK ORDER. MR. KNOWLES ASKED IF IT NEEDED TO COME BACK BEFORE THE BOARD AND SHE SAID IF CONTINGENT UPON IT BEING DONE, THEN NO.

Commissioner Green asked who responsible for paying that partner? He stated he did not want what happened before to happen again.

CHAIR VEIGBESIE SAID THERE WAS A MOTION ON THE FLOOR AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure proper payment was taken care of.

Chair Viegbesie said the process will be worked out with Integrity and subcontractor when they get there.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could speak with Integrity.

A representative of Integrity appeared before the Board.

Commissioner Hinson asked the purpose of the \$200,000. He explained it went beyond a survey, that was only one small process. He said it was setting up and following the nine steps and going through the different procedures.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:04 p.m.

He said Ms. Keeler will be the project manager along with a minimum of two other people that would be assigned to work with her so they could get the information collected, gathered, assimilated, analyzed, corrected if need be and then create the report, submit it to the Board for review and approval, once approved, submit it to DEO. He said they would be glad to have minority representation. He said they would be glad to do that and open it up to anyone within the community to come in and partner. Commissioner Hinson asked if the \$200,000 would stop the process. The representative said they would bill by the hour, it could hit the \$200,000 mark or it may not.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:08 p.m.

COMMISSIONER HOLT CALLED THE QUESTION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THE MOTION WAS TO CALL THE QUESTION AND ALL IN FAVOR TO CALL THE QUESTION AND STOP DISCUSSION AND THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE ON THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

13. Approval of the Agreement with FDOT-Grant Applications

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated FDOT's SCRAP, SCOP, B-SCOP, and CIGP application cycle was currently open and would close March 4, 2022. The county has selected four roads and two bridges to apply for and must approve a resolution in support of the applications. He four roads and two bridges that have been selected are:

- Aspalaga Road-SCOP;
- Providence Road-SCOP;
- Mt. Pleasant Road-CIGP;
- Dogtown Road-SCRAP;
- Richlander Creek Bridge on Old Federal Road-B-SCOP; and
- Hurricane Creek Bridge on Shady Rest Road-B-SCOP.

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

14. Main Courtroom Upgrades at Old Gadsden County Courthouse

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board to award bid 21-24 Main Courtroom Upgrades for COVID-19 social distancing for the Judge and staff in the Historical Courthouse.

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

15. Approval of the Agreement with the Gadsden County Development Council

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it seeks Board approval of the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between the GC BOCC and Gadsden County Development Council for the period of October 1, 2021 thru March 31, 2022.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT COMMENTED WHENEVER THEY WERE LOSING BUSINESSES, THEY NEEDED TO BE INFORMED. CHAIR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

16. Approval of the Agreement with the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it seeks Board approval of the Economic Development Professional Services Contract between the GC BOCC and Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Service Center.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID THEIR MAIN JOB WAS RETENTION AND THEY WERE LOSING BUSINESSES. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

17. Gadsden County Receipt of Settlement Proceeds from Endo Pharmaceuticals

Mr. Dixon introduced the above referenced item.

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

18. Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Request for Advance Funding to Support the Delivery of Services for the Gadsden County Criminal Justice Diversionary Project; the Restoring Families Program; the Teen Success Academy; the SOAR Program and the Civil Citation Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board from the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office to request an advance in the amount of \$210,235.98 to continue the delivery of services for the Gadsden County Criminal Justice Diversionary Projection, the Restoring Families program, the Teen Success Academy, the SOAR program and the Civil Citation Program.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the monthly amount in the Teen Success Academy and it was stated that was a typo showing \$70,078.66 and should be \$7,068.66.

Commissioner Holt asked about the money coming to the Board. He said it comes to the County to be transferred to the Sheriff's Office.

THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

19. Funding for the African American History Month Celebration

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for board approval to allocate \$50,000 to the 2022 African American History Month Celebration.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a conversation regarding raising money and he was curious as to how much money was raised. Mr. Dixon said he knew they had raised money but was unsure of the amount. All the money that people that have promised to donate has not come in yet. Also, he was not kosher of their ability to fund raise and wanted to make sure it was done properly and therefore he was asking the Board for enough money to cover whatever situations they have in case he arrives at the conclusion that they have not "dotted our i's and crossed our t's". He said they have gotten a commitment from TDC and the City of Quincy. Commissioner Hinson asked how much TDC put in and Mr. Dixon said \$25,000. He said they will reduce it by what has been put in. He said it should say "up to" and knew they would not need most of the money.

Commissioner Green said the item did not state "up to" but knew they probably would not utilize the \$50,000 but at least it would be allocated.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO INCLUDE "UP TO \$50,000" AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH AMENDED HIS SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

20. Funding for Future Major Public Events for Gadsden County

Mr. Dixon said the turn-out was so enthusiastic and wanted to publicly thank Tracy Lockwood at KFC for providing 270 lunches for the Marching 100, Big Bend Transit for the transportation

and to all the Department heads and everyone else, all were in sync and in harmony. The \$100,000 is to be able to do it again for other events.

Commissioner Holt said on the previous event, you could not get a room at the hotel there was so much activity.

Chair Viegbesie said there was no doubt that there was a multiplier effect that comes from having events and thought they needed to consider having an annual Western jamboree. His question is where would the \$100,000 come from budgetarily? How would it affect the future budget? How do they know what the planning for future events will cost? Mr. Dixon said they don't, they expect it to come from general funds right now but it was an investment and wanted to send a signal to others that they were in it for the long haul, they come with an investment and the County is ready. He said "Cowboy Days" came to mind because (pointing to the Deputy Clerk) of the Deputy Clerk wearing boots every day. He said to take something like a big Billy Dean concert done right with the top investment and figure out how to involve the whole community and that would be a day for Gadsden County.

Commissioner Green said since they were talking about events, this was an event well worth investing in. The energy was impeccable and setting funds aside gives them something to work with.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

21. Figgers Communication, Inc.

Mr. Dixon asked the attorney for an update.

Mr. Knowles said he received an email last Thursday from FCI's attorney, Levi Williams. They are requesting to have a working draft to the Board and him to review by March 3rd and believed they were trying to be on the agenda for the March 15th meeting. They were asking to present a new contract independent and separate from any prior contracts.

Mr. Dixon said Board direction to staff was to entertain the school district and the school district only and as the email shows they only received it on Thursday, February 24th and it speaks to a different number than they were directed to deal with from the board and so it was presented back to the board.

Chair Viegbesie said the direction was also to talk with the school district, did he and staff reach out to the School Board? Mr. Dixon responded yes, they did.

Commissioner Hinson said he asked for a public records request from the County Attorney and County Administrator and have not received that yet. Also, they had to be mindful that the County email was down for almost 3 weeks. He said there was a senior population here and they were looking at telemedicine. If they have a hotspot in the area, it could help the seniors out and they could call a doctor. He felt they should have a meeting in different areas and meet seniors in their communities so they could get hotspots.

Commissioner Green said Chair Viegbesie asked the Administrator about his conversation with the School Board and he wanted to know what their response was as it related to the hotspots. Mr. Dixon said they said their response was they would love to have between 3500 -4000 as long as they were not responsible for distribution and attestation; they only were receiving the hotspots. He said they never got with FCI to know what their abilities would have been to discuss that properly. He said he met with the School Superintendent and he was quite enthusiastic.

Commissioner Hinson said if you have 5400 students at the school and when he was there a few years ago, they gave each student a computer, each kid needs a hotspot. He said from Chattahoochee to the high school or Concord to the high school was almost an hour drive and that was two hours of time the children could do their homework.

Chair Viegbesie said there was nothing to vote on. His recollection was if there was no contract, then it was non-existent. The only request was to consider an extension for 30 days, which was this meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said they have to be fair about the situation, the County email was down for a long period of time and they did not know if people were trying to get in touch with them and they were being penalized because the County did not pay their bill.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 8:46 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to be fair.

Vice Chair Green said in all fairness, there was nothing in front of them to vote on.

Commissioner Hinson said they gave them until March 1st and after this date, the contract would be null and void. He asked why not extend for two weeks until everything was worked out.

Commissioner Holt said they need to decide one way or the other and move on. They could have communicated by phone or by certified mail. She said they need to move on.

Mr. Dixon said what they really requested was to have an opportunity to present a new contract separate from the old contract.

Vice Chair Green asked to hear from the attorney.

Mr. Knowles said they could vote to agenda this at the next meeting if there is a contract on the table and vote for it then.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 8:50 p.m.

He continued and said as Commissioner Holt has said, the contract has been extended and the old contract is done, he thought FCI and the Board acknowledges that. The question is whether or not the Board is inclined to give FCI the ability to present a new document to them on March 15th.

Commissioner Hinson said due to the situation, they should extend two weeks and however Board wanted to vote then, he would be good with it.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS FOR TWO WEEKS. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Chair Viegbesie said if Commissioner Hinson wanted, he could bring up a different contract in the future. For now, that was the end of the contract.

CLERK OF COURT

22. Updates

The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

23. Updates

Mr. Dixon said the Mask Ordinance was still in effect and seeing the CDC recommendations and if it was the will of the board, if they choose to relax the mask ordinance... Chair Viegbesie said the Governor preempted the county's ability to enforce the mask ordinance but it was an internal request of the Commission to encourage employees to wear masks in the building.

He said they were taking a hammering with the Legislature. Communities around the County were making out like bandits. He said they were still going to stay in the game and keep pushing and there were a couple more days but were on life support as it relates to the legislature. More was expected and it still may happen but hasn't yet.

He asked for advice on the green space where the old jail property is. He had a conversation with the Clerk because that is their Records Center. He did not think he has a problem with the building going away and them turning the whole lot into a potential green space provided they make room for the records and some place to keep them secure and dry. He said they have talked with the city of Quincy but not since the new administration regarding Public Works. The county's public works buildings are very old, very crowded, very small for what they were doing and in conversations with the City, they are looking to find a new place as well and come out of the land fill. They were talking to see if they could do a dual situation because there are so much cross connections. They buy our gas, they use our machinery on a regular basis that if there was one place, say 10 acres, them on one side and the county on the other and be a central maintenance facility, would be quite a savings.

He said they were moving ahead with the activation of the dirt road ordinance. Public Works has a look of a number of roads in each district, will be in touch about the roads and will be beginning to how public input/meetings in discussing what would be required in order to get into the program.

They also have been talking about fire rescue, they have just finished and opened the EMS facility in Havana and now the City of Havana has spoken with our Chief about coming back into Havana as part of their situation in terms of fire rescue.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 9:00 p.m.

He said they will be talking to groups from Gretna and Havana regarding the schools and the projects before them.

This month they will have a meeting regarding economic development with the Chamber and GCDC.

Chair Viegbesie said he thought this body agreed to create a Department of Economic Development Restoration and Resiliency.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 9:02 p.m.

Commissioner Green asked if that would be a combined workshop with the Chamber and GCDC and Mr. Dixon responded yes.

With Planning and Zoning, Mr. Stiell is reviewing some of the cases that have come to them and will be beginning the process of bringing some changes, not only in land development regulations but Comp Plan that will help. changes. Have been meeting with him and the Building Inspector about how to not only improve the process from request to approval or denial, but how to facilitate growth in the County. He said they have started moving pretty good and wanted to not only create a process for those coming but for those who were already here that wished to build a house on 4 acres and could not do it under the current rules and regulations.

Chair Viegbesie said he had a meeting with Housing and Code Enforcement and was a very productive and informative meeting. He suggested if they could in future meetings, create a spot where each director comes in and informs the Commission of their plans and updates.

Commissioner Green said in reference to workshops with the different departments, he has spoken with Ms. Burns and she promised there would be a workshop soon. He asked if they could expedite it because people were constantly calling about what was available in reference to home repairs and would love for it to be something on public record so it could be watched at a later date and asked it to be expedited.

Commissioner Holt said they need to have to look at the costs on these when doing workshops, if they could look at updates once every 2-3 months so they would not pay extra money out for the expense. They could give short reports during the meetings.

Chair Viegbesie said that was something in the attorney's area of specialization, before COVID, was planning on having a workshop for free, to help educate citizens about heir property and probate issues.

Chair Viegbesie asked what they were doing about working with the school system to establish an institution to enhance the County's K through eighth grade prep, were they working with them collaboratively? He understood that TCC just received millions of dollars to create a charter school and did not know where they were going to build it and he knew the Gadsden County school board had approximately 80 acres somewhere and he suggested that the school

board superintendent and the chair meet with the president of TCC to see how they could provide that site for the charter school. He said the school was designed for trade school skills.

Commissioner Hinson said they need to do research first.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

24. Updates

Mr. Knowles said regarding the Derrick Elias case, the FAC attorney had mediation and was not able to reach resolution and has requested a shade meeting on March 15th before the next meeting.

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

He said they will be seeing other pharmaceuticals settlements and will be a little bit of influx into the County.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

25. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she is requesting a workshop on the attorney's contract and felt it should have been bid out. She has the billing for that law firm and has a lot of data.

(Inaudible) grant for a local organization with the Department of Agriculture and put in for \$500,000 and has been approved for \$400,000 and was the first time, they received 1,000 points and the money will be spent here and will be coming before the Board in the near future.

She said they should look at purchasing commercial property and leasing it out to businesses to encourage more businesses to come to the area. They also should look at abandoned property that may be available for commercial use.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to thank the GC Black History Cultural and Educational Organization for a magnificent job that was done on Saturday. Mr. Dixon said he had the pleasure meeting with those groups several times along with the City of Quincy.

He also thanked the BOCC for helping with the cause and the City of Quincy.

He asked for a Proclamation for Dorothy Mae Harrison.

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

He said he will bring back the Summer Youth employment for ages 14-18 so they can get jobs and asked it be placed on the next agenda.

He also asked they consider 3500 hotspots, he did not want to take that from the kids.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to channel Commissioner Hinson because of who he thanked for the parade and gala.

He also wanted to channel Mr. Dixon for thanking staff earlier, they did a phenomenal job.

He thanked Mr. Dixon and Ms. Bradley for the list of accomplishments for the past 14 months; he had the opportunity to speak at New Deliverance Temple and the focus of his presentation for their Black History Program was to give them an overview of accomplishments. He said they have to inform the public of what they're doing because they do not know what the BOCC does.

He said they need a workshop on the goals and objectives for this year.

He said Chair Viegbesie mentioned earlier, they do a lot of travelling and wanted the public to know they have a lot of information for the Administrator.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green said he would be remorse if he did not extend his gratitude regarding the events this past weekend.

He said he would like to have a list of accomplishments as well.

He also said they were in the third month; the season was changing and crime will be growing. He has talked with Col. Collins and would love to partner with the local police, the cities and county so they could work together as it related to crime. He shared an incident that happened on Harden Street where an elderly individual was sitting at their dinner table and bullets came flying into the house and his vehicle.

Commissioner Holt said since they were talking about infrastructure, cities were putting cameras on certain locations and intersections and that might help deter crimes.

He said he heard a couple of names mentioned and when they are publicly mentioned and thanked, it gives them the incentive to want to do more.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO GIVE A PROCLAMATION TO TRACY LOCKWOOD AND CHAIR VEIGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO GIVE A PROCLAMATION TO MS. ROSETTA ROLLE HYLTON-ANDERSON AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO GIVE MS. KAREN WELLS A PROCLAMATION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said Commissioner NeSmith made the comment about their travels they have made. He has brought material for the County housing dealing with homelessness and said he has shared that with the Administrator.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE LIGHTING OF COURTHOUSE IN BLUE AND GREEN IN HONOR OF ORGAN DONATION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt said some people asked for a Proclamation for Milton Thomas, the gentleman on the hill coming into Quincy that waves and welcomes everyone. There was not a motion made. She also asked that people not pay any attention to emails from her because she has been hacked, along with Mr. Dixon.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:52 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 15, 2022 AT 4:30 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5 – appeared by phone
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the workshop to order at 4:45 p.m. He asked Ms. Blackshear to give the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator’s Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on March 15, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

James Anderson

Shirley Marshall

Cassie Bowen

Marie Alday

Rosa Harrison

Josephine Hunter-Robinson

Latasha T. Murray, General Contractor

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding the Gadsden County Affordable Housing Program

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Chair Viegbesie said there were some speakers that had requested time to speak and he asked to let the presenters speak first in case they answered any questions there might be.

Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and said the Board had requested a workshop regarding this item.

The Florida Sadowski Act is Chapter 201 of Florida Statutes; creates a dedicated source of revenue for affordable housing from a portion of documentary stamp taxes on the transfer of real estate, 30% to the State Housing Trust Fund and 70% to the local Government Housing Trust Fund. Funding often utilized by the Legislature in other budget areas to fill gaps.

Sonya Burns, Housing Coordinator, appeared before the Board and gave the Mission Statement.

Current assistance plan does not allow them to go above 140%. They will be requesting the Board adopt that they be able to go up to maximum of 141% to be able to assist more citizens.

- Purchase assistance max is \$15,000;
- Emergency Repair max is \$10,000-anything above need administration approval
- Owner occupied rehabilitation/replacement max is \$60,000 - \$80,000 max without BCC approval; anything over must come back to the Board for approval
- Foreclosure Prevention max is \$5,000
- Disaster Relief/Mitigation max is \$10,000
- Offer homeownership Counseling Classes quarterly and they are virtual

Partner agencies and additional funding including rental assistance are:

- Catholic Charities
- Capital Area Community Action Agency
- US Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- United Way of Big Bend

Fiscal year 17/18 has been approved and closed out by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation; Fiscal year 18/19 as been approved and closed out; Fiscal year 19/20 received maximum allocation of \$350,000 and the current balance for 19/20 is \$172,987.38. Funds have been allocated to several approved sites.

There is currently under construction 10 units through HHRP.

There is a current balance remaining of \$456,409.43.

They have been given the task of doing 40 homes. The next step is the creation of Gadsden County Local Housing Authority.

They will also be presenting to the Administration the creation of the Gadsden County Homelessness Committee and will be applying for the CDBG HR grant.

Commissioner Hinson said this was good information but wanted the constituents to have first opportunity rather than the developer who might be from California.

Mr. Dixon said one thing he found out and did not know when they went to the Florida Housing Finance Agency, was the majority of their program comes through developers and we did not, as a County, qualify for that money. He added what they have since found out, how they write their rules and how they set themselves up to deal with developers is as important as the who the developers are. A lot of the investment in single family housing and multifamily housing from the state comes through developers.

Ms. Burns said they will be having a workshop with all the local developers. She then showed some of the success stories through the SHIP program and the HHRP program.

Commissioner Hinson asked if when they build homes for seniors, were the restrooms handicap compliant? Ms. Burns said anyone over the age of 62 years receives that service.

Commissioner Hinson said they have a lot of people and there will be influx of people moving out because of high rent throughout Florida. He added he was a friend of developers and there are a lot of people that have a funding source who are buying homes throughout the County and would sell them. He said since they own the land, go after citizens first before developers. Ms. Burns said that would be something to be addressed in creating the land database.

James Anderson, 205 S. Shadow Street, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and said Ms. Burns had him a nice house built on Shadow Street and he was very happy with it. Ms. Gloria (sister) said his home was a total loss because a tree fell on his home during the hurricane.

Shirley Marshall, 252 Frank Jackson Road, Quincy, FL, appeared before the Board and thanked everyone involved with getting her a new house, her house was messed up by the hurricane.

Cassie Bowen, 100 Pine Street, Chattahoochee, FL appeared before the Board and sang the praises of the Housing Department.

Commissioner Green said he was overjoyed in what he was hearing about the Housing Department.

Marie Alday, 227 E. 10th Street, Greensboro, FL appeared before the Board and was appreciative of her home. Before her house was remodeled, in the winter her like bill would be between five and \$600 a month. And

Josephine Hunter-Robinson, 908 1st St. SE, Havana, FL appeared before the Board and said a tree fell on her trailer in 2018. Friend told her about Sonya and she really helped her. So thankful for the help and more in Havana need the help. She added it was wonderful to have a home to go to that had heat and air conditioning.

Commissioner Hinson said Ms. Hunter-Robinson had a heart of gold.

Latasha T. Murray, TNT Construction, General Contractor, 14705 Main Street, Gretna, FL appeared before the Board and said she was a general contractor and realtor. She said

construction costs were sky high. They do all they can to save money for the clients. If the Commissioners can help the program and bring more money, please do. She said currently construction cost are between \$125 to \$135 square foot.

Commissioner Holt said a housing authority would make a big difference in applying for funds. They will need more people to help. When doing this, they need to give local preference to contractors, need to pass procedures and get something in place.

Commissioner NeSmith said they had a great February, but in listening to the speakers, he has too many questions to continue, they need to have a continuation of this workshop.

Commissioner Green said he heard and wanted to echo comments of the other Commissioners. He said this was so needed for the County and he has a lot of questions and will get with Ms. Burns.

Chair Viegbesie echoed what everyone else has said.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:53 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MARCH 15, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Dr. Anthony "Dr. V" Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Ronterious "Ron" Green, Vice Chair, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and Pastor Matthew Creamer of New Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, appeared before the Board and gave the Invocation. Chair Viegbesie then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U its. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Items 4, 5 and 16. He explained items four and five were annexations from the City of Quincy and the stakes have been made in need to be corrected. He Cid item 16 was not ready to be presented at this time and will be on the next agenda.

Chair Viegbesie asked the will of the Board.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said item 16 was the Gadsden County Summer Youth program and he asked to present it and was not an Administrator decision, is was a commissioner decision and believed he was trying to take power from a Commissioner when a commissioner brings an item up to present to the board. He said he wanted to get in front of this so kids had adequate time. Chair Viegbesie said Mr. Dixon had said he was trying to work with the School District.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Dixon to work with Commissioner Hinson with what was submitted before and to make sure it was on the next agenda.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

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

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - September 15, 2021 Budget Workshop
 - October 19, 2021-Havana Community Development Corporation Workshop
 - November 2, 2021-BOCC Workshop
 - November 29, 2021-American Rescue Plan Program Workshop
 - January 18, 2022-American Rescue Plan Workshop
 - January 18, 2022-CARES Act Workshop
3. **Ratification of Proclamations**
 - Shakerria Allen
 - Sameriyah Bradwell
 - KeMari Cooper
 - Jarvis Rittman
4. ~~Quincy Annexation of Property located at Pat Thomas Parkway Parcel Number 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00230-0100~~
Item pulled
5. ~~Quincy Annexation of Property located at 1730 Pat Thomas Parkway Parcel Number 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00213-0400~~
Item pulled
6. **Approval of Resolution No. 2022-005 Amending the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan (Technical Revision) for FY(s) 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on March 15, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. **Approval of Task Order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the Survey and Design of Spooner Road Resurfacing Project**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for a task order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the survey and design of Spooner Road resurfacing project.

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

8. Approval of a Task Order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc. for the Survey and Design of CR 268 (Hardaway Highway) Resurfacing Project

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was four approval of a task order with Dewberry Engineers, Inc for the survey and design of CR 268 Hardaway Highway resurfacing project.

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

9. CR 161 Point Milligan Road Change Order Number One

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for change order number one for CR 161 Pt. Milligan Rd to add a guardrail for safety enhancements.

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

10. Potter Woodberry Road Change Order Number One

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of change order number one for Potter Woodberry Road to add the guardrail for safety enhancements. Because a guardrail was not included in the initial design, a proposed change order was drafted. The total cost of the guard roll installation will be \$24,200 and is anticipated that the County will be responsible for that amount which will come from the Public Works budget.

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

11. Approval of Cochran Road Supplemental Agreement and Change Order

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was a Supplemental Agreement, Change Order and Resolution for Cochran Road. Upon construction, it was determined that additional work needed to be done to add a guardrail and a change order was done. The Board approved the change order earlier, however, that change order needs to be nullified because of additional costs and staff is asking they approve a new change order in the amount of \$39,301 along with the Agreement and Resolution. (The amount quoted by Mr. Dixon was the amount of the previous Change Order. The correct amount of the Change Order should be \$41,376.00.)

Commissioner Holt asked if there was any fiscal impact to the County and Mr. Dixon stated no.

Justin Ford, Dewberry Engineering appeared before Board and said he wanted to back up to the previous two items. There were under runs on both projects and was unlikely that any money will have to come out of the County's pockets.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the reason why guardrails were missed and Mr. Ford explained on this project after some additional right of way was cleared it exposed a hole that was not exposed previously that needed to be protected.

Commissioner Holt said they did not want to sacrifice safety.

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

12. LAP Multi-Project CEI Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of the updated agreement sent by DOT for the multi-project LAP projects.

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.

13. Approval of the Mosquito Control Budget FY 2021-2022

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the mosquito control budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said there was a strong mosquito presence in the County. He asked how to get in touch with them and Mr. Dixon said they could call 850-875-8672 and if the call is after hours, could leave a voicemail with their address and phone number. Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure people were aware that they have to call if they want to be sprayed. Commissioner Hinson asked what cities they could go into.

Curtis Young, Director of Operations with Public Works, appeared before the Board. He said they cover Midway, parts of Greensboro, Gretna and Chattahoochee. Commissioner Hinson asked about the Town of Havana and Mr. Young explained they have in Interlocal agreement with cities.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

14. Approval of the Agreement with Siemens Industries to Provide Life Safety Measures at the Capital Regional Medical Center-Gadsden Campus

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of an agreement with Siemens Industries to provide life safety measures at CRMC-Gadsden Campus. Eye Associates has requested that the County share half of the expenses for the needed fire safety measures in their leased area.

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

Commissioner Hinson said he knew someone who dealt with mental health and they were asking if they could use a part of that (hospital). Mr. Dixon said they would “fix” it up and bring to the Board for further direction. Mr. Dixon said mental health challenges were out there before and COVID did not help.

15. Community Development Block Grant-DR/EMS Quincy Site

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the EMS Quincy site and for an approval and execution of a contract with the Florida Department of Economic Development for renovations of the east side of the Gadsden County Health Department facility on Lassalle LaFall Drive. Gadsden County has received a Notice of Intent to award up to \$2,500,000 for the renovations of the facility.

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

16. Gadsden County Summer Youth Program

Item Pulled

CLERK OF COURT

17. Updates

Mr. Thomas said he would like to follow up on a couple of things from the last meeting. Mr. Dixon came to see him for the first time since being in office and talked a little about the Records Center. Mr. Thomas wanted to be on record to express to the Commission how important it was to have a Records Center. It is required that the County Commission provide to the Clerk a Records Center, however it was not just Clerk records and Court records, it housed County Commission records, Property Appraiser records, Tax Collector records and records of several of the Board’s departments that were there. There are also some historical records going back to 1800’s and other records that have great historical value. He said he understood they were interested in having green space and already have half the block that can be used for that. There are standards to a Records Center that the State has and one is it has to be able to withstand hurricanes and have climate control. He did not want there to be the impression they could tear down the old Records Center and throw the records in some warehouse somewhere. He said he would love to have a new Records Center with all the modern features but was not sure they were inclined to do that. He said they need to maintain a Records Center and if nothing else, improve it. The ventilation was bad, the HVAC system needs to be improved, there have been rodent droppings found and it could be made more aesthetically pleasing and upgraded. He explained what they currently have was an old correctional facility that still had a leaky roof and was a struggle to get the Board to fix the roof on it. He added that it was not one of those things that Boards usually think of as important, but he wanted to stress how important having that really was.

Commissioner Green asked if this was something the Clerk could include as an estimate to include in his budget. The Clerk said if they were doing repairs it was better to come from their Staff and was their staff’s responsibility to do that.

Mr. Dixon wanted to echo the Clerk’s sentiments and to the best of his recollection it has always been whether the County would upgrade the facility. He added he was sure they were piling

records in there and was certain the old jail was not the best place. The Clerk said it was not the best place but the only place. Mr. Dixon stated he did not mean to give the impression they wanted to push down the building just for green space.

Commissioner Holt asked if the Clerk would be amenable to a new building and he said sure. She said they could look into funding and might run across a grant.

Commissioner NeSmith asked who maintained the building and Mr. Thomas said a representative from the Clerk's Office was in charge of records and he explained. The Clerk is required to designate someone as a Records Management Liaison Officer to the Secretary of State's Office and that person is on his staff and coordinates with moving records in, making sure that when they go when they are labeled properly. He said some records are short-term retention and are able to be destroyed after a certain time and other records have a longer retention period.

The Clerk said he also wanted to follow up on another matter from the last meeting. He knew Mr. Dixon talked there might be money coming in from solicitations and all that has been provided to the Clerk's office has been \$1,000 from ticket sales. He did think it was problematic to solicit from vendors that does business with the County. He said he has an accounting from expenses thus far and have totaled around \$55,000. He wanted to be on record about the money part that no other money from ticket sales of \$1,000 has been provided to the Clerk. If there have been any other solicitations from vendors, which he felt was problematic, that money has not been provided to the clerk.

Commissioner Viegbesie said after that conversation at the last meeting the Administrator, the attorney and himself make sure everything was done so the County did not violate any solicitation laws so the decision was if they have received any funds from a vendor, it should be returned. He said a letter has been sent from the Administrator to the vendors and added they have not sent money and if they were planning on doing so, to please not. He said the County will return every check received from the solicitation.

Commissioner Hinson wanted clarification.

The Clerk said as custodian of County funds, if anyone received money on behalf of the County, the funds should be turned over to County Finance.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

18. Updates

Mr. Dixon said they all knew Legislature has shut down and gone home. As a group, they decided on a strategy that they would speak as one voice. They invited the communities to come in and present their information to present as one inclusive of the sheriff and for the first time in a long time Gadsden County spoke as a single voice.

Chair Viegbesie said he was going to wait until his comment but would go ahead and share. He commended Lawson and Associates because they worked very diligently on the County's behalf. They received approximately \$8.6 Million for local projects for the County; \$2,000,000 for expansion of land for a recreation center; \$4.6 million for Stevens School disaster shelter; \$1.7

million for Gadsden County school district for FCC emergency connectivity funds for broadband; Robert F. Munroe \$23,200 for connectivity; \$100,000 to Chattahoochee water system; \$435,000 to Gretna for water meter; \$750,000 to Neighborhood Medical in Havana; \$10,000 to emergency operations center; \$500,000 to Midway street lights; \$86,000 to Chattahoochee police station communications; \$720,000 to MK prevention program for Leon County and Gadsden County. There's also further money coming that has not been broken down as to how much goes to what. He said they were also getting \$10 Million for a Sheriff EOC building.

Commissioner Hinson said he had the majority of information and asked it be sent to them.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if \$10 Million for Sheriff EOC was separate from the County and Commissioner Holt and Chair Viegbesie said it was. He asked about a County Commission Building and Mr. Dixon said they did not miss the mark and should not be upset about what they do not have.

Commissioner Hinson said through his training over the years, one of the easiest things to apply for is a Courthouse.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how long he had been holding onto that information.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

19. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they heard updates in the Shade Meeting held earlier. When the Board is ready, they are ready for the heir property workshop.

Mr. Dixon said they will write up the prelim on that because they see it as part of the housing program.

Commissioner Holt said they need a workshop on how to write up deeds because it was being done incorrectly.

Commissioner Hinson said they need that. FAMU offered that years ago. He said they could not do a lot of homes in the SHIP program because of them being heir property.

Mr. Knowles said they have standard deed forms and could see if they could legally post them on the website.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

20. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt wanted to thank the lobbyists, senators, etc. as they did a good job. They may not have brought home what they wanted but brought home better than what they have been getting. They need to look at what the County needs in facilities. If they have an emergency and need to move people, they do not have a facility to move to.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he spoke with the President of TCC and he told him they already owned the TCC building.

Allan Meeks, Building Facilities Manager, said TCC did give the building to the Board last year.

Commissioner Hinson said he received a letter today from FCI. Mr. Knowles said he forwarded the email to them after receiving it. In glancing at it, this contract starts back out at square one, takes out many of the terms previously negotiated with regard to payment and small things like the venue would be in Leon County instead of Gadsden County. He said he had not had a chance to fully respond and asked the document be sent in Word so he could insert his comments and it would be up to the direction of the Board. Currently they have no contract with FCI. Commissioner Hinson said he would like to look at the language and bring this back in two weeks.

Commissioner Hinson said he has not received his Public Records request he previously made and would like it in email format.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Knowles said gave the information to Myron to put in format or link to get to him.

Commissioner Hinson asked them to think about this, they heard testimony of people with housing issues. Out of the ones that showed up, 3-4 had issues walking and need money for ramps. They used to have \$20,000 that went to each commissioner for emergency repairs.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:18 p.m.

Commissioner Holt asked if he wished to schedule a workshop for that and he said yes, he wanted to schedule a workshop for emergency housing.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said they have already discussed many comments he was going to make. The Administrator already mentioned the monies received from the Legislature. He mentioned St. John's County received \$56,000,000 and Gadsden County received approximately \$19,000,000.

Mr. Dixon said it was not just the money thing, just have to keep working hard. Commissioner NeSmith asked in comparison to what they received last year, was it up or down and Mr. Dixon replied it was way up.

He said he was looking forward to the housing workshop.

He said Wakulla County has been on the news celebrating and next year Gadsden County turns 200 years. Mr. Dixon said it was on the radar. Commissioner NeSmith said they were in in month 4 and still have not established their goals and objections.

Commissioner Hinson said he was curious, with workshops he knew Commissioners had to be present, was it mandatory that the attorney be present at workshops? Commissioner Holt said no. Commissioner Hinson said he could appear on Zoom so they would not have to pay him. Mr. Knowles said they do not charge portal to portal. Commissioner NeSmith asked if it was required for the attorney to present at workshops and Commissioner Holt and Chair Viegbesie said it was not required. Mr. Dixon said it was board rules. Chair Viegbesie and the Attorney Is present to make sure the path they are going is the path that would not be violating anything and he serves as parliamentarian. He added he would encourage the legal advice of what they could and could not legally do.

Commissioner Green said on point to the attorney not being there, they were not making policies and not voting at workshops, when presented at the public meeting, could it be presented then?

Commissioner Holt said since they were discussing things she asked for a workshop for, the attorney presence was not required, when they look at costs already occurred, they could have hired a full-time attorney. They need to look at what is in the contract from the law firm, what they had in the past and what they were willing to pay. They need to compare and the amounts are enormous for a small county.

Commissioner Hinson said they must keep in mind this was unprecedented times they have been in since Hurricane Michael and now with COVID. They could not compare the last five years to the past year or two.

Commissioner Holt said they could go to Walmart and want to buy something and not have enough money to buy, you adjust. She suggested they should be alerted when they were going over their budgeted amount for the attorney and they have not been.

Mr. Dixon said the FCI document came along with a document with Gadsden Senior Services today. He met today with them and they talked about the leadership the Board has shown and wanted to ask the Board to consider partnering with them.

Commissioner Hinson said he had a question on point, have the other senior centers received their funds and Mr. Dixon said he believed so.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green said it has been a great meeting and thanked the Administrator for working so hard. He had an opportunity to look at the accomplishments for the County earlier today.

Next Tuesday he will partner with the Sheriff's Office for a neighborhood watch program at Ingram's Marina and was trying to go through the entire district making people informed about the program.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR CECELIA MADRY, WHO HAS SERVED GADSDEN COUNTY FOR 32 YEARS AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

He said they were in the moments of Spring Break and wanted to make sure all kids were safe.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie echoed the sentiments Commissioner Holt said. One thing he heard at the Capitol was the lack of dysfunctional confrontations coming from the Board and if they could continue the behavior of unity, they will be able to get more.

Commissioner Hinson said he was like him on that deal, when they go to the State Capitol, the County is a team.

Chair Viegbesie requested a Resolution of Accommodation for Robert Johnson, Jr. or Milton Thomas (the gentleman that waves on Highway 90). It was explained that Robert was the brother, but the gentleman that waves is Milton Thomas. Mr. Dixon said there was a motion made last week. The deputy clerk explained it was mentioned, a motion never made and it was never carried.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR MILTON THOMAS AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**


ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk


**AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 5, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1 – appeared by phone
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

 Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., Vice Chair Green gave the Invocation, then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

 Mr. Dixon said he had two items he would like to add; the Gadsden Senior Services would like to speak as Item 2a and Commissioner Hinson submitted an Item regarding the Summer Youth Program that will be Item 18a.


Commissioner Holt asked for discussion for clarification regarding the Figgers Contract and was told that if it was for clarification it could be done under her comments.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Program (ROTA) Presentation
Speaker was not present


2. Second Harvest of the Big Bend Food Bank Presentation

 **Shari Hubbard, Director of Communications for Second Harvest**, appeared before the Board and wanted to discuss the services they provide. She explained they have a backpack program that provides food-insecure children with a bag of food each Friday to ensure their nutritional needs are met over the weekend and she listed the distribution sites available. There is a Mobile Pantry Program that is funded by grants and donations and are conducted jointly with one of their agency partners or community organizations. The events are often conducted in a church are nonprofits parking lot with the date and time being announced. There are additional opportunities setup for Gadsden County citizens:

- Child nutrition programs with the school pantry program, kids’ café program and summer break spot.

- Family nutrition programs with new partner agency food pantries, high risk/homeless organizations and grocery lockers.
- Senior nutrition programs that help feed low income seniors with their Financial Resources have been exhausted.


2a. Gadsden Senior Services

 Reggie Cunningham appeared before the Board and said they have operated since 1974 in the Simon Scott facility. They are the lead agency in the county and only service approximately 15% of the elderly population. He came before them now to initiate a partnership with the BOCC to enhance and better help the seniors.

Chair Viegbesie said they were very grateful for what the Senior Services Center has done for the seniors.

 Commissioner Holt thanked them for bringing this item.

CONSENT

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


3. **Ratification Memo**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **March 25, 2021-Emergency Special Meeting**
 - **March 1, 2022 – Regular Meeting**
 - **March 15, 2022-Regular Meeting**
5. **Approval and Signature for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien**
6. **Project Safe Neighborhoods Seminar**
7. **Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Recruitment and Community Promotional Items**
8. **International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training 2022**
9. **Approval of Addendum #1 to the Lease Purchase Agreement Between the GCBOCC and Leasing 2, Inc.**
10. **Approval of a Letter of Support for the Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) Making Application to the Florida Department of Economic Development (DEO)**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION


CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission

meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on April 5, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

 Commissioner NeSmith read the statement aloud.

Shari Hubbard, Second Harvest

 **Pastor Willie Gaines, 5775 Ben Bostick Road, Quincy, FL** appeared before the Board. He said he has noticed a lot of things in the community that have been overlooked, were undone and has created a committee that meets first the Saturday of every month. There are a lot of things needed and one is a speed bump on Frank Jackson Road. They have been working on street lights for Obama Road, speed bumps and need speed limit signs on the road.


Chair Viegbesie said they have discussed street lights and speed bumps. He asked he work with the Administrator on these issues.

Commissioner Holt thanked him for discussing some of these issues. They also need to establish a crime watch there.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. Havana Middle School Sidewalk LAP Agreement

 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item for the Havana Middle School sidewalk LAP agreement.

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

12. Willacoochee Creek SCOP Construction Bid Award

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was to award the construction of the Willacoochee creek SCOP resurfacing project to Ferrovia Services, Inc. in the amount of \$98,677.82.


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

13. Willacoochee Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was a supplemental agreement to be awarded in the amount of \$112,200 to cover designed, construction and CEI. There will be no fiscal impact to the county.


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

14. Point Milligan Supplemental Agreement


 Mr. Dixon introduced the above referenced item. The original agreement was awarded in the amount of \$3,029,801 to cover design, construction and CEI. Currently, \$252,500 has been spent on the design, leaving \$2,777,301 for construction and CEI. The lowest construction bid received was \$2,940,936.90. Current CEI cost is \$88,865 and additional funding was requested and approved in the amount of \$252,500. The new agreement is for \$3,282,302.


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

15. James Edward Butler Building Elevator Modernization


 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board to award Bid 21-29 to provide additional safety features and keep the elevator in compliance with the recent update to the State of Florida Elevator Code.

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

 Commissioner Hinson asked for this to be explained. Mr. Dixon said Codes been updated and elevators built after the Code was published in 2000 have to be brought up to code and completed by December 31, 2023.


 Commissioner NeSmith asked along with this, was there a maintenance plan and was told yes.

16. Approval of Value Adjustment Board Members


 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board for the selection of the Value Adjustment Board members.

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

17. Update of the 2022 Summer Youth Employment Opportunities & Initiative Program

 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was providing an update of the upcoming 2022 Summer Youth Employment Opportunity and Initiative Program for the youth of Gadsden County. In the past the Gadsden Summer Youth Employment Program has provided youth of Gadsden County between the ages of 14-18 the opportunity to obtain work experience in a real-world environment. The program was adjusted during the summer of 2021 to the Youth Initiative Program to provide youth between the ages of 17 to 19 training that would lead to industry recognized certifications that support in demand industries: manufacturing, healthcare, information technology and public service. Both programs have merged for the summer of 2022 to allow youth between the ages of 14 to 16 the opportunity to learn and obtain real live work skills and allow youth between the ages of 17 to 19 the opportunity to obtain industry recognized credentials, both while earning a modest wage. Youth ages 17 to 19 will obtain certifications that would assist them in obtaining employment in

that industry. The youth will earn a minimum wage of \$10.00 per hour. He said they were looking to bring in at least 100 kids and looking to sprinkle them throughout government and will talk to the Constitutionals about accepting some of the students. He said there will be two tracks, if someone is in a CNA program in school, they will attempt to engage them with a CNA program to work so their learning does not go in vain. By engaging the younger students, they know they need to be provided with work ethic on how to work, how to be at work, what work really means, choices made and how it will impact your future. He said there were wakeup calls last year and have sought how to address them at every point. He said they were trying to be inclusive of every student they could. He said the student did not have to be in the Gadsden County school system but be a resident of the county. He said there was a limited capacity and was attempting to be as engaging as possible with these many kids is possibly can but also to make sure they have a quality opportunity and they learn the quality of work.


 Commissioner Green said the date for applications have begun and asked what level of marketing they were using. Mr. Dixon said currently it was just in the schools but next week will start social media exposure to encourage kids.


Commissioner NeSmith wanted to emphasize as they were implementing the program, the youth need to develop skills and did not want them sitting at a job just answering phones, they need to develop skills.


Chair Viegbesie asked what the will of the board was. Commissioner Green said this was for informational purposes only. Chair Viegbesie asked why this was presented for informational purposes and not for action.


Mr. Dixon stated he did not think it required action, however if the board believed it did, he would present it for action. Chair Viegbesie asked now or a future meeting and Mr. Dixon stated now.


Mr. Knowles asked what was budgeted for it and was the budget sufficient? If not, they may need to bring it back. Mr. Dixon said it was based on the budget they have now. If they were going to make an action item with budgetary change, it would need to be rescheduled. If there is no change, no action needs to be taken. Mr. Knowles stated they were just reading the program that they approved in last year's fiscal budget as was presented.


 Commissioner Hinson said anything that affects the budget over \$25,000 must be advertised.


 Commissioner NeSmith asked if they were advertising something? Mr. Knowles said this item that is presented does not change the budget, it was approved in the budget for 2021-2022.


 Commissioner Green asked what was in budget and budget was advertised, why does it need to be re-advertised? The budget has been approved with this line item.


 Ms. Daniels wanted to reiterate what the attorney said. \$150,000 was previously approved in the budget process and was an increase over last year. If they decide to add to that, they will have to instruct staff where to take money from and if outside what already allocated, they would have to advertise.

 Commissioner Holt said that was correct.


 Commissioner Hinson asked why not go to 125 kids. Chair Viegbesie asked if it was possible to increase from \$150,000. Mr. Dixon said if they have more than 100 kids that want to work, they will come back before the Board to request more money.


 Chair Viegbesie said maybe memory was not serving him correctly, he could not recall what funding they had last year, was it rolled over?

 Commissioner Green said he wanted to be clear, all agree they want to make sure to provide for youth in the County. If they go over the 100 kids, they will bring it back to the Board for approval and to get proper funding.

 Commissioner Holt said for the people that made comments that the BOCC does not support youth, they started this program years earlier.

18. Approval of Work Authorization Number 2022-011 with The Integrity Group, Inc. to Update the County's 2016 Local Mitigation Strategy Plan


 Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of work authorization number 2022-011 with The Integrity Group to update the County's 2016 Local Mitigation Strategy Plan.

 **Tashonda Whaley, Interim Emergency Management Director**, appeared before the Board. She explained this plan is required of all local governments by federal government to receive any funds.


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

18a Discussion of the FY22 Summer Youth Program

 Mr. Dixon introduced this item.

 Commissioner Hinson said this was for discussion and he was requesting \$300,000 for the employment of 250 youth for up to 6 weeks.


Chair Viegbesie asked him what he wanted to do.

 Commissioner Hinson said there were a few options and listed them.

 **COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**


CLERK OF COURT

19. Updates

 The Deputy Clerk said there was nothing to report


COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR


20. Updates

 Mr. Dixon said bulky item pickup starts this month in each of the districts.


He told the commissioners there was a list of requested workshops and staff would like the commissioners to prioritize them and get the list back to Administrator to schedule the workshops.

Chair Viegbesie suggested to individually prioritize and get that to Administrator and let him sum up and address.


 Chair Viegbesie said Economic Development would not be a workshop, it would be more of a retreat and also the goals and objectives were not something they could do in 1 hour.

 Commissioner Holt asked if this included all requests? She requested a workshop on the law firm and all contracts and that was not an agenda item when they voted on it.

Chair Viegbesie said he heard legal services and the comp plan.


 Commissioner NeSmith suggested to add what Commissioner Holt said to the bottom and what other workshops they wanted to add.

 Mr. Dixon said procurement will be internally. They need to revamp that policy.

 Commissioner NeSmith said it seemed goals and objectives were being discussed right now.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

21. Updates

 Mr. Knowles said he spoke with Commissioner Holt on Sunday and wanted to bring everyone up to speed on FCI and he created a timeline.

February 1, 2022 - Text with Moskowitz regarding agenda item

February 14, 2022 - Text and phone call with Moskowitz at 2 PM

February 15, 2022 - Text to Commissioner Moskowitz to try and meet while he was in town

February 16, 2022 - Text to Commissioner Moskowitz to inform him of information regarding Gadsden County School Board regarding distribution of hotspots

February 18, 2022 - Text with Commissioner Moskowitz regarding getting a contract from FCI per Board direction

February 23, 2022 - Call from Attorney Levi Williams and text with Commissioner Moskowitz to ascertain whether Mr. Williams was representing FCI. This was confirmed by Commissioner Moskowitz via text.

February 24, 2022 - Email from me to Atty. Williams where I requested a conference call.

February 24, 2022 - Call from Levi Williams

February 24, 2022 - Email from Atty. Williams where there was a “request [for] the grace of the Gadsden County Commissioners to have the opportunity to present a new contract, independent and separate from any prior agreements, at the next meeting. Also stated that we would have a draft by March 3, 2022.

March 15, 2022 - Email from Chad Marcus, Esquire, attorney with Levi Williams Law Firm at 10:25AM. I responded on March 25, 2022 at 11:22AM laying out some of the concerns from with the proposed document given what the Board had previously approved, Commissioner comments and direction from the Clerk. This contract was also forwarded to all Commissioners on March 15, 2022 at 11:28AM via email.

March 16, 2022 - Call from Levi Williams at 8:44AM which was returned the same day.

March 17, 2022 - Call to Mr. Levi Williams at approximately 3:00PM regarding the contract presented on March 15, 2022 wherein it was explained the County cannot make any advance payments along with other concerns. Mr. Williams expressed concern that the County was frustrating the purpose of the contract via the cease and desist order. I explained to him that the cease and desist had been lifted in the addendum and forwarded him a copy of the executed addendum as he stated he did not have a copy of the document.

March 17, 2022 - Email from Mr. Levi Williams at 3:51PM acknowledging receipt of the addendum

March 21, 2022 - Email from me to Levi Williams requesting FCI’s proposed contract as previously promised.

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March 25, 2022 - Email from me to Levi Williams again requesting an update regarding FCI's proposed contract


March 25, 2022 - Email from Levi Williams at 4:35PM with updated contract.


March 28, 2022 - Email to Administrator with revised contract asking whether it would be put on the agenda.


April 2, 2022 - Text from me to Administrator requesting an update on behalf of Commissioner Hinson

Chair Viegbesie had previously stepped out and returned at 7:47 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said what she wanted to know was if they made it within that 30-day period. Mr. Knowles said his timeline laid out everything that have taken place. Commissioner holt asked what their cut off deadline was. Mr. Knowles stated they were given 30 days from February 1st. Commissioner holt said that would've been March 1st. She said nothing was received by that first meeting in march. Mr. Knowles said not that he received, no. Commissioner holt asked the administrator if he received anything and he stated no. Commissioner holt said that meant no contract was received. Mr. Knowles said the contract he received was on March 15, 2022 at 10:25 AM. Mr. Knowles said the board gave FCI the indulgence from February 1 and March 1 in the contract received by the attorney was on March 15th. Commissioner holt said the board did tell Commissioner Hinson at one time if he brought something back but was not sure when that was said. Mr. Knowles stated it was at the March 15th meeting. She said anything after the March 1 deadline was dead and was nothing to consider unless it comes from a commissioner. She said Commissioner Hinson was told he could bring something else back but not that (original) contract.

 Commissioner Hinson asked the attorney to start back in February. Mr. Knowles said he received a call on February 23 from Levi Williams. He received the revised contract on March 15th. Mr. Knowles went over the timeline again. Commissioner Hinson stated part of the heartburn he had was, he asked for a public-records request approximately two months ago and has yet to see it. He said he was given a stack of papers and felt it was not accurate information and it was confusing. They tried to give him a zip drive. The city asked for a public-records request from the county administrator, the attorney and Figgers Communication. Commissioner Hinson stated he had a heartburn because their email was down for 4-5 weeks. He also stated he had not received a response to his public records request.

 Chair Viegbesie asked if there was any reason why he has not received his public records request or was Commissioner Hinson asking for a different format. Mr. Dixon said the County attorney was handling that.

 Commissioner Holt said this was her item and she did not intend to have an explanation from the attorney or anyone else. She wanted to know if they received a contract or any communication before March 1st and they had not. There was no reason to debate something that was not on the agenda.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

22. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4



Commissioner Holt asked if the bid had closed on the striping. Mr. Dixon asked if there was a particular road she was asking about. He said he would get the particulars and get back with her.

She said there were several projects they were working on before Mr. Dixon came on. One was the Massey Building; the COVID 19 monument and the Mobile unit. Mr. Knowles explained with the Massey Building, the person they had been dealing with retired; they spoke with Mr. Searcy and that call discombobulated things. The plan was received and they are in the process of finalizing the sublease. There was further discussion about what the Department of Health needed regarding the sublease. Regarding the mobile unit, it was in purchasing now, the bids came in way too high and they had to go back and redo and was closing now on the purchase and will be informing the Board of same by the next meeting. With the monument, they discussed placement today and was looking at a structure and pushing it through. They should have finals by the next meeting. She said they had a call about the shelter and would be making a presentation on Friday before Easter.

She asked the attorney about the Clerk's statement about the County not receiving donations from companies that may do business with the County. She said they do business with the State of Florida, with cities and was quite often companies do give donations. She asked him to look up some legal opinions and Statutes that say they could or could not, may or may not receive funding from...

Mr. Knowles stated he had already done it and could forward that to the commissioners.

She asked about the School Work program, has the School System applied for any funds? Mr. Dixon said they discussed ways the county could help the school district. They discussed grant funding and grant opportunities and felt right now they were building their capabilities to go after funding.

Her next item was on transportation. As they are working on the Amazon facility, there still are transportation issues of getting people back and forth. Mr. Dixon said they have spoken with Amazon and GCDC had a virtual meeting on March 22nd and it was discussed about the possibility of entering into an understanding of transportation and spoke with Big Bend Transit as part of that conversation. They are igniting the conversation with their counterparts with StarMetro, looking at something like they did for the Gadsden Express that might make a couple of pickups and go straight to Amazon.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1




Commissioner Hinson asked when they will start the budget process. Mr. Dixon said they have begun internally and will be within the next month.

When will they start having workshops regarding the American Rescue Plan? Mr. Dixon said the money should come in sometime in May according to the Representative.

Figgers Communication, he said he wanted to bring that back to the Board at the next meeting since they have a contract.


Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

 Commissioner NeSmith said he understood they had a power outage. Ms. Daniels said they had a power surge. Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have a generator. Mr. Meeks said that one has been ordered with a 22-week ETA.

He thanked them for the installation of the Cochran Road signs.

He thanked staff for the new spirit of recognizing staff. He asked to have an electronic board placed permanently on the Courthouse Square courtyard.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

 Commissioner Green said they had a great time in recognizing employees.

He thanked Ms. Sarah and Ms. Carolyn at Ingram's Marina for hosting the Neighborhood Watch meeting and it was a great success. He thanked Staff for coming out and cooking the food and the Sheriff's Office for attending and for hearing the call of the communities.

He asked Mr. Dixon about the situation on Old Federal Road regarding cars on the property. Mr. Dixon said Mr. Stiell has taken charge of that and going through the Land Development Code. This is the same owner that has the "car yard" in Chattahoochee.

Regarding the Neighborhood Watch program, one thing that was asked for was signage. That neighborhood has started being active.


EMS

He said he has had a and couple of calls in reference to policies determining what hospital to take patients. He would like to have a policies and procedures workshop. Next week is National Public Safety Dispatchers Week. The Greenery will be feeding the dispatchers on Monday and hoped the County could partner.

COMMISSIONER GREEN ASKED FOR A RESOLUTION FOR DISPATCHERS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.


He encouraged parents to make sure students got proper rest and nourishment for upcoming FST testing.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

 Chair Viegbesie echoed the comments of the other Commissioners.

He said it was National Library Week and gave thanks to the staff.

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 Commissioner NeSmith said he meant to thank the Sheriff, Col. Collins and Col. Barkley earlier as they came to the Chattahoochee Rotary Meeting and gave a presentation regarding mitigating crime and enhancing the quality of life of youth and families.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:42 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 19, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Sara Green, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the meeting and called it to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Danielle Upton, Pastor, Centenary Methodist Church came forward and gave the Invocation and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon stated he had two amendments to the agenda and would like to add Item 8A-Approval of Task Order Number 2022-012 with The Integrity Group, Inc to Provide Professional Grant Management Services for the Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG-DR/EMS facility/Quincy Site Agreement M0026 and Item 11a-Approval of 2022 Congressional Priorities.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - November 16, 2021 Veteran’s Monument Workshop**
 - March 15, 2022 – Affordable Housing Program Workshop**
- 3. Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for the Florida Leadership Academy Class 51**
- 4. Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for the purchase of Taser Cartridges**

5. **Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for the Purchase and Training on the Use of Drones**
6. **Approval of the Judicial Inquiry System (JIS) Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)-Access Certification Statement**
7. **Approval of the Gadsden County Community Development Block Citizen Participation Plan, Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan Updates**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on January 18, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the above statement.

Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson, 825 Virginia Street, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and spoke regarding April being Organ Donation Month. They are concentrating on getting people to register to be an Organ Donor as there are more than 5000 people waiting for lifesaving organ transplants in Florida. People can register online at www.donatelifeflorida.org/register or when completing their driver's license application.

Yvette Biddle for Agenda Item #11.

Bishop Willie Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board and wanted to thank the members of the Board that shared in and supported the Stevens School project. He said a check was received in the amount of \$4,669,171.00.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

8. Update to the Personnel Policy Section 2-Employee Conduct

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was to update the Gadsden County Personnel Policy in order to comply with the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008. He stated the Federal government requires it to be included.

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

8a Approval of Task Order # 2022-012 with The Integrity Group, Inc. to Provide Professional Grant Management Services for the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) CDBG-DR/EMS Facility/Quincy Site Agreement M0026

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of task order number 2022-012 with The Integrity Group, Inc to provide professional grant management services for the Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG-DR/EMS facility/Quincy site agreement M0026. He added they did expect to be reimbursed by the Grant.

Commissioner Holt had questions.

Commissioner Green asked if this was budgeted and was told yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the costs were \$125,000 and Mr. Dixon said it was a 3-year long grant and that is the cost over the 3 years. Commissioner Hinson asked if it had to be advertised. Mr. Dixon explained it was part of the task order of the master contract.

Commissioner Holt said they did this after the hurricane, will some be bid some out? Mr. Dixon replied yes. Commissioner Holt said they need to look at some of the contracts, some were taking too long. Mr. Dixon said they have looked at what they could pull out and do on their own and keeping it in-house.

Commissioner Hinson said with their Procurement Policy, he thought anything over \$25,000 had to be advertised and wanted to make sure they were in-line with what they should do.

Mr. Knowles said it was permitted because they were under contract already and this is a task order under that master agreement.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when the Board originally entered into the agreement with Integrity. Commissioner Holt said they were brought in because of Hurricane Michael and to help qualify for federal money.

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

9. Appointment of District 3 Planning Commission Member Replacement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said Commissioner Nesmith has appointed a replacement for one of the two District Planning Commission Members in his district.

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

10. COVID-19 Loss of Life Memorial

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval to commence planning of the COVID-19 Loss of Life Memorial that will be located on the Gadsden County Courthouse lawn's southeast quadrant.

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

11. Figgers Communication, Inc. Updated and Revised Broadband Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said Commissioner Hinson asked this be added to the agenda.

Mr. Knowles said this was what they spoke about at the last meeting. Commissioner Hinson asked to see if they could work out a contract. There is no advance payment, the County will be purchasing 25,000 devices in one fell swoop or in schematics set up with FCI. When the devices are passed out they will be activated. Chair Viegbesie asked the fiscal impact and Mr. Knowles stated it would be up to \$1.765 Million and there may be associated costs with distribution and storage. Commissioner Hinson said that should be budgeted and Mr. Knowles pointed out he was unsure if storage was budgeted.

Attorney Williams, Levi Williams Law Group spoke via Zoom. He said they understood the needs of so many, saluted the commissioners and staff and that Resolution 2020-070 spelled out the need in the community for the students, safety, health and not every community was as forward thinking as Gadsden in trying to find solutions to this problem for Broadband access and it was a new arena of discrimination.

Yvette Biddle spoke and said she was excited because this was a great opportunity for the citizens, was free for the first month and then will be \$10.00/month thereafter.

Commissioner Green said he was excited about the three months of service and now they were going to one month and then hearing it would be \$10.00/month as opposed to \$32.00/month. He said this was on the table before he became a commissioner and if he had been part of the original group, would have asked for the need assessment to be done. He did not feel they have adequately equated to that number of 25,000. He wanted to make sure before they agreed to the 25,000 that there was a need for that many.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she brought up this issue was the Board told Commissioner Hinson he had the opportunity to bring this back and that was the only reason. If a Commissioner asks for something and they grant that to him, they should abide by what they say. She said she did not agree with the contract for several reasons; 1) the contract was offered from the 30 days was for it to be distributed to the School Board and the reason was because x number of children needed the device and x number children were given the device and they would know how many should be delivered and that was the point Commissioner Green was making for the needs assessment. What they did before was get them, bring them to the County and the County accepted those, then the Company was going to set them up at the homes. If they said they were going to purchase x number of devices, where do they deliver them to if the needs assessment has not been done. The other thing is the buyer is responsible for all loading costs and providing labor and equipment reasonably suited for receipt of the goods. She felt it was better to go through the School Board because they had a more captive audience. The children could take home the surveys and they can say if they wanted the device or not.

Commissioner NeSmith said he thought the Clerk had comments. He said just as everyone else he was just seeing this document and did not want to belabor this issue because his concerns were essentially the same as the Vice Chairman and Commissioner Holt. Once the devices were delivered, the County becomes responsible for payment of the amount received, not for service immediately.

Mr. Thomas said he needed to disagree on the advance payment issue being resolved. If they deliver 25,000, you pay for them and they will sit around under the Administrator's possession and may even rot because they do not know if there is a need for 25,000 and have no distribution system. With their discussion it has been made clear it is a problem and would not be in the hands of the citizens and the huge payment would be made. It becomes a huge waste of money, the biggest ever in the history of Gadsden County. Finance still has not received a W-9 from Figgers. He also pointed out the contract on the last page still has Figgers Communications with "s" and that is a dissolved corporation.

Commissioner Hinson interjected this was a typo.

Mr. Thomas continued and said the typo had huge implications, they could walk away with the money and County has no recourse. He said he wanted to go back to 2020; the pandemic starts, Congress passes the CARES Act and the goal is to get a lot of money out quick and had a lot of rules that were complicated, Gadsden County was awarded \$7.6 million; the money has to be spent by December 30, 2020; the County was unable to do that, they were able to spend \$4.5 Million by that date. The State allowed the County to remit payroll from EMS and law enforcement expenditures to be reimbursed. They receive the money after December 30, 2020 and have money now they were referring to as residual CARES money. He said they had talked before about this money being able to be used for any local government purpose and things local government could do with their money. He said during CARES, they were writing a lot of checks for things they normally would not write checks for because the money came from the Federal government. When looking at this now, they are dealing with a pot of money that is really local government money and when he looks at this contract and this program to provide 25,000 hotspots for one month, he did not see a local government program, did not see where the local government is authorized to spend; (the County) is not a telecommunications company, it is not permanent infrastructure, did not see how it was a legitimate local government expenditure, what he saw was waste and corruption. There is nothing to justify it. He asked they be conscious of the fact and have talked previously a little about campaigns and receiving campaign funds and that is fine even if there are multiple \$1,000 contributions but the point he wanted to make, they can receive campaign contributions but as a Commissioner, could not award a contract because they received those campaign contributions. That is what is illegal. He said he did not see anything to justify the contract. Because of all of this, there is a statute that says the Clerk **SHALL NOT** pay for anything that is an illegal charge to the county. Because of that statute what he is obligated to do and have to inform the board, he will not pay the contract if they vote for it. The County can sue, Figgers can sue, take him to Court and under the Court order, he would be bound to pay under those terms.

Commissioner Holt said she agreed with some of the Clerk's comments. Just as he cannot receive campaign donations and then award contracts under his position as a Constitutional officer, that is an accusation and should not be made in this meeting. They should be talking

about this contract. She added that \$1.7 million has been spent on a couple of roads that the Board did not approve since her history on the Board and that was not justified either. With the contract, she asked who typed it up. Mr. Knowles said they received it from FCI, he did see on the first page it said “Figgers Communications, Inc.” and corrected it. He did not see the “s” on the signature page and was something they could make a quick change to if the board was so inclined.

Chair Viegbesie said his comment with regard to this, with this particular item they have here, if they would recall, on March 31st when the original contract was extended, it became null and void. He asked the Administrator, if at the last commission meeting, they had an item where they approved for a substantial amount of broadband for the County? Mr. Dixon responded yes. He added the County just sent out a release from DEO where the government was willing to give to small Counties and the citizens needed to complete a household speed test of internet connectivity in their area and that would enable DEO to grant small and rural counties specific in Florida money for broadband. He added this contract concerns him. They already had a tremendous amount of money coming to this County for Broadband for the citizens and all they were asking is for the citizens to conduct a speed test that would enable them to qualify for more than one million dollars for the same thing, broadband.

Commissioner Hinson said personally, he disclosed he spoke with representatives from Figgers Communication, some may suggest too (speaking to Clerk) that sometime there is heartburn when people campaign against a person as well. He said because a person campaigned against you, some may suggest that someone such as him may have heartburn if someone contributed \$1,000 against him.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 6:56 p.m.

He said this was his first time seeing him “come out of the ballpark” because he was giving his opinion and normally he gives facts. He felt someone must have targeted him, and someone should look to see if someone donated against him, not sure if that was true or false and know it probably happened because he was a man of character would never go against a person that campaigned against him. He said he was talking with a lady in Gretna that had two kids that moved from Quincy to Sawdust; had to purchase hotspots for the children. If you look at the distance from the Gadsden County high school to Sawdust, he was willing to bet it was almost a 1-hour trip with stops. Two hours day is 2 hours out of any day they cannot do their work.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:00 p.m.

He said he voted for Motorola, he asked the Clerk for at a ballpark figure on what was spent, the Clerk said he was unsure of the figure but it was well over one million. Commissioner Hinson said they paid over \$2 Million, then said spent between \$2.5 - \$4 Million 5-6 years ago and had yet to use it.

The Clerk said the County agreed to enter into an agreement to provide equipment and communications for law enforcement, EMS and fire and it was a legitimate expenditure. The Board, as a body or staff, messed up that contract or said they could do certain things and turned out staff could not do what was said they could and made mistakes that caused things to not get done in a timely manner.

Commissioner Hinson said that was approximately six years ago and never did the Clerk say they could not pay for it. He added they were bold this year and purchased 3-4 EMS (ambulances) because they care about the people. He said they spent for Motorola almost \$3-4 Million just for Motorola but have hiccups.

The Clerk said there was nothing stopping their friends, Figgers Communication, from setting up a storefront or website selling their wares as any other communications company does. There is nothing saying Gadsden County with local government dollars should be obligated to spend \$1.765 Million on 25,000 units that will rot. Commissioner Hinson said he did not assume he was his enemy and hoped he didn't put money in his campaign and hoped it was not fixed. He then said he was going to look into it and check it out himself.

Commissioner Hinson said he heard the cry of Commissioner Green and the other board members. Commissioner Hinson said he went to the Clerk's Office but the Clerk was out of town. He said he would like, because of heartburn over this thing, would like it to be given directly to the County Administrator, the Attorney and the Chair and have them come up with a resolution. Commissioner Hinson said he was asking that all parties get together, the contract says up to 25,000. If that is the heartburn, he felt they need to look and everyone get together, including the Clerk and make this feasible.

Levi Williams spoke via Zoom. He said he appreciated the discussion. In response to some of the comments, the scrivener's error was his fault. The lack of high-speed internet hinders the ability for all school children to have access to educational opportunities and he read more from the Resolution. He said Figgers did do a test of the need in the community and found the need of 45,000 locations and also found businesses that have the need as well. The contract was initially put out to bid and the only response was Figgers for his hometown. He designed the opportunity for residents. There is nowhere in the contract for \$10.00 a month but citizens can continue use of the device at \$32.00 a month if they wanted to continue. They felt the product, service and price given would be an incredible benefit to the community and felt it was hard to beat this opportunity.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO SPEAK WITH FIGGERS COMMUNICATION AND FIND A HAPPY MEDIAN AND TO SATISFY OTHER CONCERNS THE CLERK HAD REGARDING THE W-9. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

11a. 2022 Congressional Priorities

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and apologized for the delay in getting information to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:22 p.m.

He said also enclosed was a request from the City of Gretna regarding their wastewater expansion and two requests from the City of Midway regarding their sewer projects. They also asked the Congressman for an access road that would give Orion's Point and Rustling Pines another egress.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:24 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said looking forward this creates an opportunity to get the neighborhood to County Road 268.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND FOR DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Holt asked the presentation be made.

Dr. Henry Grant appeared before Board speaking about the projects in Midway. He said one is the septic to sewer project and the other is the Midway Access Road Project. The Administrator had briefly summarized what the projects were. The septic to sewer is the city's first step in connecting the large subdivisions to existing sewer system in Midway. The other project will help this neighborhood out in case of a disaster. There is currently only one way to egress from the neighborhood. They were trying to eliminate an environmental impact on this road and trying to connect with County Road 268.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had heard about these two major issues. He asked the number of houses in Midway and Dr. Grant said approximately 120 houses were involved and a substantial amount more that would be developed. He asked if \$2Million would complete the connection project and Dr. Grant said yes.

Antonio Jefferson, City Manager for the Town of Gretna, appeared before the Board. He thanked Mr. Dixon for advancing this request. Over the last several years there has been an aggressive effort to expand water and wastewater services to the I-10 and Highway 12 exchange. They currently serve the northwest and the north east corners of the exchange and while the southwest and south east corners have water they do not have sewer service. There is \$650,000 to extend the sewer line from the entrance to Creek Entertainment in Gretna under the interstate to the southwest corner of the exchange. There are also some modifications of the wastewater treatment plant to expand treatment capacity; a request to build a lift station at the southwest corner; increasing the main that runs along Dewey Johnson Way and the total budget is a little over \$4 Million. The City just completed a feasibility study that believes it conducive for commercial development.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the total amount and Mr. Jefferson replied it was \$4,300,980.75. Commissioner NeSmith asked during time the Representative was here, was he aware of projects and he responded yes.

Commissioner Holt said they met at the City of Gretna and went over several projects and must say they are working on Dewey Johnson Way replacing lines every other day. For economic development at the I-10 exchanges, the County invested in sewer going that way to help out.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE STATED THERE WAS A MOTION AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND (CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND EARLIER FOR DISCUSSION). THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

CLERK OF COURT

12. Updates

The Clerk wanted to mention what he mentioned little over a year ago about the budget. They will soon be working on it and there were some problems last year with posting and advertising. He wanted to mention one practice that seems to be becoming routine, he mentioned it in the '21 budget and it seems to be happening in the '22 budget as well and that is a budgeted transfer from FEMA funds to the General Fund of \$1.3 million. He thought it was a bad practice; the transfer is not complete, it shows General Fund receiving \$1.3 Million but does not show anything in FEMA fund. It has to reflect in the Financial Statement. In the 2021 budget, they actually received \$560,000 from FEMA and he sent a memo about that and revenue bounced back really good. He thought that is a practice they should not continue to use those funds to balance.

Commissioner Holt asked if he was saying they were budgeting money from FEMA and should not be. The Clerk said that is what they have done for two years in a row. FEMA is unpredictable and it is not a good practice to balance based on that. He said when they enter into grants, most are reimbursable and have to spend up front before getting money and why it was important to have a fund balance to use until getting reimbursed from grants. He said the effect of that is they eat into the fund balance and was why he said it was like appropriating fund balance without saying they were appropriating fund balance. Commissioner Holt asked about the money the Sheriff received and he gave raises, when the next year comes, there is no money to pay salaries next year... Clerk said then he has to request more money and they will have to figure out how to... Commissioner Holt said this why she usually said not to give salary increases, to give bonuses instead.

Commissioner NeSmith said his question was answered.

Commissioner Green asked if contact has been made with FEMA recently as to when money will be coming down. Mr. Dixon said to the Clerk's point and his, there are a lot of bad budgeting practices being used, the Clerk is right, that is bad budget practice. Like this grant, they will not create a budget until they receive the money in hand. It will be sent when they want to.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

13. Updates

Mr. Dixon said the Managers of Midway and Gretna were here and he has been meeting with other managers in the County. The idea is to understand they are partners and in this together. The expansion of the Gretna sewer is an expansion for the County.

He wanted to make sure everyone knows that "Our Florida" is out there. They have been given a treasure trove of money to help pay rent through Children and Family.

Commissioner Green said it was available on line and on Sunday, May 1st at New Life Ministry, he has taken the initiative to partner with "Our Florida" and will have representatives on site from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

Chair Viegbesie asked if they could put the date in the newspapers.

Commissioner Green said hopefully by Thursday they will have a circular.

Mr. Dixon said additionally, on the dais was a listing of workshops, for the Commissioners to please complete and get it back to staff to schedule workshops.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

14. Updates

Mr. Knowles said he has a Memorandum regarding the Solicitation issue for review and for the record he did not bill for it.

A quick update, the Derrick Elias case was dismissed on Summary Judgment and has been resolved in the County's favor.

Commissioner Holt said she was waiting on Attorney Taylor and will be making a comment on her behalf and will not be speaking on behalf of the Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

15. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for the Stevens School presentation. They were able to get more funding than was requested. She said they were told we were the only ones that asked for a COVID shelter.

She went to the rally at the Capitol to voice her opinion about the redistricting. She added they should have the opportunity to say what district they wanted to be in.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson thanked Midway for working hard over the years with City Council as well as the Administrator and Staff. They were able to get \$2.2 Million to expand the Lamb Recreation Center. He also thanked Congressman Lawson, he showed up and showed out. He thanked the City of Gretna for looking out for their residents as well. He then thanked the residents as it has been a tough two years for the County.

He said they need to focus on the interstate exchanges. Tallahassee is bringing in a lot of different corporations into our area. He thought they need to put emphasis in infrastructure. He asked if the County was still committed to GCDC and was told yes. He said he would like them to come talk about economic development and how to meet challenges.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Commissioner Hinson and said when he hears the word "infrastructure" they think of economic development and that is what is needed.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:08 p.m.

He said they need more projects, the more the better.

He sent out birthday wishes to Ms. Aretha Bellamy from the Chattahoochee area and said she was an unsung “shero”.

He said he missed the recent Guardian Graduation but heard about the “shero” efforts of Officer Deandra ReShawn McNealy during a West Gadsden Middle School event, she observed suspicious activity in a hallway that should not have been occupied. Upon further investigation, she confronted multiple students involved in criminal misconduct and found one to be in possession of a loaded 9mm pistol. Her alertness, attention to detail and dedication to her duties as a school Guardian possibly thwarted yet another school shooting or possibly another senseless death.

Commissioner Hinson said he was also at that meeting.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF ACCOMMODATION TO OFFICER MCNEALY.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:11 PM

Commissioner NeSmith said the Electronic message board was awesome and an excellent messaging tool. He said he will be recommending some version of it as they move into the budget year so they can continue to honor all the great work done in the County.

One of their Black History Program honorees, Someria Bradwell, participated in the 4x400 relay in Gainesville at the University of Florida and set a new University of Central Florida record at the University of Florida track meet.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green said on behalf of the Gadsden County Dispatchers, they thanked them for the Resolution that was sent and said it was a well-deserved event. He thanked them for the blue and green lights illuminating the Courthouse in honor of Donate Life month and encouraged people to consider becoming an organ donor.

He thanked the Administrator for bringing up “Our Florida” that will be at New Life Ministries on May 1st from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm to assist people that may need assistance with utility bills or rent.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for a great job for the presentation and said there was one person not there and that was Arrie Battle.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO ARRIE BATTLE WITH COMMISSIONER GREEN MAKING THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to recognize Friends of Stevens as well, also Ms. Maggie King, who was the oldest teacher who taught at the school.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie asked for a Proclamation for Willie Scott.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR WILLIE SCOTT.

He added that when he heard the news about the money for Stevens School, he was very elated. With the tenacity of Commissioner Holt and Friends of Stevens working with Congressman Al Lawson, they are able to bring a very much needed facility to the County. He also thanked staff for doing a wonderful presentation.

He thanked the municipalities for agreeing to understand that Gadsden County is not Gadsden County without the municipalities and the municipalities are not a municipality without Gadsden County. He said collaborative efforts lead to progress.

He thanked Public Works for the beginning of the mowing of public roads.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VEIGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:23 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 3, 2022, THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2**
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, District 5
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Brenda Holt, District 4
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Vivian Grant from Richbay African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon said he would like to add under Awards, Presentations and Appearances a Proclamation to be presented for Older Americans’ Month. He also would like to pull Item 4 from the Consent Agenda and move it to General Business as Item 5A and add 5B Approval of Letter of Support for the Havana Community Development Center.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

The board presented a Proclamation honoring Seniors and recognized that May is Older Americans Month. Chair Viegbesie read aloud the Proclamation and it was then presented to Ms. Jennifer Pollack of the Gadsden County Senior Center.

Commissioner Holt asked for a Proclamation for the other Senior Citizen groups in Midway, Chattahoochee and Gretna.

CONSENT

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

- 1. Ratification Memo**

- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - **November 16, 2021 Veteran’s Monument Workshop**
 - **March 15, 2022 – Affordable Housing Program Workshop**

3. **Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) for the Injury and Death Investigation CJSTC#036 Training**
4. **Approval of Resolution 2022-013 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2022**
Item moved to 5a

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on January 18, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith read the above statement aloud.

Rosetta Hylton-Rolle Anderson and Kim Gilmore from Donate Life Florida appeared before the Board to thank them for lighting up the Courthouse in April for Donate Life Month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. **Potter Woodberry Road Supplemental Agreement**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

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

5a. **Approval of Resolution 2022-013 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2022**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND COMMISSIONER HINSON ASKED FOR A BRIEF SYNOPSIS.

Mr. Dixon explained they were budget amendments for a FRDAP grant, a SCOP grant for Spooner Road, a Small County EOC design grant and a CDBG-DR grant of \$2.5 million. He explained every time they receive new money, they have to amend the budget to show where it has come in and this seeks that approval.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

5b. **Request for Letter of Support for Havana Community Development Corporation**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was a request from the Havana Community Development Corporation, Inc. for a letter of support.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked why this did not come before the Board.

Chair Viegbesie said he understood the Congressman contacted them outside of the meeting and asked them to submit the application with a Letter of Support.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if this item was included on the dais and was told yes.

Commissioner Holt said she did support this, she just wanted to get an organized process.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. Clinical Internship Agreements with Area Colleges

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for board approval for Clinical Internship agreements with various colleges in the area.

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

7. Approval of Construction-Educational & Vocational Building

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval to construct an Educational and Vocational Training Center on the grounds of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Correctional Facility for inmates to help reduce recidivism. It is designed to offer training courses for inmates at the Gadsden County Correctional Facility and will be funded 100% by the Inmate Welfare Fund.

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

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could have more discussion because the community may have questions.

Col. Barkley with the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office appeared before the Board to explain the item.

Commissioner Holt said she visited one over by Pensacola and they did a lot of job training so when the inmates got out, they had basic job training. She said also while they were in the facility, they were able to go to job sites and work and earn money.

Commissioner Hinson thanked Col. Barkley and stated he had metamorphosized the jail.

Col. Barkley said Mr. Dixon was the one that actually started this program when he worked at the jail.

Rev. Gaines appeared before the board and spoke with the group thanking the Board for work they were doing in the Friendship Community regarding a Neighborhood Watch program.

8. Approval of the Purchase of the Mobile Medical Health Unit

Mr. Dixon said the Board agreed to purchase a mobile medical unit on behalf of the Community Health Council and the opportunity is before them and citizens will start seeing the bus out and about in the different communities.

Commissioner Holt thanked the Administrator and said when they were discussing this a few years ago, this was something that when people come to town, they could visit the mobile health unit. It will not be just for COVID, it will be for anyone that needed health care. She asked if it will belong to the County and Mr. Dixon said for all intents and purposes, it will belong to the Gadsden County Health Council because the grant is with the Health Council. She asked if the Health Council dissolved, where would the health unit go and Mr. Dixon said he did not know. She said her personal feeling was this should go under the Board.

Mr. Dixon explained the Health Council does a number of things and has multiple groups involved.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND WAS MADE BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE.

Commissioner NeSmith said from listening to Commissioner Holt's comments, it created some additional clouds and wanted to make sure he understood. He said the health unit would belong to the Health Council. Mr. Dixon said the grant was to the Health Council, Commissioner NeSmith said that was an entity of the Board and Mr. Dixon said it was independent of the Board.

Commissioner Holt said the reason she asked the questions was to get clarity and they did. The Health Council is doing what they were asked to do.

Commissioner NeSmith said the Health Council was an independent entity the Board set up and the Board does not interact and Mr. Dixon said they interact all the time.

Commissioner Hinson said it was similar to GCDC, was a nonprofit organization and if they decided they did not want to work with the Board, they could stop at any time and say thank you. He said he had a few questions; they have had this conversation a few times. Commissioner Holt and Mr. Dixon stated it will be the County Commissioners' mobile unit. Chair Viegbesie said if he understood his concerns, it was the same concerns the Clerk had in his email. Commissioner Hinson said the Board gave \$400,000 to this organization; they gave \$75,000 from the American Rescue Plan, \$225,000 and said Commissioner Holt signed a contract on October 18th.

Chair Viegbesie said this money is reimbursable and would not cost the County anything.

Commissioner Hinson said he had valid concerns and was on point. They approved to pay for this in October and asked the difference between then and now, was the money already spent? He said Commissioner Holt gave an interview on Channel 27 and they said in the

article, the Gadsden County Health Council has been given \$400,000 to start their mobile medical unit after the 2021 legislative session. He asked if they received the funding, why was the Board paying additional funding?

Mr. Dixon said most of the money that came to the Council, came in and went out for the fight of COVID. The Health Council was the vessel used to rapidly give information out in the fight for COVID. The Health Council is the agency to move quickly on the Board's behalf and most of the money is passed through. They also provided free medicine for the citizens if they qualify. They also gave \$75,000 and that was to power the board and operationalize the bus if there was no other funding.

Commissioner Hinson said last year between May-June, \$75,000 went towards the bus. Last year in October they gave \$225,000 or \$250,000 for the mobile unit. Did they receive the \$400,000 or how much did they receive out of that?

Mr. Dixon said if he was speaking to the grant, the Health Council was only able to draw down for the service provided. Only about \$40,000-\$60,000 of that money has been spent for the mobile unit. The only reason the Council asked for this to be fronted, they do not have that money to purchase.

Commissioner Holt said this was really not the issue because they set the Health Council up to do this. They put the money in, they purchase the unit, they go out in the community and do the work. Instead of looking at the where's and whys, they need to be applying for more money in order to get more funding. It was a simple process. The other stuff about what shed and should not be done would have to be looked at the next time, they need to apply for more money to keep it going until we get a hospital.

Commissioner Hinson said Commissioner Holt has said if the Chamber did not come presented to the Board, they should not receive funding. There are a lot of questions here. He said in every meeting, Commissioner Holt and Mr. Dixon said the County should own the unit. He said they could abandon the unit at any time. He felt they need to have and a conversation with the Health Council.

Chair Viegbesie asked if there was a motion and the Deputy Clerk said yes.

Commissioner Hinson continued and said he cared about the seniors and citizens of the county, he was for this but wanted to make sure they were compliant. He asked if they had a signed copy of the Grant agreement. Mr. Knowles said he received it today.

Chair Viegbesie said this was something they started, and may not like the way it was going right now and will not be costing the board.

Mr. Dixon said there are costs, there are deliverables to this grant that have time limits. If the bus is not purchased beginning this month the grant will be docked 10% and there will be costs each month.

Commissioner Hinson said was not our fault this was coming the day of and was an executive problem. He asked who the agreement was with, the Health Council or the Board and FDOH.

Mr. Knowles said the contract was between GCHC and FDOH. Commissioner Hinson asked about (in reference to the Clerk's email) the August 17, 2021 agreement.

Mr. Dixon said the agreement has never been with the County. The County is requesting funding for the Health Council, this was the same as HCDC asking for a letter of support for funding.

Commissioner Hinson said Mr. Dixon received the email same as he did and asked if the Clerk got something wrong?

Mr. Dixon said it was hard to believe but the Clerk may be mistaken.

Mr. Dixon said this contract came before them a number of times to store the unit. That is the deliverable that is needed to be met and they agreed to store and house the unit at that time. Commissioner Holt asked if the vehicle would be a County vehicle and he told her no. The agreement is with GCHC.

Mr. Dixon said the requirement is to be purchased by date, not to be delivered date.

Chair Viegbesie said there is the \$225,000 and \$75,000. The \$75,000 he recalled they fronted to the Health Council from the American Rescue Plan and also gave money to the Sheriff's Office. The \$250,000, even though they are loaning to the health council the disbursement is proof that some of money has been spent.

Commissioner Hinson said he was reading directly from the Clerk's email and constituents deserve to hear what is being said. He said it was understood by the Board that they would have ownership of the unit. How did everything change now? There was further discussion around the dais.

Commissioner Holt said she put a and motion in to call the question but if they could go ahead and vote, she would rescind her motion.

Chair Viegbesie said the motion is rescinded and started to call for the vote and Mr. Dixon interrupted. Mr. Dixon said they need to move the money and take the money from the General Fund.

COMMISSIONER HOLT AMENDED HER MOTION TO MOVE MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN ORDER TO PURCHASE THE MOBILE UNIT WITH THE REIMBURSEMENT ELEMENT AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE CHAIR CALLED FOR THE VOTE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON STATED HE HAD A QUESTION. COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID FOR THE CHAIR TO CARRY THE MOTION. CHAIR VIEGBESIE SAID THE PROPER THING WOULD BE IF HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE MOTION TO NOT VOTE FOR IT. COMMISSIONER HINSON SAID HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE ENTIRE MOTION, HE SUPPORTED GETTING THE MOBILE UNIT BUT DID NOT SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF IT. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

Mr. Dixon said for clarity, they did give the Council \$75,000 for the operation of the mobile unit. All previous money has been for the fight against COVID.

CLERK OF COURT

9. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

10. Updates

Mr. Dixon asked for a Proclamation for Public Works Week.

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

Mr. Dixon asked for a Proclamation for EMS Week.

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

Mr. Dixon said they were moving on grants in terms of the Emergency Operation Center and putting forward as a placeholder the Correctional Complex as the home, however they are looking at other opportunities for siting of it and other new County facilities.

Chair Viegbesie said he wanted to bring to his attention, when driving on Pt. Milligan Road, he saw they had started working on the widening and resurfacing of the road, however there are heaps of trash along the road and suggested it be picked up so construction is not obstructed. Mr. Dixon said citizens need to be mindful and careful along that road because they are placing big pieces of concrete for the project.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

11. Updates

Mr. Knowles said Mrs. Bradley contacted them regarding the scheduling of an Executive Session and the date will be Tuesday, May 10th at 4:00 p.m. and the insurance Council has requested a Special meeting after the shade meeting at 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER GREEN SAID SO MOVED AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

12. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she was not trying to badger the Administrator tonight but the reason she asked the questions was she has had some calls. She did not know who asked the Clerk for this but if the Clerk sends out a letter, he should be at the meeting so he could answer some of the questions and they could ask him themselves. She said she did not know who would ask

the Clerk questions, but they need to know how the interest on the county's money is being invested; what is the amount of interest being invested as of this year; in which funds are they invested; how much is invested in each fund; what are the institutions of investment; which bank holds the county funds for that. She said that needed to be looked at carefully in case of a major recession, they need to have the money invested in more than one bank.

She said she talked with two pastors and they are impressed with the Board and with the Administration. Commissioner Holt said to Commissioner Hinson she had no idea about some of the information that he said she said and was not going to try to figure it out. She only knew what she said and when she makes a statement she sticks by her statement.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he was going by what the Clerk asked and it was not an attack on anybody. If funding it's going out, they need to make sure they were in line with what it is out there.

He said he had two people call him today regarding having issues with refurbishing their homes, ramps, etc. They used to have money and they abolished that a few years ago. They have a lot of leaking roofs in the County. He proposed to the Board they give each commissioner \$50,000.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:49 p.m.

He said each Commissioner would have funds and could send residents to the office to SEE if they qualify. He asked the Board to create an agenda item for the next meeting for a vote on the next meeting.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:50 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:51 p.m.

He stated he would like to bring this in the next two weeks to the Board for the Emergency Housing Program to refurbish houses and put IN \$50,000.

He said staff was doing a wonderful job, has been hearing great things and they are putting people first and thanked them. He had someone call him last week and he called staff and have not got return call and it is about the legislative aides' position, he had someone interested. Mr. Dixon asked if he called HR and he said he called last week and has had no return call.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said to follow-up comments just made by Commissioner Hinson, he went to Bradwell Mortuary and passed on condolences to Jeronda Robinson and her sister for the loss of their father.

He also sent heartfelt well wishes to Commissioner Green for his sister, who had a medical condition last week.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:55 p.m.

He sent out congratulations to Sawdust community for the great work they are doing in that area and revitalizing the Sawdust Park.

He thanked the members of the Martin L. King committee for providing lunch today and said it was fantastic.

He thanked the Chair and commissioners for creating a holistic and inviting atmosphere at commission building.

Mr. Dixon said to piggyback on his point, he thanked them for presenting the to the atmosphere and staff believes they are looking after them. He thanked them for providing such an atmosphere.

He further stated, he was not proposing a message board as large as what was on the Courtyard, he just would like a messaging board on the Courthouse lawn that could be seen from east to west.

He said the people of Gadsden County wanted to recommend a development of a new ordinance that would require the Chair make a State of Gadsden County address each year at a designated time after the Presidential Address, possibly sometime in March.

He said in closing he wanted to close out with a comment made by Commissioner Hinson regarding legislative aides, he had an opportunity to meet with the County Administrator and the Director of Human Resources and was asked if they had someone in mind and they informed HR they want to open it to the public. The recommendation was made that it be brought to the Board for discussion but as Commissioner Hinson stated earlier, they're ready to move forward with legislative aides and hurt record start advertising for the positions.

Mr. Dixon said he did not recall the Board voting, it was an individual Commissioner's choice.

Commissioner Holt said they must advertise the position because it is government money and the Commissioners should not pick and choose. She said she did not agree with aides in the first place but felt it should be open to the public and anyone could apply. She said she was not going to change what she said because she felt it was a mis-use of government funds.

Commissioner Hinson said at the time, Commissioner NeSmith felt he wanted an aide. He talked with other commissioners throughout the country and other commissioners do not advertise. He said they say one thing and do another thing and stated with no disrespect to the Administrator, Commissioner Holt picked him, selected him without him applying and it was not advertised. They picked him the same day after they had gone through the process.

Chair Viegbesie said in Leon County, each Commissioner determines their aide and it then goes through HR to get the paperwork done. He said he did not think they really needed aides but new in other counties they select their aides and then HR goes through the process but this was something they needed to discuss.

Commissioner Holt said Commissioner Hinson echoed her name to death tonight and said Commissioner Hinson voted for Mr. Dixon. She said she did not put him in office, she put in a motion and the Board voted on it. She said they had advertised the position several times. She said they could not settle the contract and if they lost the Interim County Administrator, there would be no-one.

Commissioner NeSmith said he did not mention aides for it to take this direction. The only point they wanted to make was to not remove the decision of who the aide is from the Commissioner but to look at the applicant pool and be a part of the interview process.

Commissioner Ron Green

Commissioner Green said he had also been receiving a lot of phone calls in reference to housing and people needing assistance and did meet with Ms. Sonya Burns informed him of the rural development direct home repair program application, which if a person was 62 years and above, could apply for a \$7,500 grant that could alleviate some of the things such as doors, ramps, etc. and if more was needed, they would allow a process to happen to where they could assess the needs and give them a caseworker that could possible help them qualify for a low interest loan. He added they were trying to find every avenue possible to be a help to the community.

He gave a thank you to Our Florida and staff for coming out on Sunday to New Life Ministries to present the Our Florida Assistance for the rental and utility assistance and had approximately 60 families that were facing evictions that they were going to be able to help.

He made a request for a Proclamation for Ms. Josephine Johnson, who just retired from Publix. She said she worked 51 years there.

COMMISSIONER HOLT SAID SO MOVED AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

And he asked for a schedule for the mowing in the districts.

Mr. Dixon said in reference to the grass cutting, Mr. Lee informed him today that even though they were ordered last year, they will be getting in the new tractors next week.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said with the Housing department, if she could put together a packet and what they do to give to the Commissioners so they could distribute to citizens to inform them what would be available would be a good thing.

He said for the citizens who use Pt. Milligan Road, they were about to start the widening and have concrete barriers on the side of the road and asked they be careful in driving on the road.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO REQUEST A RESOLUTION FOR TWO INDIVIDUALS, CHARLIE SHAW AND ARTHUR BODISON AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:22 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 17, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, District 5 - Zoom
Eric Hinson, District 1 - Zoom
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Pastor Randy Ross gave the Invocation and the Chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no amendments to the Agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Proclamation Honoring Gadsden County Public Works Week

Mr. Dixon said we are honoring Public Works tonight. The Public Works employees came forward and Chair Viegbesie read aloud the Proclamation and it was then presented to them.

2. Proclamation Honoring Gadsden County Emergency Medical Services Week

The EMS employees came forward and Chair Viegbesie read aloud the Proclamation for them and it was then presented to them.

Commissioner Hinson appeared by Zoom and wanted to personally congratulate the individuals.

3. Proclamation Honoring Older Americans 2022 – Gretna

Chair Viegbesie read aloud the Proclamation and it was presented to them.

4. Proclamation Honoring Older Americans 2022 – Havana

Berta Kemp appeared before the Board and the Proclamation was presented to her on behalf of the Havana Senior Citizens.

5. Presentation from the Boys and Girls Club regarding the Quincy Facility

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item.

Kacy Dennis, CEO, appeared before the Commissioners. He has been a part of the organization for the past 18 years. He stated that they have a \$500,000 donation from Donor Mike May and is asking for a match from the County. He stated with the more BGC programs they have, there will be a decrease in violent crimes. He described what the BGC program is about, how it impacts the children and the outcomes of the program.

Rebecca Edwards Pustejovsky, Boys and Girls Club Board Member, appeared before the Board and said her focus is growing the reach and the impact of the BGC in Gadsden County. The first step was to promote and introduce the BGC to many people who had not previously been involved. She stated the Under the Blue Moon Soiree in March raised \$85,000 for the BGC. She stated they created a positive momentum and they do not plan on stopping there. She shared some comments from the public stating how great the event turned out.

Sara Mitchell, Trulieve, appeared before the Board and said Trulieve is happy to partner with the BGC to offer free summer program memberships to Trulieve dependents in Gadsden County and it would be approximately 140 children. With the partnership with BGC and through donations, Trulieve will help the BGC purchase back packs and they will have toy drives for the Christmas season.

Miles Black appeared before the Board. He has been a member of the BGC since he was 5 years old. He stated the benefits of being a member. He was also one of the five members selected from the football team to go to nationals in Orlando, Florida and they won. He made great friendships that he can depend on. He stated he was also a summer youth helper.

Shea Simmons, parent of a member, appeared before the Board. She stated she has found the BGC to be refreshing, innovative and the members become family. She's a product of Joe Ferolito and the crew from the Quincy Recreation Department. She stated that her and her husband both work and are sorely disappointed that recreation and after-school activities have gone by the wayside in the County and in the city. As a parent, she has seen the benefit of the program and she is imploring and begging the Board to please fully fund this deserving program.

Ms. Shawanna Moye, Gadsden County Area Director for Boys and Girls Club, appeared before the Board to talk about the proposal and strategic planning for a state-of-the-art stand-alone facility in Gadsden County. The proposed design is located at 640 South Shelfer Street, Quincy, FL 32351. She stated that this project could cost between 3.5 – 4 million dollars to complete.

Commissioner Green appeared via Zoom and said he was in support of the Boys and Girls Club. He stated he was glad to hear the goal was reached from the event in March and is hoping that the Board can come along side to support the effort of the BGC because it is a needed thing for our County.

Chair Viegbesie stated he will in his part do all he possibly can and be an advocate for it and will do the best that they can do to make sure that this endeavor is a part of something that we have in Gadsden County.

Commissioner Holt thanked them for the presentation. She wanted to make sure the Board workshopped this item to make sure it is successful and explore all avenues of funding. She wants to make sure there is a good working plan they can go by.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked them for coming and the work they are doing. He stated that the Board is very serious when it comes to young people about their well-being. He echoed the other commissioners that they will do everything they can to bring this into fruition and expanding it because we have to keep our youth in positive activities.

Commissioner Hinson thanked them for the presentation and he has been a strong supporter for years. He stated he has brought the conversation up before with the BGC former CEO about bringing the BGC to Havana.

Chair Viegbesie thanked them for their service and stated that they will do everything that they can possibly do to make the investment they need for a better Gadsden County future. He stated the best is yet to come.

CONSENT

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

6. **Ratification Memo**
7. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - **April 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**
8. **Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training for Colonel Bobby Collins to attend the Breath Test Operator Course CJSTC #851**
9. **Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay the Annual Membership Fee and SHRM-CP (Certified Professional) Exam Fee for the Human Resources Director**
10. **Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund (LEEF) to pay for training for five deputies and investigators to attend the “Statement Analysis Interviewing Techniques” seminar in Tallahassee, Florida**
11. **Approval of Signatures for Special Assessment Liens and Rehabilitation Contracts – State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP); Hurricane Housing Repair Program (HHRP); Emergency Repair Program (ER)**
13. **Satisfaction of Judgement – Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners Waste Service**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on May 17, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

Pastor Willie Gaines, 5775 Ben Bostic Road, Quincy – Community Neighborhood.

He appeared before the Board and thanked them for allowing him to speak on behalf of the Friendship Community. One thing that was brought up was the fire hydrants, most of them were non-working or broken. He stated he has pictures to clarify on his phone. He also stated that there were some suggestions in the last meeting for signs to hold people accountable for littering. Another thing he has brought up before is that we desperately need speed limit signs. The last thing he wanted to mention is that our community is one of oldest communities in Gadsden County and unfortunately, we have been overlooked and outdated.

Commissioner Holt stated that she has talked about some of these items with Pastor Gaines and if they work together with Mr. Lee and Mr. Dixon, they can get some of those improvements done.

Tracey Stallworth, 770 Selmar Road – Juneteenth Celebration – appeared before the Board.

He represented Faith in Florida and had Impact Gadsden Interfaith Council join him. They have partnered together and will be having the Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 17th, 2022. Mr. Stallworth wants the Board's support and have them participate because this year will honor fathers. The theme is "We See You".

Janice Harris appeared before the Board from Impact Gadsden Interfaith Council and she asked the Board to help get the word out. She stated the event will be on Friday, June 17th from 6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m. at the Quincy Courthouse.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have produced an electronic or digital flyer yet. Mr. Stallworth stated it will be completed by this Friday. Commissioner NeSmith asked if it can be forwarded to the Board once completed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 14. First Public Hearing:** To receive Comments from the Public on the County's Community and Economic Development Needs and to Describe how the CDBG Program Can Address and Identify Needs

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated this was for discussion of County's Community and Economic Development needs and to describe how the CDBG program can address the identified needs.

Justin Stiell, Director of Planning Department, appeared before the Board. He stated that they are going to be applying for the CDBG program in July. This is the first of two public hearings and

he explained the grant. There will be a second public hearing in June as part of the application process.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments from the audience and there were none.

Commissioner Holt asked that it be noted that cities could apply for grants and this would not prohibit them from applying. This could be for economic development, street improvements, etc.

GENERAL BUSINESS

15. Approval of the Gadsden County Jail 2022 Planned Service Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated that it is the contract that services all of the emergency lighting, doors and etc., throughout the jail. It is a regular contract that requires the Board's permission in the order of \$3,055.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if this was an annual agreement. Mr. Dixon stated yes. Commissioner NeSmith asked if it is the same amount as last year. Mr. Dixon stated it is roughly the same amount.

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

16. Approval of Amendment A1 to the Agreement with the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Department of Health

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated it amends the contract to add language regarding civil rights into the contract.

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

17. Approval and Appointment of AHAC New Committee Members

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated that this is a committee that is responsible for aiding them with the SHIP housing program. They have asked for more money and this committee now requires more members, from eight to eleven, so members have been added and they are before the Board for approval.

Commissioner NeSmith asked what the term lengths are for the members. Chair Viegbesie stated it is staggered.

Sonya Burns, Housing Coordinator, appeared before the Board and said the terms are staggered but it is always at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners.

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

18. Approval of a Task Order for the Design of a Pavilion for the Gadsden County Recreation and Multipurpose Sports Complex at St. Hebron

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. He stated this would make the park more usable by the community at large and more aesthetically pleasing. This request is to create a \$3,750 task order with Dewberry Engineering.

Commissioner NeSmith had questions and asked if there were design costs. The representative from Dewberry Engineering, Justin Ford, stated yes. Commissioner NeSmith asked if there was something unique with this pavilion as there are pavilions in other parks. Mr. Ford stated yes, there has been some discussion about trying to get away from the traditional pole barn kits to something more aesthetically pleasing. He stated the Building Department said in order to make sure all the codes are met and to get the permits, they need something signed and sealed by an engineer. He reached out to the sub-contractor to do the structural design. He also stated this plan can be used over and over in different areas.

Commissioner Holt asked what the design will be. Mr. Ford stated he did not have the design with him but it will be a single pitched pavilion with an architectural look with stacked stone around the bottom. It will also be more expensive to construct it but will be more appealing. Commissioner Holt asked if they will have one for each district, if not, she could not vote for it.

Mr. Dixon said there has been a conversation of making all parks more aesthetically pleasing. He stated they have been talking in the budget about upgrading all parks.

Commissioner Holt said they must do a budget in park design for the district. She wanted the Commissioners to understand that she wants a pavilion in all districts. She said one design, five buildings. She stated she is still trying to get a bathroom made in St. John and there are other things she has asked for that has not been addressed. Mr. Ford said this would not be a recurring cost if the pavilions are made in different areas.

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

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

Chair Viegbesie asked the Deputy Clerk if there are any updates from the Clerk. Deputy Clerk stated no.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Chair Viegbesie asked Mr. Dixon if there is anything to report. Mr. Dixon stated he had nothing to report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Updates

Attorney Knowles apologized for the confusion about the shade session. He stated the in-person court reporters are hard to come by to physically show up. In saying that, he requested that they have a shade meeting Tuesday, May 24th at 4:00 p.m. and a special meeting at 5:00 p.m. He stated his motion for the shade meeting is to discuss a litigation strategy in one of the pending litigation cases.

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

Attorney Knowles reminded his two Canvassing Board members, Commissioner NeSmith and Commissioner Green, that they need to do their signature training and he needs the certificates.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

19. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt passed out a packet to all of the Commissioners of invoices for legal fees that have been charged over the last year. She stated that they ran over \$106,000 and she was very interested in having in-house legal services. She stated for the \$84,000 they could have had in-house legal work done. She was going to put in a motion but she wants to give the Commissioners an opportunity to look over the invoices. She also asked the Attorney for all of the invoices after the last one in the packet, that she receives a copy of those invoices. She stated that in order for them to do workshops, they have to know what they are paying for. She thinks this one should be first workshop so that they know what they are paying for. She stated she will be putting in motions as they go along.

Commissioner Holt asked for a Proclamation for Ethel Armstead, she is turning 100 years old.

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

Commissioner Holt received several calls about the Board being unprofessional with the long-drawn-out comments. She stated that she informed them that they are trying to take care of the business of the County but they wanted them to be more on task.

She also brought up about them going after funding for different projects. It was mentioned that they are bringing items to be done but the Commissioners are not finding funding.

She stated there was a question about Intercommunal travel between Gadsden County and Leon County. It was asked that if the Board was going to have infrastructure money coming, how can they use that money for transportation to get people back and forth to work. She asked that it is looked into and if they will do grants with Leon County or with Big Bend.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson asked to schedule a budget workshop soon. He also wanted to schedule an American Rescue Plan workshop. He stated there is a budget of 4.5 million dollars. In that

budget, they need to start looking at lobbying. He asked to increase and at least double the amount of what was budgeted.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith apologized to Robbie Jones for not understanding the peanut butter jar campaign. He didn't know that the campaign included the peanut butter in the jar. He apologized for littering him with empty peanut butter jars.

He thanked Mr. Dixon and Mr. Lee for the attention to Tolar Road and the culvert.

He thanked Mrs. Bradley for the meeting with the City of Chattahoochee regarding their upcoming event. He said Mrs. Bradley represented them well.

He stated that it was brought to his attention that the City of Chattahoochee is partnering with the Gadsden County School Board for an electronic message Board on the campus of Chattahoochee Elementary School. It will be used to share information that goes on with the school district and with the City of Chattahoochee.

He stated there will be a special event on Friday at 3:00 p.m. where they will have an investiture ceremony of the Circuit Court Judge, Tiffany Baker, at the Quincy Courthouse.

He asked the Chair and the Commissioners to continue to think about having the State of the County Address.

He stated many of the citizens in Gadsden County are not aware of exactly what the Commission does. He asked if they could possibly think about creating a Gadsden County Citizens Academy where citizens take a class every year to expose them on how County government works.

He stated he is pleased to have Rosetta Rolle Hylton-Anderson back after having shoulder surgery a few weeks ago.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green was hoping to get a schedule for the road striping. He has had a few complaints again, especially on High Bridge Road.

He thanked Mr. Lee and Public Works for assisting on a call earlier this week.

He believes that there were some Neighborhood Watch signs that were supposed to have been designed and he wanted an update on them.

Mr. Dixon said he did not have any updates now but he will get with Mr. Lee and Ms. Steel about it and if he can contact them as soon as the meeting is over.

He thanked the Commissioners for a great meeting.

Commissioner Holt asked Attorney Knowles for an update on the census they were talking about how they can do anything to improve those numbers. Attorney Knowles said he can reach

back out to the University of Florida people that he spoke with previously. He stated that there was still some information they were looking at and there was also unfinished data. Mr. Dixon stated that the person they spoke to found great problems with the census and they were concerned about them propping down a lot of money into what they were considering unfinished data. Attorney Knowles will reach back out to them tomorrow and he will have a report at the next meeting.

Commissioner Holt said when it is time to get funding from the state and federal government, they need to be able to see if they can get funding from where they were last year. If their numbers are down, it's going to be difficult. She stated she is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the City of Gretna.

Mr. Dixon said to the point that Commissioner Holt made, they have received a lot of calls to come to the communities to talk about the issues in the area. He stated that the Board is available to talk to the community individually or collectively in group settings about what they are doing and how they are attacking situations.

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie thanked Public Works and EMS for their dedicated service to the citizens of Gadsden County.

He asked to name the Swamp Creek Bridge after Reverend Lewis Jackson in honor of his memory. He was fishing and drowned there doing what he loved to do. He asked for a motion to name the bridge the "Rev. Lewis Jackson" bridge with signs posted at both ends. He has spoken with FDOT and CRTPA and they stated that is the County's Road and it could be named as such if the Board wishes.

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

He motioned for a Resolution to present a celebration for the blessings of longevity for anyone 90+ years of age. There are eight so far:

Ora Green, Jointer Young, Geneva McCray, Perliess Murray, Inez Robinson, Jeanette Scott, Christell Williams, Willie Scott.

These resolutions will be presented to the seniors at the meeting of gathering place of the seniors, i.e. the senior center, or they will directly deliver it to their place of residence or a church.

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

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
May 17, 2022 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VEIGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 PM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**ANTHONY VIEGBESIE, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JUNE 7, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., asked Pastor Mark Moore to give the Invocation and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon said he would like to add Item 19a Approval of Concert in Chattahoochee; 19b Request to Amend Holiday Schedule and pull Item 18 Approval of Revisions to the County’s Procurement Policy and schedule it for a workshop.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- 1. Presentation Regarding the National Healthcare Conference for the Homeless**
Pat Smith of Pat’s Pantry made a presentation regarding the above conference.

Commissioner Green thanked her for all her hard work. He said they had a conversation several months ago regarding homelessness and would love to sit with her and discuss further.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they needed some type of infrastructure that the County could play a part in helping with. This was the first time in the history of the County, the County has resources and could do something. Money could come from a bond and they also have the Stevens School building.

Chair Viegbesie said whatever could be done for this cause was something that needed to be done.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND MADE SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the attorney had looked at all the items and was told yes.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **November 29, 2021 Special Meeting**
 - **May 3, 2022 – Regular Meeting**
4. **Approval of Funding from the Gadsden County Law Enforcement Education Fund for Training to Attend the Avalon’s August Schools on Civil Process 2022**
5. **Public Officials Bond Review**
6. **Approval of Satisfaction of Special Assessment Liens**
7. **Approval of I.F.W. Security, LLC Transition of Management and Ownership to Isaac Security, LLC**
8. **Approval of the Amendment of the 2021-2026 Mutual Aid Operations Plan between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, and Gadsden County Fire Service**
9. **Approval of the 2023 Small County Consolidated Waste Grant Application with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator’s Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on June 7, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the above statement.

Darrin Taylor, Esq., 215 N. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL Item 13

Brian P. Schreiber, Item 13

Michael A. Long, 94 Houston Road, Introduction/Project appeared before the Board. He said he has a passion for the County. In the Hardaway community, he would like to build a 55+ community of shipping container homes.

Gary Murray, 481 Woodberry Road, Quincy, FL appeared before the Board regarding Woodberry Road. He said he has lived in Gadsden County all his life, was a veteran and was a spokesperson for the road. He said the road was in very bad shape and have petitions and have

had surveys done and nothing has happened. He paid \$90 last month to have the road scraped and it has not been scraped yet. He asked the status and what more could he do to have the road adopted by the County. The road had been in terrible shape for 20+ years. He said people have their signs up wanting to be elected and not doing anything for the people on this road. Attached is the document that was given to the Commissioners by Mr. Murray.

“Hello On this evening I bring you greetings as a spokesperson for Woodbury Rd. I am Gary Murray, a long time fighter for the fixation of this road for over 20 years. I am humbly asking for your undivided attention today as we take heed as to how important it is that we fix this road in a timely madder in order to provide better living conditions for our citizens, me being gone myself. I feel that we should be given the right to have Woodbury Rd fixed properly without having to take any further steps.

Bullets Points

- This road is long overdue for fixation. It has been over 20 years that I and others have been humbly asking that we get a solution to this problem. We have asked elected officers several times and nothing has been done.
- We have children who are hindered from having playing time or even being able to play in a safe environment without parents being afraid that they may be hurt from uneven ground and roads.
- We have elected several officials on this panel for this county seat in hopes that we could possibly get something accomplished, however, we have become more and more disappointed the more we elect because none of the officials find this situation to be as important as it is
- There should be guidelines set in place for any upcoming official that holds this seat to have Woodbury Rd listed as one of the top roads to be fixed.
- Officials should set aside a day to go out and look, walk, or even ride the street of Woodbury Rd to understand how deep this concern has become and why it is so important to take action on this problem.
- I have served this country and fought for the rights of this for several years. I am now a Longtime Veteran for the U.S. Marine Corp. I was not afforded the opportunity to choose if I wanted to serve or not. Therefore, as officials you all should not be able to choose which problems you want to handle.
- I left to serve my country and I come back and I am not given the opportunity to have my road fix in order to provide better living and driving conditions for me as well as other citizens
- We have had to repair several equipment and vehicles due to the fact that the conditions of the road are so terrible.
- Officials are not thinking of all other elderly individuals who struggle to leave and come home everyday, trying not to damage their cars on Woodbury Rd At this point we have to come up with a solution and stop looking over that’s at hand.”

Commissioner Holt said she has been working on this for a long time and has paid for the road to be scraped 4 different times. She explained the procedure. Mr. Murray said with all due respect, they have been working on this road for over 20 years and nothing has been done. Commissioner Holt said the process has not been that long.

Mr. Dixon said those names have been given to the attorney so they can sign off on one of the steps of the process.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. Public Hearing: Second Public Hearing for Public Comments and Input as Required for Grant Application Submittal to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Ms. Daniels stepped in for Mr. Dixon and introduced the above item.

Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and said this was the second required public hearing and asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak regarding this matter either in favor or opposition and there was no-one.

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

11. Public Hearing: Legislative-Havana RV Park Special Exception Use (SE 2022-01)

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and said it was for approval of a Special Exception Use for Recreational Vehicle Park.

Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director, appeared before the Board and explained.

Chair Viegbesie announced it was a public hearing and asked any comments, there was none.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was any heartburn on approving this.

Commissioner Green said his antenna went up when it was stated there were issues that needed to be worked out.

Mr. Stiell said in part of their review, they look at everything and have not identified square footage of the camp site and are required to have 1500 square feet, the width of the campsite is required to be 30 feet and the campsite setbacks are required to be 20 feet. Once they provide the surveyed site plan, these issues will be worked out.

Mr. Stiell explained the options the Commissioners could vote on.

Commissioner Hinson asked why a sewer system and Mr. Stiell explained. Mr. Knowles also explained the site plan would come back to the board for approval.

Commissioner NeSmith had questions regarding the options, they can approve the park but was not approving the project and was told yes. Mr. Stiell said before they spend money for an engineer, they want to make sure the Board was willing to approve.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

12. Public Hearing: Legislative- Pat's Grocery Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment (SSPA 2021-03)

Chair Viegbesie explained the Patel's were clients of Mr. Knowles and he needed to recuse himself and Opal McKinney-Williams was appearing as Assistant County Attorney via Zoom.

Commissioner Holt asked if the same process was followed for the Planning Meeting and was told yes.

Mr. Stiell explained the above item and stated this is to bring the convenience store into Rural Residential conformity and then they could make upgrades to the store.

Chair Viegbesie announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any comments.

Commissioner Holt said this was contested during Planning and Zoning. Mr. Stiell said there was one person that came that had opposition to this. Commissioner Holt said Planning voted to deny this item. Mr. Stiell said the one person was concerned this might become an arcade site and since then have been informed by applicant and their agent that would not be happening, this was to make the site conforming to future land use category.

Commissioner Green asked the impact this would have on a rural community.

Commissioner Hinson echoed what was said earlier and looked at the recommendation of Planning being 0-7. He said he was interested if this could be sent back to Planning and have them review again as he was not comfortable voting on it.

Commissioner NeSmith echoed the previous comments and have the same concerns.

Mr. Stiell said the commissioners heard the possibility of a gaming arcade being added and could not identify the future of the site. Since that time, the applicant and agent have stated this would remain a convenience store and the gaming was never an issue that he was made aware of.

Commissioner Green asked, if possible, for this to go back to Planning so it could be better explained to them? Has that Board been informed this would not be an arcade? He added that he has seen convenience stores with arcades in them and would hate to see this happen.

Mr. Dixon returned to the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Mr. Stiell explained the options, if they give direction to send back to Planning, that is what would happen. Commissioner Holt said if arcades were a concern, that was no concern because arcades were illegal in the State of Florida.

Commissioner NeSmith asked Attorney McKinney-Williams if it was legally permissible for this to go back to Planning, she said yes.

Chair Viegbesie said he was told one reason for this change was because Dollar General was coming next door. He said he had no problem in moving this forward.

Mr. Dixon said he hit on the point he was going to make. By not allowing the zoning, it would not allow them to do better and compete.

Commissioner Holt said the Administrator said what she was going to say. This will be a store, it was what it was. If it is non-conforming, he could not fix up the store.

Commissioner Hinson said he was looking at the scenario, it was a rural area, people have invested in their property and this could impact citizens and their property.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they had representatives here and was told yes.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to be as clear as he could, the arcade comment came from somewhere and was glad they were here for clarification and he wanted assurance.

Elva Peppers, Florida Environmental & Land Services, Inc., 221-4 Delta Court, Tallahassee, FL 32303 appeared before the Board. She gave the history on the project; the store was built in 1944; and was present before there were any neighbors in the area. If the land-use is not changed, there will be no major improvements and would be a detriment to the business owners.

Commissioner Green thanked her for the clarity and as a business owner would not want to prohibit any improvements and felt a little less tense now.

Ms. Peppers said as far as the notice to property owners, they began the process approximately one year ago. The applicant had to join and separate property to obtain the size needed. She said there was a lot of notification.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the rebuttal and Mr. Stiell said he did not believe there was a chance for rebuttal at the Planning meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked the intent of the owners. Mr. Stiell said they want to move to commercial use, it currently is not zoned that way.

Mr. Dixon explained his understanding was if they were zoned, they would be neighborhood commercial and a store just as what they just approved down the street and they would continue in that same vein unless they said differently. Mr. Still said they are rural residential and public institutional and that does not allow for a convenience store. They are wanting to move to a commercial use that would allow them to make improvements.

Commissioner Hinson said if they want to expand their services, he moved they approve the item.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Holt said in order for him to improve his property, he needs it to be moved to commercial. He is commercial and was open every day. Mr. Dixon said his activities were commercial. She also said if there were any questions on his intent, he was present and could answer them.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie stepped out at 7:47 p.m.

13. Public Hearing: Quasi-Judicial-Midway Business Park (DA 2021-01) consideration of Ordinance 2021-012 amending the Gadsden Station Development of Regional Impact and approval of the Midway Business Park Development Agreement consistent with Chapter 163 Florida Statutes

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the board to consider Ordinance 2021-012 to remove the Anderson Columbia Property from the Gadsden Station Development of Regional Impact and to improve the Midway Business Park Development Agreement between Gadsden County and the developer, Anderson Columbia.

Mr. Stiell appeared before the Board and was sworn in by the Deputy Clerk. He explained the item. The DRI has been around since the late 80's. The Developer was looking to remove the DRI but maintain development of the property.

Vice-Chair Green announced this was a public hearing and asked if there were any public comments.

Darrin Taylor, Carlton Fields, P.A., 215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 500, Tallahassee, FL appeared before the Board and was sworn in. He explained what they were doing. He said the infrastructure was all in place and was now shovel-ready. He said they have 33 plotted lots available and were not asking for any more development, they were asking to cap.

Chair Viegbesie returned at 7:55 p.m.

He said they were not asking to reduce any obligations, they were trying to simplify the process that would apply to the park. He said they have before them two agenda items, the DRI amendment that would remove the Anderson property from the DRI Order and seeking a 163 Agreement, a type of agreement that is established in State Statutes Chapter 163.

Commissioner Hinson asked the pros and cons of the DRI.

Mr. Stiell said the DRI process was established prior to comp planning. They now have another guiding plan for development growth. The State no longer requires a DRI, it is creating confusion for shovel-ready projects and by removing Anderson Columbia from the DRI, they can say they have a development agreement and could go forward.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had the information in their packet regarding the history. He asked the attorney the pros and cons.

Mr. Knowles said Midway has annexed a majority of the property and the majority of the property owners that have been annexed are not subjected to the DRI because they are within a municipality and the County does not control that. He said this was more of an ease of use thing.

Commissioner Hinson said it was conflicting because GCDC brought this to them.

Mr. Dixon said then it was development regional impact and the DRI gave a single way for everyone to operate. Since then, the State has done away with the DRI in terms to govern this project.

Chair Viegbesie said his issue was to make it clearer, the parcel being considered was in County jurisdiction and was told correct.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if would enhance ability for development and was told yes.

Commissioner Holt said everything would come out on Brickyard Road and wanted to make sure the road could handle the traffic that would be coming. They need development and need to make sure traffic moves smoothly.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Approval of Resolution 2022-015; Leveraging of SHIP Funds for CDBG Application and Resolution 2022-016; Chairman or Designee Signature Authorization

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval to dedicate \$50,000 of SHIP funds to be used as leverage in the Gadsden County Small Cities FY 2021-2022 CDBG grant application.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH TO APPROVE OPTION 1 AND 2 AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15. Massey Building Lease 4845 Amendment One

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the board for the approval of amendment number one to lease number 4845 with the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida. The lease amendment will allow North Florida Health Corporation and the Senior Citizens to utilize the Massey building located in Chattahoochee, Florida

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson asked what changes were made. Mr. Dixon explained there were no real changes made, there were staff changes at the State and the new staff required documents to be redone.

Mr. Knowles explained the amendment allowed the sublease of the property.

Commissioner Hinson asked the changes to the lease and Mr. Knowles explained.

Commissioner Holt said that space was County space and did not belong to anyone.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

16. Approval of the USDA Lease Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of a lease amendment with the United States Department of Agriculture for the facility located on the west side of the livestock pavilion.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the services provided changed? Mr. Dixon explained in the previous agreement, it did not provide full custodian services. This agreement considers half the salary for a custodian, part of Mr. Meeks salary, have included costs for AC repairs, utilities, etc. He said it went to the Board in 2021 when Dr. Grant was Interim County Administrator and there is a breakdown of the costs attached.

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

17. Johnson Controls Proposal and Service Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was presented to the board to approve Johnson Controls proposal and service agreement for repairs to the Pre-Action Fire Suppression System in the W. A. Woodham building.

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

18. Approval of Revisions to the County's Procurement Policy

Item pulled

19. Approval of the Cochran Road Professional Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval to execute the SCOP agreement for the Cochran Road widening and resurfacing.

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

19a Approval of Billy Dean/Dean & Company, Inc. Contract/ Weather Works Insurance, Indemnification Agreement, Rhema Sounds Agreement and other Contingencies for the 4th of July Event in Chattahoochee, FL

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item. The county has agreed to become full partners with Chattahoochee and expect a great crowd. It is Chattahoochee's program and they have agreed to partner with them. They feel it is a great opportunity to showcase Gadsden County.

Commissioner Green felt this was a great opportunity. He said Greensboro was also doing fireworks, was not sure what other municipalities were doing, and he was in support of this. He asked if this was something that can be moved around on a yearly basis so the County can come together collectively and not have everyone doing their own thing.

Commissioner Hinson felt personally this was a wonderful idea. His concern was the \$47,854.99. He said just imagine putting this into housing or furnishing someone a ramp. They could use this money and give each commissioner \$10,000 to fix needed houses. He said Chattahoochee will be just fine and has funding to take care of themselves and would have this if the County helped or not.

Chair Viegbesie said his only concern was this could be packaged as a Gadsden County 4th of July celebration and move it to different areas over the years and increase tourism. Make it a Gadsden County event and this year they were partnering with Chattahoochee, next year Quincy, the following year Havana, etc.

Commissioner NeSmith said they have had in-depth discussions on that issue and have emphasized “One Gadsden” and have recognized all municipalities have identities and when they partner with them, it would enhance those municipalities. He asked if he was correct that support will go from city to city.

Commissioner Holt said she was looking at economic development a little differently. They will need to partner with towns and she was looking at long-term. She felt they need to budget for what Commissioner Hinson mentioned. They need to vote as the 4th of July is next month, if they are doing this, they need to go ahead and do so. If they were rotating, she thought fireworks look better on the water. They need to do this in order to bring in tourists and also, they need to encourage vendors.

Commissioner Green said he agreed with everything said but would like the Administrator to give an explanation on some of the projects coming in reference to housing and what they were working towards. He did not want it to be misleading they were spending money on an event and not investing it to the citizens. He said they have things in place that will solidify that will help and assist people in getting roofs done, etc.

Mr. Dixon said they had a Town Hall (meeting) at New Direction last night. Housing was a particular choice and Sonya Burns, the Housing Director and Mr. Stiell laid out plans and goals for housing. They invested tonight \$50,000 so they could draw down ¾ Million dollars on how to get ramps, emergency repairs and have not put limits in regards to those numbers. They also are meeting needs in reference to contractors working.

Commissioner Hinson said they did a great job in the past. Each commissioner received \$1.7 Million in the past to resurface roads. They have houses that need to be fixed today.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 8:48 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said he did not think they were prioritizing. Last year Chattahoochee wanted a fire truck for \$150,000, they did not give them the fire truck and now were giving them \$47,000.

Commissioner Green returned at 8:49 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith said regarding vendors, there will be vendors and will be local vendors at the event. The more successful the program is, the more successful it will be for the vendors.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR OPTION 1 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

19b Approval to Amend the 2022 Holiday Schedule

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said they had scheduled Friday to observe the holiday Juneteenth, and wanted to amend the holiday schedule and change it to Monday to be in line with other businesses.

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

CLERK OF COURT

20. Updates

None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

21. Updates

Mr. Dixon requested a Proclamation for Probation.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY CHAIR VIEGBESIE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION

Mr. Dixon said the Keys to New Home tour will be Wednesday at 9:15; on Saturday, June 11th will have a Housing Program Home Ownership Fair; on Saturday, June 18th will have the Gadsden County Annual Hurricane Preparedness Health and Safety Fair at the Wal-Mart parking lot;

Chair Viegbesie said in the month of July, they approved cancellation of meetings due to conference trips that conflict with meetings. Now, none are of issue and since they have so much to do, requested they reinstate meetings for the month of July, on July 6th and July 19th.

Commissioner Hinson said it was not about them, but gives staff a chance to spend time with family for the summer. Chair Viegbesie said he heard and looked at August and that is election month. He said there was a second meeting in June and they could discuss then.

Commissioner Green said he felt they needed to decide tonight so could make preparation if there was going to be a meeting. He asked if the Administrator could speak on behalf of the impact on staff.

Mr. Dixon said it was important to staff and he asked for this last year because they have a routine and that does not change. It gives them an opportunity to power-down, not only the

meeting but to get things done without adding a meeting. He said it does allow top staff time to be away when there are no meetings scheduled.

Chair Viegbesie said they are the ones that deal directly with the citizens and will address this in the policy workshop in August.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

22. Updates

Mr. Knowles said they have a letter received regarding the Breach of Broadband Agreement and wanted to make them aware of potential litigation.

He said they will have a probate meeting Saturday that starts in Chambers and moves to Courthouse regarding heir property.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

23. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt asked when have County meetings, to please brief the Commissioner from that district with minutes and when a briefing of the concerns from that area so they were not unaware of the questions. She said regarding Mr. Murray that spoke earlier, no matter how much you wanted to help someone, you could not break the law. She added that 1/3 – 2/3 law is good law and was torn apart when it was used in a community where commissioners on the previous Board decided they did not have to follow the rules. If you have a group of workers on private property doing work, anyone could call and someone is going to jail. She said it was a third-degree felony and citizens don't understand. She said this must be done legally.

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said COVID is real and is back. He encouraged the community to not take this lightly.

He said he received a letter where a citizen expressed frustration in locating property to purchase a home in Gadsden County that had high-speed internet available. They said they needed an area that supported VPN and there were only a select few neighborhoods that had that high-speed connection and even the hotspots would not work for what was needed by them.

He asked the Administrator to expound on the County funds received from the State and would like the community to hear about it.

Mr. Dixon said what that was, the Government funding of the CDBG-DR grant that was requested. The first was with the City of Quincy for \$23,000 to replace a failing by-pass pump with a new permanent one. He said under the CDBG-CV program through DEO, the County was awarded \$1.777 Million to refurbish Stevens School Shelter. The cities had requested and received as follows:

- The City of Gretna received \$504,000 for road and utility improvements and preparation of construction of a new facility that will create 14 jobs;
- The City of Chattahoochee \$3.7 Million to help rehabilitate an existing former school building for use as a Senior Center;
- \$2.2 Million for the City of Gretna to expand the City’s Community Center to allow for the provision of public health services;
- \$600,000 to the City of Midway to construct an education center with ADA compliant bathrooms, 5 station shooting stand, automated clay throwing equipment and a fire station small bore rifle range. He added that was not to the City of Midway but to a business within the City of Midway.

Commissioner Green asked that he email a copy of that list to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson clarified that was for the cities that applied for it and Mr. Dixon said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said he was approached by a family member from Figgers Foundation and they talked about all the things done to support the citizens of the County. He asked to do a Proclamation for Figgers Foundation.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE A PROCLAMATION FOR FREDDIE FIGGERS AND FIGGERS FOUNDATION.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said he received an accommodation with regards to the County Administrator this morning and read it aloud regarding animal control.

He said they have been informed they have their first workshop regarding economic development that is being scheduled and it was very important.

He said they use word “Proclamation” for everything and other cities use different titles, such as Certificate of Recognition, Honorarium, a multitude of different ways to recognize achievements in the community. He asked they direct the administrator to come up with the appropriate terminology for the different recognitions.

He said this is Kidney Awareness Week.

He mentioned the Love Where You Live campaign and is a goal they have adopted. He wanted to make sure the County partners with the State of Florida and wanted to make sure State property is properly maintained and mowed.

He said generally, people have to watch Tallahassee news stations to get local news and asked why we did not have our own local new station in the County?

He said he met with the Administrator earlier and covered a number of topics.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Vice Chair, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked Mr. Dixon, Mr. Stiell and Ms. Burns for a productive town hall meeting yesterday. He also thanked Public Works for grass being cut in his district.

He said he would like to have the rules and regulations on abandoned houses because he had a couple of situations within his district.

One thing that grasped his attention tonight was the notification process when having public hearings. He would like to find a more transparent way to get notifications out.

Lights at Park

He said he received calls in reference to the park in Shiloh. He said he knew there were no lights because the park is opened from dusk to dawn but if there were lights, it would help eliminate some illegal activities going on

Commissioner Anthony O. Viegbesie, Chair, District 2

Chair Viegbesie said with regard to that comment, they might look at solar lights to help provide lighting in the area.

Commissioner Holt mentioned she was still waiting for restrooms at the park in St. Johns. Also, there were two business people that came to town from Bainbridge and they asked why there was trash piled up alongside the road. She said the process was started after Hurricane Michael to help people with debris, not to be a continuous thing of piling trash along the roadway. She added people needed to take trash to the dump and not pile it up on the roadway.

CHAIR VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR PASTOR LOUISA L. THOMAS AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Viegbesie said regarding money that came to the County, he personally thanked Governor Ron DeSantis for his generous goodwill toward Gadsden County and for not vetoing any Gadsden County projects.

Amazon Warehouse

He made an appeal to media, Priority News, if they would look into making a complete and thorough investigative report as to why Gadsden County lost the warehouse to Leon County and to publish the findings in the paper. He added he had received a lot of inquiries regarding that. He felt the newspaper group had the resources to investigate that matter and then could publish their findings to let the public know the how's and why's the warehouse went to Leon County.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
June 7, 2022 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:00 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON JUNE 14, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, District 5
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator - Zoom
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:07 p.m. The Invocation was led by Vice Chair Green. Chair Viegbesie then led to the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (3-MINUTE LIMIT)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator’s Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on June 14, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Nesmith read the above item.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Proposed Revisions to Gadsden County’s Procurement Policy Presentation

Mr. Dixon is present via Zoom. He turned his presentation over to Ms. Daniels.

Ms. Daniels presented Ms. Cheri Keiler who works with the Integrity Group. She will go over the changes to the procurement policy.

Commissioner Holt entered workshop at 4:11 p.m.

Ms. Daniels said the presentation is a walk through on the revisions that are being proposed for the procurement policy. There were some things in the policy that were no longer in effect. She said some things were kind of confusing and they looked at what other counties were doing as well.

Cheri Keiler stated she will be giving a presentation on the changes for the current policy as amended in 2017. She stated a lot of the revisions are necessary to bring the county’s purchasing policy current with today’s purchasing environment, trends and conditions. Also, so that they are in compliance with the state and federal laws. She went over the first section 2.0, the Application of Policy: Revisions to Current Sections. She said it is a list of procurement

activities that are exempt from competitive procurement. She went over the revisions that they have made to current sections. The first one was subsection 2.3, exemptions to the purchasing policy. She said they added some language in to state that even though they have those exemptions, it doesn't prohibit the Board from directing the county or the county administrator to competitively procure them. It simply gives them authority to not competitively procure them. She went over section 2.31; heavy equipment repairs shall be exempted from the competitive sealed bid requirements. She said that normally, when a piece of heavy equipment breaks down, there's a limited number of vendors or the vendor it was purchased from. She said they are exempt unless it is determined that it should be competitive and the purchasing director should be involved. That change also increased to anything in excess of \$150,000 would come before the Board. If it is \$150,000 or less, the authority to approve that repair would rest with the County Administrator, the Assistant County Administrator or the designated department director based on their authority.

Commissioner Nesmith asked about the new language. He asked what is the current language? Ms. Keeler said she did not have the current policy in front of her. Commissioner Nesmith just wants to compare the policies. Ms. Daniels clarified the difference.

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 4:21 p.m.

Ms. Daniels stated they bought a lot of heavy equipment over the past few years. She said the County Administrator was already approving the emergency repairs. She said they wouldn't normally procure those kinds of things. She gave an example of it.

Commissioner Nesmith asked if the state laws require the governmental entity to put it up for bid. Ms. Daniels said exactly, because of proprietary reasons. Ms. Keeler said there is one exception to that. She said they may get a grant agreement that required it. She said if they are using county money, game busters, but if federal or state grants come in to it, then that's when they always have to take a pause to make sure that the grant agreement requirement and the purchasing policy are consistent. This language allows them to travel both highways.

Commissioner Nesmith asked if it is \$150,000 or less, the County Administrator would have the authority to authorize that repair?

Ms. Daniels said if it is \$150,000 or less, he doesn't have to agenda the item for ratification. If it is more than \$150,000, then he could still sign off on the repair but will still need to be brought to the Board for ratification because it may be an emergency type repair. Commissioner Nesmith asked what the limit is now? Ms. Daniels said \$5,000. Commissioner Nesmith asked how it went from \$5,000 to \$150,000?

Ms. Daniels said this comes more into play with the public works equipment. It is heavy equipment and a repair could easily exceed \$5,000.

Ms. Keeler said a lot of the equipment are proprietary which means they can only be repaired at certain places. She said the \$150,000 is under the Boards prevue. The Board could lower that number. It was a staff recommendation.

Ms. Daniels said there are other counties and the packet shows what they are doing.

Commissioner Holt said it depends on what type of administration you get. She thinks they have a good one. She said she wouldn't want that decision to go down to staff level. As long as it stays administrative, she's ok with it for the idea of the approval not for the amount. She thinks they should receive a phone call or an e-mail before something was done. She said she could tell horror stories but they don't want to get into that. She said you always put safe guards in place so that you don't have those kinds of problems. She thinks that if you have 4 of those at \$150,000 it could knock a dent in some things in what they want to do.

Ms. Daniels said it would be what's in the approved budget. The purchasing director would be responsible for looking at quotes. They may be able to shop around.

Commissioner Holt said she understands and doesn't have a problem with that. What she's looking at is the process itself. The restrictions keep from having problems later. She said it's not that she doesn't agree, they just need to be notified.

Ms. Daniels said they could put it in the policy. It doesn't have to be \$150,000 just for heavy equipment.

Commissioner Holt said the money set aside is fine. She said it's the notification and the purchase and the process that she is interested in. She said if they have more new equipment, there should be less repairs if they are maintained correctly and under the warranty. So, when they are looking at that, they want to make sure these things are checked off.

Commissioner Green asked what numbers the counties they have actually researched? Are they each doing \$150,000? For clarity, who is the purchasing director? Ms. Daniels said she does. She referred them to page 21 in the packet to see all of the county's numbers. She apologized and said they do not have the amount for other counties. She said that Bay County and Wakulla County came up with that number.

Mr. Dixon stated they are not caught up on the rising monetary change and don't want it to be a big deal. They will function with whatever numbers they give them. All of those purchasing restrictions have, allow a speed and turnaround time. At no point do they envision not bringing things to the board. They have 4-5 buildings to build and some come with 90-day turnaround time zone. The speed in which they can do things changes with the amount of appropriation they allow this administration. They will keep doing it at \$15,000 but it slows things down remarkably, that's the only difference. He said with that, whatever numbers the Board gives them, they will figure out how to work with it.

Chair Viegbesie said when the item was first introduced in the last meeting, it was the area where he had a concern, the \$150,000. He said he was not comfortable with it. Another part of the document he wasn't comfortable with was the non-profit and other government agencies. He has looked at other counties (passed out sheet with amounts with tiered approach). He went over the budgets for the counties and their tiered approach.

- Jackson County – Budget - \$27M
 - Purchases between \$2,500.00 and \$10,000.00 may be approved by the Administrative Services Director and/or Purchasing Agent.
 - Purchases between \$10,000.00 and \$14,999.99 shall be approved by the County Administrator.
 - Purchases over \$15,000.00 will be awarded by the Board.

- Wakulla County – Budget - \$40M
 - 1.) Tiered Approach
 - a. Petty Cash – Not to Exceed \$100.00
 - i. Authorized by Department Director
 - b. Verbal Quotes - \$101.49 - \$1,499.00
 - i. Authorized by Department Director
 - c. Written Quotes - \$1,500.00 - \$4,999.99
 - i. Authorized by Department Director
 - d. Written Quotes \$5,000.00 - \$9,999.99
 - i. Authorized by County Administrator
 - e. Written Quotes - \$10,000.00 - \$24,999.99
 - i. Authorized by County Administrator
 - f. Competitive Sealed Bids/Proposal - \$25,000 and up
 - i. Must be Authorized by Chairman

- Leon County – Budget \$41M-50M
 - 1.) Tiered Approach
 - a. Petty Cash – Not to Exceed \$100.00
 - b. Competitive Sealed Bids/Proposal - \$100,000 and up

- Columbia County – Budget \$41M-\$50M
 - Not to Exceed \$25,000

He said that most of those organizations have a budget way over Gadsden County's budget.

- Miami-Dade County – Budget \$2B
 - The County's preferred method of procuring goods and/or services valued at over \$25,000.00 is the formal ITB process.

He said he has trust in his current County Administrator, he has trust in his confidence, and he has trust in his capability, but the procurement policy is for the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners, not for Ed Dixon. He said this has nothing to do with the Administrator's competence and capability and lack of trust. It has to do with what will go on with the Board of County Commissioners. He hopes it is not taken personal to question his integrity. He is very uncomfortable with \$150,000. He said they should consider a tier plan. He said this is work in progress.

Commissioner Hinson asked for the stats for Leon County. Chair Viegbesie said Leon County's information did not print. Ms. Daniels said it is in the packet. She said there is a tiered approach

in the policy. Chair Viegbesie asked Commissioner Hinson to go to page 6 of 29 for Leon County's numbers.

Commissioner Green wanted to clarify the differences in the numbers because the numbers that Chair Viegbesie researched and stated are different from the numbers Ms. Daniels researched and stated. Ms. Daniels said she researched the tier threshold. They had not gotten to that portion, they just got ahead of the presentation. The first thing that was changed was the repair of heavy equipment. Later in the policy itself, they repaired the threshold for general procurement. The first thing that came up was the exemptions to this policy that are normally exempt from the policy. She said it is the pleasure of the Board.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 4:48 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson asked the County Administrator, "how many times have you done an individual repair at \$150,000 in the last three years?" Ms. Daniels said they would have to get that information for him. She said it's not just heavy equipment, it's to ambulances, and those kinds of things is why that exemption is there.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could have the answer in the next meeting. Chair Viegbesie asked for the information to be provided in next Tuesday's meeting. He said if the \$150,000 was not thrown around, he would not have any concern. He said they are to know that he is dealing with this, not because of Ed Dixon, but because the next meeting will be his last one with the Commission. So, he is doing it for the good of the County and for what he thinks is appropriate.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board went down to \$5,000 and Commissioner Holt said that she would not go above \$10,000. He said he could get the minutes for that, Commissioner Holt said he doesn't need it, she could answer that. Chair Viegbesie said he has a copy of that and he could read it to him. Commissioner Hinson said for him to read it. Chair Viegbesie said they both (Commissioner Holt and himself) voted against anything over \$5,000. That was on October 2017. Chair Viegbesie said he doesn't think he needs to read the minutes. Commissioner Hinson said he said it so they might as well hear it. Commissioner Holt said no, they don't need to hear that and they need to go on.

Mr. Dixon said if they want to make that top amount \$50,000 or \$25,000, just tell them and they will make those thresholds accordingly. Commissioner Hinson asked where they were at now, \$25,000? Mr. Dixon said in some places they are at \$15,000. Ms. Daniels said it depends on the item. She said these are things that are exempt from the policy. Currently, the exemption amount was \$5,000 for any repair to heavy equipment. It did not have to be competitively procured.

Chair Viegbesie said it was during the time with Mr. Presnell. It was October 17, 2017, a regular meeting. He was in opposition of the threshold. The maximum amount they were in opposition of. Commissioner Hinson asked for the maximum amount at that time. Chair Viegbesie said it was \$5,000 and then it was going up to \$10,000, and then ended up with \$25,000. The Chair then was Commissioner Taylor. Commissioner Holt and himself would not approve anything above \$25,000. They both voted against anything above \$25,000. Commissioner Hinson said it had to be the last month Mr. Presnell was there, and he was engaging it, they went down to \$5,000. Commissioner Hinson wanted to make sure the constituents hear the truth. He said

when Mr. Presnell was the County Administrator, it went down to \$5,000 then. Then, at the end of his retirement, it went up to \$25,000.

Commissioner Holt didn't think anyone in the room knew what her intent was so she would hate for people to quote what her intent is. She wanted them to look behind section 3 and look at the chart on page 6 of 29. She went straight to the section with Field Quotes. She looked for comparisons. She said when you compare what's going on in different counties, you have to compare what is comparable to what their staff is talking about. She said to look at the charts and what they are competing for. She said it is not just purchasing power, it's what they are purchasing. She said if they want to come up with another number, they come up with another number, that is up to the Board not anyone else. She said they have to look at the product not just the purchasing process. She said you can put in stipulations on who does approvals. They don't want to stop the process, but they also want a method of notification.

Commissioner Hinson said he couldn't follow Commissioner Holt. Commissioner Holt said page 6 of 29. She said you can see what those numbers are. It's not that they are using very low numbers; it depends on what they are categorizing them for. She wanted to say there is no discrepancy in what they're doing, but they have to compare apples to apples.

Commissioner Green said he wanted to make sure that they don't get stuck on administrations. He said they can't do things based upon 2017, 5 years later. He said the equipment and other expenses have increased in their companies since then. He wants to make sure they don't get stuck on anybody else's number. This is not an Ed Dixon procurement it is a board procurement. He said as long they're able to manage whatever they decide on, and they put in the rules and regulations, he would like to believe that the administration is going to respect and honor the rules of the board. He said they don't have to wait those 2 weeks if there is an emergency or major issue that something is going to cost a certain amount of money. They should be notified anyway before the money is spent, although they have the permission to do it.

Commissioner Hinson said he looked at the history. He said 5 years ago, \$5,000 is equivalent to \$15,000 today. He said he likes to compare numbers. Once the County Administrator has this power in his hands, \$150,000, they can say they think they might be making the best decision. He says that the Administrator could think that 20/30 people should get a contract for \$150,000 and they would not know any of those people or know about it because the Administrator doesn't have to go talk to them. He said not that the current Administrator would do it, but if a new one comes in, they don't know what their mindset would be. Chair Viegbesie said the Administrator has given his position on it and what they could work with and for them to be reasonable.

Vice Chair Green said to keep in mind of all the projects coming their way. They are getting ready to capitalize on a lot of things. He said they want to be able to have something that is suitable in place that they don't have to micromanage every project. He said they do need to make sure it is something feasible. He said the \$150,000 has given them all heartburns but they do have major projects coming.

Commissioner Holt said it may not be a bad idea to get a report on how many contracts they have out there. That way they get something per quarter or every 6 months to get an idea about

what is going on. She doesn't think that they could stay at \$25,000. She has no problem stating what she thinks it should be.

Ms. Daniels said she wanted to remind them that they have not got to the purchasing authority or the contract authority yet. This was just things that were exempt from the policy all together. The next thing that was \$150,000 to purchase muse equipment. That number could be \$25,000. If the repair of a piece of equipment reaches \$150,000, they probably need to get a new one instead of repairing it. If they are going to buy a piece of a used equipment for \$150,000, they probably need to look at getting a new piece of equipment. Purchasing a new piece of equipment would then fall up under the policy and they would have to follow the policy.

Commissioner Nesmith asked the board if they could change the procurement policy anytime they want to? Commissioner Hinson said yes. Commissioner Nesmith said it is a lot of information at this moment. He asked how many mandatory sections of their existing procurement policy must be changed in order to conform to current law? Ms. Daniels said one or two sections. She said she wanted to caution them that they are about to accept a \$10 million grant for the construction of a public safety EOC and the EMS facility which is another \$2.5 million. She said they want to set this policy up so that they are able to be in compliance. Also, to make the purchases that need to be made without saying "ok, we can't do that, we need to go back to the board".

Commissioner Nesmith asked in order to comply with current state law, if they look at those changes, as well as the changes that are required, in order to receive the additional grants, they have coming. They want to comply with current law because the procurement policy does not comply with current law because changes weren't made since 2017. Now they have significant grants coming that requires additional changes to the procurement policy.

Chair Viegbesie asked for their patience to give Mr. Dixon a chance to speak.

Mr. Dixon said no, they can't piece meal it, because it invites confusion. They want to bring clarity to a situation. Nobody knows if the spending limit is \$15,000 or \$25,000 right now. There are two grants he knows that they cannot draw down because their language doesn't speak properly in their procurement contract. They need to do it and do it all. The problem is that they have money coming now. They would like to bring whatever changes they want to the next meeting. He said whatever money they decide is a threshold. That threshold would begin repeating itself throughout that document. They have to do it in a whole sale fashion so that they don't invite confusion.

Commissioner Hinson said that's why they have emergency meetings, if something tragic happens, they have policies for that. He asked, within the last year, to give him an example of one time they had to have an emergency that cost up to \$150,000.

Ms. Daniels said she doesn't recall that has happened. She reiterated that the number could be whatever number they desire.

He asked if the staff can name one day that they needed an item for \$150,000 within the past year. Chair Viegbesie said it would need to be researched.

Chair Viegbesie said they have discussed this matter. He understands the need for the large amount. He said not giving the administrator as much discretion could impede growth operation. He was opposed up to \$25,000, he wanted \$15,000 a few years ago. He knew Commissioner Hinson was going to bring it up, that's why he had the record. He said for now, \$25,000 is fine. He said they can have emergency meeting if something needs repair for more than \$25,000. Another thing he will not support, is to give the authority to anyone else other than the County Administrator or Assistant County Administrator. He said they will put the document together and bring it back on Tuesday for approval.

Commissioner Holt said if you have a number to throw out, throw it out, and be done with it. She said if they need to vote, can they not vote at a workshop? It was confirmed, no. She said they cannot vote and everyone could say the same numbers just not vote. She said they need to move on but also, those contractors are looking at what they have and they know when you are being realistic or not. They look at the procurement process and if it's too restrictive they don't bid on the contracts, they keep moving to another county. She thinks Wakulla counties jumped up because they have a lot growth. She said you're just not purchasing, but you're purchasing services that they provide.

Commissioner Hinson said for anyone for the next 7 years, at this point, he asked if they have to have \$2 million in general fund balance? Ms. Daniels said they have \$3 to \$4 million dollars. Commissioner Hinson asked for the minimum. Chair Viegbesie said that conversation should be left to Thursday's workshop. Commissioner Hinson said he said that because at the minimum they must have before they get penalized from the state, say it's \$1.5 or \$1.8, if anyone grants 20 people \$150,000, that's \$3 million. Which means the county would be in the red, which means they will be penalized from the government. The government can pretty much get rid of the Board. He said the administrator cannot get in trouble for it because the Board grant them access to that. He said they went down so low because they were losing so much money at the time.

Ms. Daniels asked for a number they could come up with for the next meeting. She said they will have numbers that they are comfortable with given today's market and the trends amongst other governments. She said Wakulla just raised their limit. With this inflation we are having, they cannot stay where they are. Chair Viegbesie is comfortable with \$35,000-\$50,000. He doesn't think they should go beyond \$50,000. He said given the state of the affairs, sometimes they have to tighten their belts and work their magic.

Ms. Daniels said they had a tier approach plan with the \$150,000 being the maximum for the County Administrator. She said they will revise it. The maximum for the County Administrator will be \$50,000 and will revise down from there. She said with the tiered approach, the department directors have a certain amount, the purchasing director has another level, then the County Administrator, then \$50,000 will be to the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Nesmith asked if she has the old tier system? Ms. Daniels said it was on page 21.

The power went out due to a thunderstorm warning.

Commissioner Green just wanted clarity that Ms. Daniels will work down from \$50,000.00 and bring it to show them what they will do with that break down. Ms. Daniels said that is correct unless she is directed to do something else. Commissioner Green said that will work.

- 2. Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners Procurement Policy**
- 3. Surrounding County Procurement Policies (*Leon, Bay, Gulf, Jackson, Wakulla*)**

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:43 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

Ronterious Green, Chair

ATTEST:

Nicholas Thomas, Clerk

AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON JUNE 16, 2022 AT
4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:

Present: Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Chair, District 2
Ronterious “Ron” Green, Vice Chair, District 5
Brenda Holt, District 4
Eric Hinson, District 1-Zoom
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

1. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Viegbesie welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:05 p.m. Vice Chair Green did the invocation. He then led to the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

2. Introduction/Summary Highlights

Ms. Daniels said a lot of it will be a recap from the first budget workshop, but there’s some updates from some information. She said they have gone over some information and they have met with each of the Commissioners individually to get some of things that are their priorities for the next fiscal year. In the meetings with them, they got some common themes they will discuss.

a. Funds Balance Summary

Ms. Daniels referred everyone to page 2a. She said they do not have a draft of the audited financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2021. That’s the most recent fiscal year that has ended. They are still in the middle of 2021-2022. This is just a preliminary draft amounts for fund balance. This is the same document as before, nothing has changed, they are waiting for the draft copy from the auditors. They chose some of the more major funds to provide information on, which are the general fund, the transportation fund, the building inspection fund and the EMS Fund and nothing in it has changed. The beginning fund balance for general fund was \$5,466,689.00 and for the year ending in September 30, 2021, there was an increase in that fund balance by about \$439,000. The anticipated ending fund balance for the general fund, would be \$5,906,115.00. For the transportation fund, the beginning fund balance was \$2,815,696.00 with an increase of \$606,915.00. The ending fund balance for September 30, 2021 would be \$3,422,611.00. Again, she wanted to say that they are preliminary numbers.

Chair Viegbesie stopped her to make sure Commissioner Hinson could get in the meeting through zoom.

Ms. Daniels said only one monitor was working due to the power outage in the last workshop.

Commissioner Nesmith asked if he has all the pages needed. Ms. Daniels let him know that the last two items did not have an attachment.

Ms. Daniels continued with the Funds Balance Summary. She continued with the balance for the Building Inspection Fund. It started out at \$266,466.00 and it had an increase of \$53,970.00. The ending fund balance on September 30, 2021 was \$320,436.00.

Chair Viegbesie asked if the document could be projected for Commissioner Hinson.

Ms. Daniels continued with the EMS Funds. The beginning fund balance was \$538,536.00 and they had a decrease in the fund balance. This was the funds where they had some revenues budgeted that was not realized, there was an accounts receivable. It was decreased by \$464,638.00 and their ending fund balance for September 30, 2021 was \$73,898.00. She said that the funds should do better this year. She said they are moving forward.

b. Ad Valorem Tax Revenue Summary

Ms. Daniels stated that item 2b is a summary of the Ad Valorem Tax receipt. She said the green line is preliminary taxable value for the County, at \$1,788,714,426.00. She said that's a 9.11% increase over the taxable value from last year. She said they are getting some growth in the taxable values. Everything is the same as last time. She said they are getting more property sales. She said there are new commercial properties being sold or rehabbed. She said that is a 9.11% increase in property evaluation. She said if they were to utilize the exact same millage rate that they have now, 9% is the current millage rate, they would generate an additional \$1.3 million, but they can only budget for 95% of that, so they would only be able to generate \$1.2 million. She said if they move the millage rate to 9.25%, they would generate an additional \$1.7 million. She said with the same property evaluation, if they move to 9.5 %, they would generate at 95%, \$2,126,000.00. At 10 millage rates, they would generate \$2.976 million. She said they just provide that information as information only so they know how much they are going to generate at whatever millage rate they decide to levy. She said they can go less than that millage rate, and they would get less than that 1.2 than they would get at their current millage rate.

Commissioner Nesmith asked what is the deadline for establishing a millage rate where afterwards they can come down.

Ms. Daniels said have to decide what that millage rate is in August. At that time, they can set it at 10 millage rates. They can lower it but cannot raise it.

Commissioner Nesmith said they can always set it high and come down. Ms. Daniels said they could raise it, but they would have to send a notice out to every property owner in the County.

Ms. Daniels said once you set the millage rate, the property appraiser sends out notices to property owners of what their proposed property taxes will be for the upcoming year. If they lower it, it's not required that the notice gets sent out. If they raise it, that notice has to get send out again and it's quite costly.

Commissioner Nesmith said once they establish it, they could always come down. Ms. Daniels said they will have two public hearings and they can decide to lower the millage rate

at that time. He asked if they have to establish a millage rate by the first meeting in August. Ms. Daniels said the first meeting in August.

Vice Chair Green asked if there is an estimate on the percentage wise?

Ms. Daniels said they can work it up for them. She said they just need to know what millage rate they want them to work it up at and it's based on the average value of a house.

Vice Chair Green said he's asking for a medium of range, price range of a value of a home not each individual house. He said if they could get an estimate, so that they can explain it to the citizens. Ms. Daniels said it will be available at the August meeting. Vice Chair Green said he's asking that because it may not be a huge amount that is changing, but they can explain better.

Hinson walked in at 4:25 p.m.

He said it went up last year, so they still need a better explanation from the Board as to why it went up and what they're doing with the money.

c. Major Revenue Sources Update

Ms. Daniels continued to attachment 2c. She said this is a glimpse of some of the major revenues that come into the County. The most updated columns were the last 3 columns. In Ad Valorem taxes they collected about \$13 million and from that amount they have to pay some funds to the CRA's. There are 4 CRA's in the County. There are two in the City of Quincy, one in Midway, and one in the Town of Havana. When they collect the money, they have to give those CRA's anything above their based value. They can utilize that money to increase the values in those areas. Chair Viegbesie asked what determines the amount that goes to a specific CRA? Ms. Daniels said it is based on the value of the properties in the CRA.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 4:28 p.m.

Chair Viegbesie thanked Ms. Daniels and said he wanted her to clarify that for those who may be listening to know what determines the amount of money that goes to the CRA, which is to help improve poorly developed areas of the community.

Ms. Daniels continued with the Net Ad Valorem taxes collected last fiscal year which was \$12.7 million. Over the years, starting with 2016, it was \$11.1 and they incrementally have been increasing the amount of Ad Valorem taxes that they collect because the property evaluations are going up. They should be increasing the amount that they collect because property values going up and people are paying more. The State Revenue share is sales tax revenue that the state collects and shares that revenue with the counties and municipalities within the state. Last year they collected a little over \$1,000,000. The total general fund has \$18.3 million collected. Over last year, collected \$17 million. This fiscal year hasn't ended yet so they can't tell. In the last column, so far, have collected \$16.9 million. Majority of ad valorem taxes are collected

by November. She said they will still continue to receive state shared revenue fiscally constraint because they get it monthly. Right now, they are right at \$17 million.

Commissioner Nesmith asked, based on the collections of sales tax they are getting in, if they are on track to achieve that \$19,680,000.00. Ms. Daniels said they should, they have to look at some of them to see and there may be a lag. They have only received about half of state shared revenue.

Ms. Daniels said of the total top eight major revenues, aside from general fund, the budget is \$6.7 million, they are at \$5.1 million. Right now, they have \$12.793 and they are at \$12.711. In the transportation fund, the budget is \$3.747 and they are at \$2.6.

Commissioner Holt returned at 4:34 p.m.

Ms. Daniels said they still have a few more months left in the fiscal year. The state aids for library have a budget of \$340,000.00 and they have received \$293,000.00. State aid is what they get from the state to help operate the public libraries. State library aids have been going down over the last few years.

Commissioner Hinson said each department should come every year to talk about the program. He said they should come give presentations. Chair Viegbesie agreed and asked for that to be arranged.

Ms. Daniels continued and said the last major revenue on the sheet was the Tourist Development tax. They currently have budgeted \$120,000.00 and have received about \$107,000.00. Last year they received about \$152,000.00. That revenue has been affected by the pandemic because people aren't moving around and traveling, but people are starting to move around. She said they have some events planned for the County, like the 4th of July partnership with the City of Chattahoochee. She said they are hoping that would bring in some additional tourist development taxes. She said they have not spent a lot of money because a lot of things that the tourist development council would normally sponsor have not been done.

d. Constitutional Officers FY22/23 Budget Requests

Ms. Daniels said this has changed a little bit. At the last workshop, had not received the sheriff office budget request, but have now received it and can go over the recap. The clerk that provides board finance, their budget is going up about \$36,000, due to FRS and health insurance increases and tech support. It is going up by \$18,000 for a total of \$54,000 increase.

The Property appraiser, Reginald Cunningham went over his budget request. He had some GIS services he wants to expand. The budget included 3% raises and a few other items. The biggest jump is in the sheriff's department. The overall budget increase is the transfer to the sheriff's department. The increase is about \$808,000.00 and spoke with them today to get details. State legislature sets the salary for constitutional officers and about \$400,000 is increasing in salary for their sworn officers.

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Chair Viegbesie said he has not met with the sheriff. He asked if this includes the \$500,000 that is recurring from the legislature to the sheriff's office? Ms. Daniels said they have not indicated that.

Commissioner Holt said for each one of these departments they need a write up from them. They have come in before in the past to present to them and request funding and they were able to ask questions. She said they need to at least send a report. Chair Viegbesie said they have asked that before. Commissioner Holt said they are requesting the money that is not their money so she suggests that the Board sends a letter to them.

Commissioner Green said they have requested in the past but if they can get that letter asap for the next budget meeting, they can send a representative.

Commissioner Nesmith also concurred. It helps with transparency. They have some significant increases and it helps with clarity. The dollars do not belong to them, it belongs to the people.

Chair Viegbesie said when they come and they have the discussion, if they need to cut and paste, they know the areas they need to work on. Ms. Daniels said they will work with them. They have not received tax collectors yet. The overall increase for the constitutional officers, after receiving the sheriffs' office numbers, is \$1,067,837.00. Chair Viegbesie asked if the increase is equivalent to the short fall they are having right now in their current budget? Ms. Daniels said it is a little bit more than short come. There was a \$130,000 request for vehicle replacement. Supply and demand are affecting that. One of the ambulances they approved should be here by end of the month. There was a power outage in the building and they been trying to get a generator. They are hoping to get it by July or August. They put in an order and somebody jumped in ahead of them. There are increases for more inmates are having to stay at jail, so there is an increase in cost in food, medical etc.

Commissioner Green asked for the number for the vehicle increase. Ms. Daniels said \$130,000 and it is included in the \$808,000. It includes the monthly lease on 8 vehicles and outfit them as a law enforcement vehicle.

Commissioner Hinson says it is good to have someone to talk to because years ago a buyback program was probably great, but today, it might not. He compared how much a vehicle costs today and how much it would have cost years ago. Ms. Daniels said that makes a buyback program more lucrative. Commissioner Hinson said they need to get familiar with this buyback program.

Commissioner Nesmith wants to make sure when commission sends letter out, it is itemized. Chair Viegbesie said when budget is itemized, they can edit numbers. He said they can make the request and continue the conversation.

Commissioner Holt provided an example. You can find out things you need to improve upon. She said there was a section that wasn't there at the supervisor of election office.

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Ms. Daniels said they have done those kinds of things inhouse. Some places were able to decrease the budget. Last year allowed to fund a new mowing crew, there were 6 new workers for that, they were also able to buy tractors to expand the mowing capacity. They had to look at vendors in other parts of the country. They have looked through budgets hard to see where they can do reductions. She said hopefully the budget they will have will show that. Commissioner Viegbesie said this workshop has been thorough. He said they will have an effective balance budget.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the CARES dollars. Ms. Daniels said it is still in CARES fund. They have already met the requirements and can move those dollars. Commissioner Hinson said how much money in CARES fund. Ms. Daniels said it is in packet from last workshop. Commissioner Hinson said its mirage, not really a budget. In order to do a budget, need to have all the numbers here. Chair Viegbesie said the commissioners are still meeting with the County Administrator. If they had those numbers, they would see how those can be moved. Commissioner Hinson said have so much funding. There's \$2.9 million of CARES and it should be placed into the general fund.

Commissioner Hinson said he brought it up because if they don't have all the numbers they wouldn't know. His opinions change when facts change. Chair Viegbesie said that's natural.

Commissioner Nesmith said he wasn't looking for the entire budget, just certain aspects of the budget. After getting numbers from the tax collectors, then they will get a more detailed budget.

Chair Viegbesie said comment said earlier is in line with discussion. For example, when you go to the administrator, I would like to have a park, then that is one time expenditure, and need to factor in the maintenance for the park that's required. It is work in progress.

Commissioner Hinson believes in transparency with everyone. They shouldn't mislead citizens at all.

e. Departmental FY22 vs FY23

f. Non-Profits

g. Ms. Daniels said they have reached out to Leon County and Wakulla County. Leon county has a human services program that they give. They will need how much they would like to allocate to non-profits. Chair Viegbesie said, for those numbers, when the commissioners meet with the County Administrator, they should throw out numbers they want to see and talk about it. Ms. Daniels said many of the commissioners have indicated about park enhancement. The CARES residual doesn't have restrictions on what it could be utilized for. She said they don't budget grants.

h. Commissioner Hinson said he has worked with a lot of commissioners throughout the nation. Other counties give funding to commissioners and the commissioners take care of district based on that.

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- i. Commissioner Holt said grant money is one-time money. They have to apply and they have not been aggressively doing it. She agreed with Commissioner Hinson on giving some money to districts, but not necessarily to commissioners because election years are funny years and don't want the money touching any hands. She said she wasn't saying it was his hands just using examples of other counties. Commissioner Hinson said she insinuated it. Commissioner Holt said she is insinuating facts. Commissioner Hinson said that was not a fact. Commissioner Holt said other counties have gotten into trouble for that. Commissioner Holt asked Commissioner Hinson to please stop responding and let her finish her point. Commissioner Holt said to have an advisory committee. As far as them having a complete budget, first, they need to make sure they pay the bills. They may have to match up some grants. They have to have some padding in the budget.
- j. Commissioner Green thanked Commissioner Hinson on the idea of each commissioner having a part, but suggests they workshop it on the details. The letter they already signed, there is a possibly for a grant match and that would be a good source of funding from the \$1.7 million that they already have. He said they have to be careful with choice of words. They can't make decision today, but he is hoping everything is out. He doesn't want the public to think anything is being mischievous. He thanked Ms. Daniels for her work. Chair Viegbesie said the letters they signed will require a matching of \$1.9 million.
- k. Commissioner Hinson said all the numbers need to get out there. He said they have about \$600,000 set aside for Stevens school. The reason why he does these things is because they get a lot of stuff done. As long as you're fair with the constituents, they will love it. He said they just had a meeting to let one person have access to spend \$150,000. Everyone disagreed. Commissioner Hinson said he could pull up the meeting for them. Chair Viegbesie stopped Hinson from continuing. Commissioner Hinson said he couldn't stop a commissioner from talking. Commissioner Holt said yes, he can. Chair Viegbesie said he is not telling the truth. Commissioner Hinson said he is because they had a meeting for it. Chair Viegbesie said it was workshopped. Commissioner Hinson said if you can trust the county administrator with \$150,000.00, why can't you trust yourself? He trusts himself that he's going to do what's right.
- l. Chair Viegbesie said he understands his desires. He said why don't you workshop which approach you want to use and don't need to be fussing about it. The discretionary limit was a workshop.
- m. Commissioner Holt said she is ready to go home. She wanted to add an item needed in the next meeting. She said on the item for renewing a contract for the collection agency for the EMS, they don't have any data for that. What was the previous collection and balance owed? She just wanted to make a mention of that.

Ms. Daniels thanked them for trusting her and wants everything to be transparent.

3. Board of County Commissioners Priorities and Direction

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4. MOTION TO ADJOURN

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR VIEGBESIE DECLARED
THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:38 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON JUNE 22, 2022 AT 5:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the workshop. Jennifer gave the invocation. Then led to the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on June 22, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Nesmith read the above item.

Chair Green said to allow those to give presentation on workshop. He asked Commissioner Viegbesie to help him. He asked everyone to introduce themselves at the table.

Reginald Cunningham thanked the Board for allowing them to come and present something regards the Senior Citizens Center. He went through a brief history. He said the Board changed after the Senior's initial walk on. Since that time, they had 5 different executive directors. They went through financial concerns with board members leaving and the overhead being hot. They are just starting to gain ground again to get some money in the bank. He had someone in fiscal office resign after the executive director resigned and the fiscal assistance resigned as well. Before that all happened, they were already talking to the County Administrator and the Chairman because at the last meeting, they talked about a partnership. It was suggested by Dr. Viegbesie to get with the County Administrator and the City Attorney to come up with a process model to figure out how they could create a stronger partnership. Before the executive director left, they sent a letter to the Area Agency about the change that took place and what they were planning to do. The plan that was submitted to them was that they were going to try to create a small partnership thinking they could get a bigger pool of applicants if they create that strong partnership with the County. They advertised for a coordinator to get oversight of the operation. In June, they received a letter from the Area Agency saying they were going to cut funding and they were going to award the remainder of their contract to another provider. They sent over the process of mediation. When they got to the meeting, they asked for the mediator, and the person that issued the letter said she was the mediator. He said to himself that it

was already planned. He said it was strange because everything in her findings were in 2014. They wanted to correct what was going on. They had an auditor come to train and advised them that the office was improving. The County is starting to grow due to professionalism. After the mediation meeting, his impression was that the decision was already made. Its hard to mediate something they don't know anything about. The Seniors received a letter about the introduction of the new caregivers. He said yes, it is a county building, yes, GSS would like to figure out a way they can transition. It's time for the County to step in and create something of their own, whether non-profit for themselves. He thought they had similar goals to grow but it's hard to grow when they don't have the additional funds.

Chair Green said he got in the tail end of some of the conversations to see what the Board can do. He hopes they can be as transparent as they can be. He was glad to see them came out last night and to hear the untrue statements. It lets them know they have work to do and so that they can let them know that those things are not true and see what they can do to build their trust and their faith back into the board. He believes every Commissioner is there to support the Senior Services. They want the best option for them. He said the Board is here for them, not against them.

Mr. Cunningham said when they started their meeting with the County Administrator talking about non-profits, after analyzing this particular non-profit for a couple of years, out of all the non- profits they may know, this is the only one not owned by anybody. It rotates from Board member's term. If you don't have a strong foundation when that process is going on, it can become very confusing and can become a problem. They want to create a partnership they can transition this out if the County develops its own non-profit. There is only one other County in the whole state of Florida that handles their Senior Services, which is Citrus County.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he has been a part of this situation for the longest. He was the one that forced to create the Aging and Elderly Affairs program. The County Administrator wrote the job description for the coordinator of Elderly Affairs. When Mr. Dixon came, he hired Ms. Blackshear right after she retired from Riverchase. The purpose of creating the Elderly Affair program was to take the services that came out of the frustrations that the seniors had when the seniors walked out, they were left outside in the field and were not allowed in the county building, even to use the restroom. He found out that the seniors in Chattahoochee don't know the seniors in Quincy. If they get them together, they will be involved with activities with one another. That was why the program was created and when the word got out about the program, there came the fear factor that the County is coming to take over the senior's program. From his point of view, yesterday when the seniors came, the comments were a lie. He could not stomach them and was frustrated. Mr. Cunningham came, he said he is not the Board just the Chair. He would like for the GSS board and this Board to have a workshop. He said if this was done in February, he believes that Triple A would see what's going on. They are doing what they would have done earlier. He asked if this model is something their Board has approved. He said Mr. Cunningham told him that he is the Board. That is how they got where they are now. He hopes the work will generate something to take care of Gadsden County seniors.

Mr. Cunningham clarified when he said he is the Board, every time he came to the County since 2021, the Board knew it was the direction of the Board to come talk to them.

Chair Green said it is irrelevant to have that type of discussion in reference to who said what, as long as he is the mouthpiece for that Board. He said they are in this together, for the purpose of the seniors.

Commissioner Holt said they need to have a hierarchy coming down on the agencies. The Department of Elder Affairs is the one that provides a funding for the state and federal government. After that, Area Agency is a contractor under them, then it comes to the senior citizens center. The part of the contract they are talking about, the center is one. That's going to be moved. It's Area Agency's opinion that its being moved. She asked for the name of the group. Mr. Cunningham said it's the OAA piece. Commissioner Holt asked who the OAA piece is being given to? Mr. Cunningham said Gadsden Wellness Our Future. Commissioner Holt asked who the other part is being given to? Mr. Cunningham said to Elder Care in Tallahassee. Commissioner Holt asked what they are providing? Mr. Cunningham said they are providing in home care. Commissioner Holt said she is doing this because they are throwing names and acronyms so people would understand which one they are talking about. She asked for the lady's name from the Area Agency. Mr. Cunningham said Lisa Bretz. She asked who represented the Wellness Group. Mr. Cunningham said Sherrie Taylor. She asked for the other that's going to be in home. Mr. Cunningham said Joyslyn Clerks. Commissioner Holt said she was in the mediation meeting and called Congressman Lawson before she got there. She wanted to know if he knew anything about the situation. She said he had concerns with the person over Gadsden Wellness. He said there was some concerns and she mentioned that to Lisa. The concerns dealt with food production. She said they need to be sure about this before they make these agreements and contracts. She said if Area Agency saw an emergency, she asked what is the protocol for emergencies? At the main meeting, Robert Presnell and Sherri Taylor were there. She asked why didn't they inform the county so they could have someone there. She said they didn't have to inform them. With the partnership, she thought they needed to be informed. She said no matter what, if there is a disruption, they need to know about it. Another thing was what was the emergency that was going on in May that was not going on in January and February. She asked for a chronological list of complaints against Board at the center. She gave them her e-mail and haven't received anything. When it comes to math things have to line up. She needs to know what are the real complaints and they have not seen them. The allegations were there was money that the Board could've got and didn't go after it. She said they can't make decisions on something they do not have. There was a problem with in home care. What is it? She called the Department of Elder Affairs and asked if they could help. They need to meet with Department of Elder Affairs. She asked Lisa, if they are opposing side, how are you the mediator? Lisa said this was informal and Commissioner Holt said to get the informal paperwork ready. She said she doesn't have a problem with the county being over the senior citizens center. She was very interested to see that Area Agency was a contractor of Department of Elder Affairs. She did not see why there was a disruption all of a sudden. She said what was the emergency and they have to have some consistency. The County can't make progress if they keep repeating the same thing. They should have been notified by the agency. She said the money has to flow where the people are.

Commissioner Green said a date has been set to meet with Senator Ausley.

Commissioner Hinson said he was coming to the meeting to listen. He said is always too passionate about the seniors. He said there's no such things as being nice and it's about transparency first. He said someone from the meeting last night said someone from the Board of County Commissioners

said they weren't trying to fund them. He said whatever Board member said that should be bold enough to say that now.

Commissioner Green said he's not sure which Board they were speaking of when they said it. He said he didn't recall the individual stating that it was a Board member who told them. Commissioner Hinson said it was 2 or 3 people that said it last night. Mr. Cunningham said they didn't say it was a Board member. Commissioner Green said it was told they were in charge of the center. Commissioner Hinson said if so, he apologizes but he could look at the meeting again and swore they said they heard it from someone about the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Hinson deferred to Commissioner Viegbesie. Chair Green said he can't defer to him and as soon as he finishes speaking then he will allow him the opportunity to speak. Commissioner Hinson said that's not the proper procedure as a chairman to say that. As a commissioner, he can say that he defers to him. Commissioner Hinson said where he was coming from was that if that's the case, anyone who represents that organization, that said that, was the reason for the heartburn last night. He said why would Commissioner Viegbesie be upset right now, if that wasn't said? Commissioner Green said they all heard the information but he didn't hear them say it was someone from the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Hinson said not from the Board of County Commissioners, if that's the case, they need to get it straight.

Commissioner Viegbesie said yes, he is uptight based on what was said last night. They spewed a lot of lies. He said based on their age, he doesn't think it would be made up. The program manager said she went and told them but left it for the workshop. He said the Board of County Commissioners were accused from statements, that is the reason why they are in this situation. The seniors heard those lies from someone. That person needs to tell them the truth so that they don't hold the wrong group of persons accountable.

Commissioner Green wanted to be clear with Commissioner Hinson. He wanted to find the clarity from which Board he was talking about.

Commissioner Hinson said he can't recall saying a commissioner, there are two Boards present. He said in the future, they need to have Area Agency come to the meeting. They don't have to but it would be great for the agency to come. He said a non-profit is a corporation. The board members control the non-profit. Some people start a non-profit but nobody owns it. He said they need to have more dialogue. They need to make sure they find the "why". They all want what's best for the citizens. He said someone asked how the \$60,000 are being used. The Board of County Commissioners started GCDC. GCDC is a non-profit organization. The Board of County Commissioners don't know what's going on with the GCDC because they have their own board. He wanted to make sure they are transparent.

Mr. Cunningham said he doesn't think everyone on the GSS Board understands the structure of this organization. Over the past, since 1978, it's always been a secret that the county was over that. Even in the transparency with Triple A, when the seniors walked out, they called the county then. He wanted to refer to a document with the tab and it was submitted in April. They put it on corrective action. He said in two years he has seen 3 different corrective actions. He said somethings you can't control. The overall structure of the senior program has always been a hidden secret that's why they call the commissioners to resolve the issues.

Ms. Williams has been on the board for a short period of time. She was in the meeting that Ms. Holt was talking about. She didn't know anything about the corrective action. As Lisa was talking, she thought about the meeting in Quincy. She had her board members with her. She said she was going to work with them. All of the information brought to them last week was the first time she saw any of that. When they called her to ask if they could send some members over to be trained properly, the answer was that her members don't have time to train anybody. She doesn't think she gave them a fair share and it was preplanned. Yes, they had a couple of directors left with different reason but what could they do about it. It is what it is. By sitting here saying he said, she said is not resolving any issues. They need to move quickly because they are on a time limit. She doesn't care where they move anybody, everybody isn't going to be satisfied. They need to concentrate on what they are going to do, how they are going to do it and move forward.

Ms. Aguilera said she is new to the Board since 2020. She noticed they had several issues in the past and been working very hard to resolve those issues. As of now, they have the right staff and fixed most of the issues. Lisa never informed them of any emergency issues. She had a meeting but they were not invited. She strongly believes it was a decision already made for whatever reason. Mr. Cunningham and the board has been working hard. The board has a job and that's why they decided to have Mr. Cunningham to represent them. She heard Mr. Cunningham is controlling the Board and doing whatever he wants to do but that is not the case. She said they had a very good fiscal manager and they didn't train during the pandemic. As treasurer, she noticed the new fiscal manager was not the correct one, but now they have a very good fiscal. The case manager is doing an excellent job. Now that everything is fixed, the crown was taken away. If for some reason the county decided not to come aboard, they are tired and their time is very valuable. She loves to serve people, she has a non-profit back home, it is her passion. The seniors see her very often. If they decided not to continue with the programs its ok but they are willing to work.

Commissioner Hinson said the Board of County Commissioners supports the senior citizens. If they ask questions, it doesn't mean they disagree. They can't listen to what someone says. Some people go to school just to persuade others. Words and actions can be two different things. Things are in line for what they're looking for. He has to ask tough questions as a Board member. He believes the Board members agree.

Commissioner Holt said the application process, the bid process of the subcontracts, need to know the dates and when to be bided. It may be bided in 6 months. They need something definite. Area Agency contract comes up July 1st and that's a problem. They may bid the other subcontracts home care and general fund or may decide not to bid anything. They need a definite from the Department of Elder Affairs because they control all the money. Any of the things that the Area Agency said needs to be corrected was the end of 2019 to now. They couldn't look at recruitment due to pandemic. She asked what spurred emergency meetings? She said Elder Affairs is where you start at.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they have heard enough conversation if they want to hear from the seniors. Where he stands is what should they do to move forward to find a resolution.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:12 pm

He had a conversation with the administrator about a CIA model and cities having a non-profit. They could create a non-profit from the CRA and have that non-profit be the one who runs the county senior center and keep the same services. Those ideas have been tossed around. Mr. Cunningham has a model and they have a thought process. He said why can't both boards see what can be done with that model. Then, the Board adopts or whichever process. What matters is making sure citizens are treated with regard, respect and needs are met. On June 30th he will no longer be a commissioner. He is about doing the job. They need to work up a model to provide services for GSS.

Commissioner Green said the purpose was to inform them of what's going on. They don't have control over the senior center and this information is new. He wants to find a solution with the help of both boards on how they can gain control.

Commissioner Hinson said he is curious. This organization is a non-profit. Starting a non-profit through the county. It's in partnership with the county. They don't have any legal binding other than granting money. Chair Green said they would not be able to rectify situation tonight. Commissioner Hinson said the Board of County Commissioners, 20 years ago, started a non-profit called GCDC. He doesn't know what funding they are getting. If non-profits want to move away from the board, they can do that. He said it would be great if they know the budget. People that come before us show the budget. They want to be an advocate.

Chair Green said it is a starter but won't know until they see the format.

Commissioner Nesmith said this entity has a lot of moving parts and is complicated. He is ready for solutions because he talked to the stakeholders of the board. He knew it was urgent when Ms. Brown called him and asked how she can get on the board. He explained they do not manage the operations of GSS. He asked the GSS board what they would like for them to do. They are in control. Chair Green said they should hear from the seniors.

Mr. Dixon said they have concluded there is no evil intent. They are ready to figure the situation out. The situation is not only immediate, it is something they need to prepare for. First understanding is that they are going down the road together. What is the immediate need? His perspective is to have a meeting with Senator Ausley and then apply for formal review. Thirdly, as it relates to seniors, what are the immediate needs? Can they make payroll? Is there enough savings to continue? If so, how long can GSS continue based on the financial model it is experiencing right now? He said he doesn't know exactly where the money comes from. How can they plug some holes? If they are in a fight? He suspects they are in a fight for the souls and lives of seniors. What they need to do intermediately? How can they prepare for the RFP? The reality is they might not want to see GSS anymore. They won't let that stop them because they are all committed to seniors. They will do what they need to do collectively to accomplish the goals. So, they don't walk away with the wrong understanding, they need talk about congregate life. If someone has home care, are they able to do something along those lines and does it require Medicaid license? He used to work with AHCA and they can't bill if they don't have a license. He asked for them to have some answers for them so they can get what they need. In terms of overall funding, they need to talk about that. He said numbers are numbers and the best way to get a bad name is to agree to do something and not do it. They can do some things immediately. They will take next couple of days to get information from both boards to see what course of action would be.

Commissioner Nesmith asked Mr. Cunningham about Triple A removing their funding. He asked if there are other streams of revenue available? Mr. Cunningham said yes, with in home care. They contract with Humana and Sunshine and it is handled through case management. Mr. Dixon asked how is it different from what was given to the other group? Mr. Cunningham said that's totally different. They have the in-home piece and they also contract with in home carrier. He doesn't think they can grow it in the magnitude on both sides.

Chair Green said they will need to have a special meeting. He suggested they want to hear from the seniors. They are here to help. If the administrator and the chair can get numbers so they can see what they can do to assure they are able to sustain throughout this process. They don't know how long the process will take. They need to be able to have something to work with.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he suggest what they are going to do. He passed the microphone around to the seniors.

Commissioner Holt said Mr. Cunningham produced a flow chart. It lets you know the positions. She said she would love it if he could do it with the providers. Those programs for in home care could be part of it but it may not be. She said they are asking questions because she doesn't know what those funding agencies are and what they're funding.

Agnus Powell said she has been going to the Senior center for 3 years. She said regarding Commissioner Hinson about the statement made that they accused a Board member. They were underhandedly misused a few weeks ago from Lisa. They sent letters about the other organization for them. It started when Sherrie Taylor got them from the center under false pretenses that they are going to have a funding but it was a campaign.

Chair Green interjected and said not to call names. He said transparency is good, but when they call names and that person isn't there, they can't defend themselves. Ms. Powell continued and said that's where it came that the Board was stopping them. They wouldn't let them speak. This organization has done a lot for the seniors. They feel that they don't want to go to the other organization if they are satisfied. Why did the Area Agency come before them and was saying their board was the reason they weren't going further? They wanted to ask questions but they wouldn't let them. They wanted them there to brainwash them. She knows the ins and outs of business because she has had a business. She didn't like the comments made but they are not going to stand for it. Some seniors are illiterate but those that don't understand can be brainwashed. Another thing she wants to know is where did they get their names from to send them information about the other organization. She said they were the only ones there from Gadsden County.

Ms. Aguilera said if they could hear the seniors that go to the center. Commissioner Hinson said it is for everyone. **Latoya Moody** said she wasn't going to attend meeting but she heard her name mentioned. She called Mr. Dixon a liar and Mr. Cunningham is a liar. Chair Green said he wants to hear the issues from the seniors. Ms. Moody continued and said hen she was the director, she served for 5 years and she stabilized the facility. She has seen the ups and downs of Gadsden Senior Services. She said this is not the first time Gadsden has had their contracts pulled. She said it saddens her that it has happened again to this magnitude because people are not being honest. The word transparent is only being utilized when it benefits that person not when it benefits the whole. When she left, September 1st, there was over \$200,000 was in the board account. She said to ask how much is there

now. Information is not being shared. She said there are reasons why things are happening the way they are happening but people need to be open and honest about why. She heard she was being unprofessional and did not want to work with anybody. When that is said, it does impact someone but wants to be clear everything she has done for Gadsden Senior Services has always been for the benefit for the seniors.

Frida Houston said this was her first commissioners meeting. She is familiar with their programs. She commended everyone and said everyone is doing good. She loves the elderly. She has interest in processes being done right. She asked Mr. Cunningham what services have been taken from them and given to the new vendor? Mr. Cunningham said the in-home piece and the congregate site piece. Which is funding for senior activities. She asked as of what date? Mr. Cunningham said as of June 30th and there is a transition process. Ms. Houston said she wanted people to be mindful and to make sure they look at everything legally before they make any kind of action.

Regina Davis said she has a non-profit and partnered with city of Tallahassee. They were their fiscal agent and they provided them with social services funds for the CDBG process. She said that is something they should perhaps consider because they don't have to recreate the wheel. If they become the fiscal agent for the non-profit, that would be beneficial for when the agencies look at that. She is unclear as to which they are seeking, if they want both of the contracts or the congregate? They need to prioritize which one or if they are going to go after both, how will they do it. If Elder Care now has those contracts, it reduces their liability. They need to focus on coming together, finding funds and getting the contract back. They could change from a nonprofit to a foundation. She said don't reinvent the wheel, the seniors are a priority.

(Did not get the speakers name) She said sometimes things happen and it looks really bad. She said they need to be honest with themselves. There has to be a gap somewhere and the good will outweigh the bad. Everyone is at fault at some areas.

Commissioner Viegbesie said they have had a productive dialogue. He thanked Regina for her input. They have a template to work with. The quantity of words you use does not determine the quality of the statement you made. The GSS board and the BOCC have something to work with. Money is the life blood of every organization. They should not allow ego or money grievance and desire for power to obstruct the purpose. As long as they have unity of purpose they will go forward. He suggests to bring the meeting to a close.

Commissioner Hinson thanked everyone for their input. He said they have to agree to disagree.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 6:57 p.m.

Everyone needs to know who they are. Once they have the information they know where they're going and coming and it's good to be transparent to make it work. He thinks everyone's heart is for the seniors. They need to figure out what the problem is. There are two sides to every story.

Kathy Brown said she knows it will take time to make decision but the new weather center is opening July 5th. She asked if there will be enough funding?

Commissioner Viegbesie entered at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Cunningham said they are still operating until they give them that data. He hasn't received anything back. He said they were still instructed to operate as usual.

Commissioner Holt said she was going to ask the same thing. She wants to know the dates when contracts are coming out and email them to them. She asked if they have a sign in sheet for the people that are there? So that they can all be on the same page. She told the board they are working hard and they need to communicate better. She said the seniors are getting information that the commissioners are not getting.

Chair Green thanked everyone and echoed the other commissioners. He thanked the seniors for voicing their opinions. They have enlightened them as a board and they will do everything they can to make sure they are standing beside them in all their efforts.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. History

2. Current Situation with Funding

3. Outlook

MOTION TO ADJOURN

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN ADJOURNED THE WORKSHOP AT 7:06 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON JUNE 27, 2022 AT
4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious “Ron” Green, Chair, District 5
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3
Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the workshop. The Invocation was done by Chair Green. He then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

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

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on June 27, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson read the above statement.

General Business

1. Discussion of Federal and State Grant Awards and Potential Awards to Gadsden County for Public Safety Facilities

Mr. Dixon started with the presentation. He stated they were given grants over the past couple of months and at least three of them are coming to fruition. They are having to identify properties so that they can begin accepting the grants and begin the engineering process. All three are what they refer to the EOC grant for a total of \$10 million and the emergency medical services grant. What were in essence three very different grants, three different buildings, they sought to collectively put them in a single location. They have been told no because the grants are very different and given for different reasons. The Sheriff and his team and others reached out. They have had a couple of meetings with the honorable secretaries of those departments.

Commissioner Holt walked in at 4:10pm.

Mr. Dixon stated how they can maintain it and improve it. He said hopefully they can build them in a way to make them able and capable of having great foundations for the future.

He referred everyone to the information provided. He said they have six grants and he said Tashonda Whaley from Emergency Management, Cheri Keiler from Integrity, Steve Wynn from the Sheriff's Department, Engineer Justin Ford, Architect Joe Sampson are all present. They have begun a weekly meeting to discuss all the grants to manage them the best way they can and be efficient. Efficiently began how can they co-locate the facilities. He said they have been looking high and low for locations. They have come across the cities industrial part, which encompasses hundreds of acres and for the most part is flat, and they have an opportunity to co-locate a number of facilities there. He wants them to look at what they are doing in terms of locations and decide if they are going in the proper way.

Mr. Dixon wants to look at what they are doing in terms of locations. He understands it is a workshop, but it's to be in full awareness of what is being done in their name in terms of development of the locations.

He passed out a drawing that Mr. Ford gave him. He said within the \$10 million the county has been allotted; he foresees the ability to build a Sheriff's Department within it. With Emergency Services, they were granted funds to be located at the Health Department and he sees the opportunity to co-locate in a place and space where it should be near other emergency services. That is if the funders agreed that these things can happen.

He referred to the plan that was passed out. He said no engineers or architects have been accomplished yet. They really need to start running to procure architects and engineers to really draw and design what will happen. They have looked at a number of locations and some locations are not available to them.

Mr. Dixon walked through the grants. The first grant is the CDBGDR EMS grant for \$2.5 million. It is to rehab and renovate the existing facility they have in the Health Department. He said it doesn't take a lot to see that place is really not where it belongs.

Commissioner Viegbesie stepped out at 4:19 p.m.

He said given the type of work they do, it becomes a great opportunity to be placed with the Sherriff's office and with the Emergency Operations Center, if they will allow them not to retrofit a building or to retrofit a building attached to a new building. They have asked them if it is possible. He said not only can they get more building but better space. This is the fastest moving grant they have and it is in play right now. Not long ago they gave a contract to Integrity to manage part of this grant so they are moving quickly with this grant.

The second grant is the hurricane safe room. It requires a match of 25% which they know of. This grant is to design a hurricane saferoom. He doesn't know if they are rehabilitating or building a new one. Commissioner Holt said they are building a new one. He said it is \$4.9 million they are working through right now.

Commissioner Viegbesie returned at 4:21 p.m.

He said the third one is the Emergency Operations Center. They already have a grant of \$200,000 for design only and they have until December to complete that grant.

In addition, they have received the \$10 million grant. He referred them to page 5 of 15, to the state legislature grant. He said they asked for \$33 million and the Governor and the Legislature were kind enough to give them \$10 million of that for the design and construction of the

Emergency Operations Center and the Public Safety Complex. They quickly realized they cannot do it on the properties currently own. They don't have enough space, it's not in the right location, and if they own something, there is no water there. To get the pieces that they currently own up would require more time to prep the spaces than the grant allotted time. The properties they have put forward will meet their needs and allows them to design and build a beautiful location that is functional. So, they are looking at how to make the dollars go further and do more.

He said they were just asked and it his understanding that the board doesn't want to give back any money. This is \$460,000 that they just said yes on their behalf to retrofit the hospital and to harden the hallways of the hospital. They want to retrofit it as a special needs shelter that brings retrofit dollars. The opportunity allows them to get a jump start. It creates the opportunity for a generator, doors, and windows, but for \$460,000, it is a lot of money. The state and others were kind in the conversations with them and said to start the job. He believes they need to start the work and take in as much opportunity as they can. Those facilities can be used as something else when they are not being used as shelters.

He said they requested that this month. He explained the drawing design of the COVID shelter. He said the legislative season is upon us again. He met with Quincy and talked about who got money and when Quincy gets ready, they are ready to get out and help. He said the same thing to Greensboro and Greensboro didn't get any money. He said Quincy got about \$30,000 but they are going to make sure that every city has the opportunity to get to the table.

Commissioner Nesmith stepped out at 4:29 p.m.

He said the thing about the saferoom, it has to be one big room. It must immediately go into being what it needs to be. They have to design the purpose and functionality of these buildings when they are not shelters. On page 11 of 15 is the design for the Emergency Operations Center. These are initial designs as Shovel Ready Programs.

On page 12 of 15 is a second story. This is a potential Sheriff's Office. One of things they were talking about is totally consolidating dispatch. He said after seeing what happened in Uvalde, they have got to talk to each other. There can only be one method of conversation. Some cities have their own dispatch center. In an emergency, they want the call to go to the center then to the cop. They have to make sure they are getting the hint.

Commissioner Nesmith returned at 4:33 p.m.

The next page is the hospitals floor plan. There is the opportunity to improve it now not tomorrow. They firmly believe that it is a beginning and not an ending. If it is out there, will do their best to get it.

The \$1.7 million is for the cafeteria and was approved in 2021. They are working with DEO and staffing up to make these things happen. He has been advised that they need a construction manager and engineers as the Board requested. They will bring the best people to the table in an effective amount of time.

Chair Green stated have been given an overview. His first question was in regards to what is the time frame to select a site for the facility? Mr. Dixon said they are in that zone now and don't have a date now. The engineers and architects can only draw to what's there based on the dirt they can see. Commissioner Green asked if the conversation has been started with the City of

Quincy in reference to the Joe Adams site. Mr. Dixon said based on the feedback he receives tonight; it will be on the agenda tomorrow night if things are positive.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked why they keep referring to the shelter as COVID shelter, when he hopes COVID will not be here forever. He wants to change the name to infections disease shelter. That will cover every health disaster that comes our way. It is a recommendation from him. He didn't understand the rendering of the sheriff's complex and he asked how much was the Sheriff's input solicited in order to come up with that rendering? Mr. Dixon said the Sheriff has been very active in the design. He will check to make sure the name of the shelter is not a part of the grant. Mr. Dixon said they are trying to keep the clarity as to why the money was given there.

Commissioner Hinson said it is the first time he sees this today so he can't give feedback. He said he needs to do more research on the \$1.7 million because he remembers that the \$1.7 million just wasn't for just the building but for the entire space. So, he wants to make sure he's accurate if he makes a decision. He said he would like for them to take a tour of those 52 buildings that is not occupied so when he gives information to the people it will be accurate. Mr. Dixon said he didn't say they were not occupied, he said that the County owns. Commissioner Hinson asked how many buildings they have? He said it would be great once he reads it because there are a lot of opportunities in it. He said he would like to know how much land they own for tourist grants? In Havana they talked about refurbishing the river off of Iron Bridge Road. It would be a good tool to bring people into Gadsden County. He said he knows they are putting millions of dollars into the park for Pat Thomas Parkway, but they have more rivers than that. Mr. Dixon said he just had staff compile every piece of property the County owns and it is years of compiling properties. He said yes, they could have some shining stars in there that could be for their best use. Commissioner Hinson said he would like to add more parks throughout Gadsden County. He said the City of Midway is 10 minutes from the airport and Tallahassee has grown so much that people are moving out of Tallahassee and they may need a center for others to come and be a part of. They thought of a small civic center, like in Atlanta. They could benefit from Tallahassee just from that alone.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he has had the opportunity to tour the sites. They have more developed property than he imagined. He said, as a nice gesture, if those inventories of developed land that the County has, if it's something he can arrange a tour for the commissioners. He was amazed at what they have.

Chair Green said he was also going to ask for a tour to see in reality what they have in the County.

Commissioner Nesmith wanted to make sure he followed the grant and the buildings. He asked about the CDBG grant and asked if that building was damaged? Mr. Dixon said the building EMS was in was damaged. They moved into the Health Department. Commissioner Nesmith asked if they will relocate? Mr. Dixon said hopefully they will go into a new building. Commissioner Nesmith asked if the \$2.5 million was to renovate the building. Mr. Dixon said it was and they are asking now to build a new building. If so, they have a potential location on the map. Mr. Dixon said with the savings that they are inviting from the other opportunities; he believes they can accomplish the goal. Commissioner Nesmith asked if the \$4.9 million dollars is for the construction for the Stevens school. Mr. Dixon said it was. Commissioner Nesmith asked if the Emergency operations center is another building on property owned by Quincy? Mr. Dixon said no, currently the Emergency Operations Center is in the Sheriff's Office. Mr.

Mr. Dixon clarified it is proposed by Quincy.

Commissioner Hinson said since the City of Quincy is not using the property, can they just purchase the property? Chair Green said it depends on the conversation. Commissioner Nesmith asked about the Emergency Operations Center and if it would also house the jail? Mr. Dixon said no, the jail will still be the jail. It was proposed to be housed on grounds at the jail. Chair Green said the reason for the larger space, is because when they designed it, they designed it for about 20 parks. That was on the facility where the jail is now, they were hoping for more space.

Commissioner Holt said, for the first grant, they are possibly discussing having the EMS moved where? Mr. Dixon said to Joe Adams Road. Commissioner Holt asked if the drive time from there to the hospital to Tallahassee increasing? Mr. Dixon said no, where they are located is not about the drive time. It's literally a two-minute drive from there to the hospital. Mr. Dixon said it gives them the opportunity to have a nice facility. Commissioner Holt said she knows what it does, and she's not speaking against it. She said when you look at healthcare, you look at ETA. Mr. Dixon said he doesn't think it lowers their ability to go north or south, east or west. Commissioner Holt said back to her point, she is looking at the healthcare in the eastside. She said it may be a good idea, she just wants it to be considered.

Commissioner Nesmith stepped out at 4:56 p.m.

Commissioner Holt said it may be a good idea, she is not debating it. She said hopefully they are looking at getting a new building out of that money. She asked for the plan for the present location? Mr. Dixon said they are looking for other opportunities. Commissioner Holt said on the \$1.7 million for the shelter, she is about leaving it the same because they convinced the legislature that it is for COVID so they could get the money. When COVID is over, it can be used for other things. She asked for the restrictions on the \$1.7 million. Mr. Dixon said it is just for the location. Ms. Daniels said it is to retrofit. Commissioner Holt said that would be to be able convert back and forth. The drawings were to be a restaurant then you could move beds in case of a Hurricane. They didn't have enough money to retrofit the building. On the \$4.9 million, it was sold to congress for it to be a new building. Mr. Dixon said as a point of privilege, they have the state departments online and he asked the chairman if he would like for them to chime in.

Cory gave an update on the pre-disaster mitigation project for the Stevens High School site. DEM submitted an application and worked with the County through FEMA for a project for the saferoom. The project still needs to meet the eligibility criteria for FEMA's standard mitigation program.

Commissioner Nesmith returned at 5:02 p.m.

They just submitted the application to FEMA. They will probably come back with some supplemental requests for information. Typically, for projects of this nature, FEMA prefers to do retrofits of existing buildings rather than new construction. Laura Deway said they have made it pass the first hurdle to submit the application to FEMA for a safe room. They are waiting to hear back from FEMA and they will be working in a close partnership with the county to get this project where it needs to be. They are going in the right direction and they are hopeful they will get the project where it needs to be.

Commissioner Holt said on the \$200,000.00 for Emergency Operations on Pat Thomas, which

one is it for? Mr. Dixon said it is for the EOC and the Sheriff's office. Commissioner Holt had a few questions about the map. Mr. Dixon said Mr. Ford did this over the weekend. Commissioner Holt said she is asking these questions because she wants to make sure she's in line. She said they would want the buildings by the road not by the woods. She said that keeps the EMS facility from having to go through a complex in case of an emergency. Mr. Dixon said the Emergency Management facility was designed multiple ways in and out. Mr. Dixon said the City of Quincy has to build a new public works facility because ours is in sad shape. They are not having any COVID situations now, but come winter time they have a small room people have to touch each other in. Commissioner Holt likes the idea of them being next to each other because they can work better together. She asked how close is it to the community? Mr. Dixon said there are trees all along from the facility. The bypass was designed to come that way. Commissioner Holt said it would be good to talk to the community out there. They will be wondering what is going on. She said it is not a bad layout. She asked Justin if the next lot is pretty leveled? Mr. Ford said the property has a little topography and maybe do a little bit of grading. Commissioner Holt said it hopefully doesn't drain to the East. Mr. Ford said no, it drains south. The big green area is a conservation area and they won't impact any homes. Commissioner Holt asked if the \$200,000 used for design for the Emergency Operations Center be used for any other design? Mr. Dixon said no, it says emergency operations only. Mr. Dixon said the state agencies have been very generous. Commissioner Holt said for the hospital, it looks awful, and they are only looking at a section because the \$460,000.00 is not going to get walls and doors. Mr. Dixon said it is just the hardening. Commissioner Holt asked when will they will get a project manager? Mr. Dixon said as soon as they can. They just passed the procurement policy. Commissioner Holt said if they pay people, they will get people. They will need to advertise for the positions. She said for the book on the Stevens school project, she paid \$600 for it. They partnered with FAMU and hopefully they can partner with them again in order to get some design ideas. They have come over and looked at the site and walked to community. She really wants them to contact them and look at some of the ideas that they have instead of them narrowing their focus too much. Mr. Dixon said they are attempting to keep their focus wide and the new procurement policy allows them to bring in multiple vendors.

Jody McCormick with DEO said he has been listening and said how the GR funding would be essential. He talked about the benefits being restricted.

Chair Green stepped out at 5:16 p.m.

The map would be a separation and they would have to look into the purchasing of the property. Any property that is purchased would have to go through an assessment. With purchasing a property, the \$10 million could not be used to purchase the property and house the EMS facility at the same time. So, it would potentially be a better idea to look at using some County funds to purchase the property to put facility there. It would require an amendment to the agreement that's already in place. It is not a huge deal; he can work with Mr. Dixon to put the terms and tasks in it to best fit their needs.

Commissioner Holt asked if the EMS \$10 million dollars cannot be used for anything else. She said out of 25% match may be able to use for purchase? Mr. Jody said he doesn't see how it would be an issue unless it is a 25% match towards the EOC. Commissioner Holt said they could use County funds. Mr. Dixon said there's no match for the EOC. Commissioner Holt said she was talking about the \$10 million. Mr. Dixon said there is no match for it. The match is for the Stevens school. Commissioner Holt said OK, they have to look at finding the funds for any purchase of that property. She thinks the layout is pretty good. She said the County owns a lot of

properties that are tax properties. Every year they will have a county owned property that is a tax property.

Commissioner Viegbesie said since they can't use the \$10 million for the EOC to purchase it, can they go to an MOU with the City of Quincy so that there are no purchases of that property? They are getting competent staff of employee to make sure that everything is well and the amount of money to attract a good person also has to be factored into it. He said they have a good person running the EMS. They need to make that person from interim to a permanent position.

Commissioner Hinson said with the growth in Midway, can they entertain the idea of merging the public works department with Midway? There are so many entities in Midway and are going to be bringing a lot of business in the area. He said since Midway really is the old Quincy, a lot of people moved to Midway and with the 10-90, a lot of people don't realize Gadsden County has a lot of opportunities, they just can't see it. If they partner with Midway, they can help the people there and the businesses.

Commissioner Green said it is something that can be looked into. Commissioner Nesmith asked how much land they own? Mr. Dixon said none. He confirmed the only property they own is the property that the existing jail is on and a piece behind the Armory. Commissioner Nesmith asked if they own the property the Armory is on? Mr. Dixon said no. Commissioner Nesmith asked if it is owned by the federal government? Mr. Dixon said yes. Mr. Dixon said all of that was purchased in a section and then was spread out with partnerships with state agencies. Commissioner Nesmith asked if everything else is owned by Quincy? Mr. Dixon said yes. Chair Green asked if any of the state agencies online would like to speak. There were none.

Commissioner Hinson said there was idea of bringing in this youth complex into Midway. They had about 50 acres of land across the street from the City Hall. The people there were willing to sell. The majority of growth in Gadsden County is the City of Quincy, Midway and Havana. He said the business isn't going to come unless they have the proper infrastructure. They have the land of people willing to sell. There is a great chance a bank will be in Midway. They have to have infrastructure in order to build a city.

Commissioner Viegbesie commended the administrator and staff for this forward thinking and centralization for the services.

Commissioner Nesmith stepped out at 5:30 p.m.

He said tomorrow is the meeting with the city with regards with trying to get them to buy into this. He suggests that they all join the Administrator tomorrow as a unified body in the presentation of this idea so that they know they are willing to go into this project with them for the good of Gadsden County.

Chair Green wanted clarity on the suggestion. He asked if he meant on being there in person? Commissioner Viegbesie said yes, he calls it visibility. Chair Green said it is a great recommendation, however, they will be attending the FACT conference. Commissioner Viegbesie said he will be there in person.

Commissioner Holt said the build out dates for the emergency management in 2022 is the nearest one coming. The other closest will be EMS and the hospital in 25 and 27 on the public

safety complex. She put ASAP on that because it has been out here forever. She wanted to make sure about the deadlines and they may have to go back and apply for funding to match. Mr. Dixon said with her particular attitude, puts them in line for more money. They want to be the county that closes and finishes. Commissioner Holt said she is pushing for a veteran's center.

Motion to Adjourn

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 5:35 P.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 16, 2022 AT 9:00
A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice-Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, District 1
Brenda Holt, District 5
Ed Dixon, County Administrator
Rob Nixon, City of Quincy Manager
Morris Young, Sheriff
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Roll Call

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the Workshop.

General Business

1. Introductions and Expectations

Mr. Dixon gave a background on what he felt the Commissioners wanted to accomplish.

Dr. Alvin B. Jackson, Jr. said a few words of introduction.

2. Strategic Thinking

The word strategy derives from the Greek word **stratagos** (which derives from two words: "stratos"-army & "ago"-which is the ancient Greek for leading/guiding/moving to and referred to a military commander during the age of Athenian Democracy.

A strategy is typically the idea or a style of thinking which sets a course of action that promises a winning future position.

Strategic Thinking

Strategic thinking is the way people think about, assess, view and create the future for themselves and others.

It is much more than responding and reacting to both day-to-day and long-term problems, opportunities and new realities.

It is **proactive**, not reactive and focuses on creating a **better future and adding value**. Strategic thinking always involves change and imagining the results we can achieve in the future.

Major Characteristics of Strategic Thinkers:

- Possess the ability to move out of their comfort zone and use new and broader boundaries for thinking, planning, performing, analyzing and evaluating and continuous improvement.
- Very passionate about what they do; they have a deep source of energy and motivation.
- Lifelong learners, driven to teach others and share what they have learned.
- Differentiate between the ends (what) and the means (how); they defined in planned results at multiple levels before deciding how to achieve the results.
- Are risk takers. They do not limit themselves by current paradigms. They are comfortable investing in risking today's time for tomorrow's potential benefit.
- Possess the ability to develop a vision and then use that vision as the foundation for strategic thinking and planning.
- Continuously keep working, connecting in communicating because they never take their success for granted.
- Canned/will develop outrageous and extraordinary objectives that defined the desired results and measurable terms.

What is Strategic Planning?

- It involves preparing the best way (i.e. plan) to respond to circumstances of the environment or a situation, whether or not all circumstance are known in advance.
- Government often must be prepared to respond to a dynamic, often changing and even hostile environments or situations
- Without these plans, a Council is being reactive, not proactive and could make a decision that is not for the long-term benefit of the entire City
- Being strategic, then, means being clear about the established objectives, being aware of resources, and incorporating both to be consciously responsive to an event, environment or situation
- The process is strategic because it involves preparing the best way to respond to the circumstances of the organization's environment, whether or not it circumstances are known in advance; county governments often must respond to dynamic and even hostile environments.
- Being strategic, then, means being clear about the organization's objectives, being aware of the organization's resources, and incorporating both into being consciously responsive to a dynamic environment.

Determine Who is Accountable

- This is HOW you are going to get where you want to go
- The strategies, action plans and budget are all steps in the process that effectively communicate how you will allocate time, human capital and money to address priority issues and achieve the defined objectives

“What If” Thinking

- Scenario planning (sometimes called “scenario and contingency planning”) is a structured way for organizations to think about the future

- Staff sets out to develop a small number of scenarios or stories about how the future might unfold and how this might affect an issue that confronts them

Scenario Planning

- Scenario planning is NOT about predicting the future
- It IS about exploring the future.
- If you are aware of what could happen, you are more likely to be able to deal with what will happen.
- Scenario planning exercises involve identifying trends and exploring the implications of projecting them forward with high, medium, and low probable forecasts
- These can include political, economic, social and technological trends
- As different trends are chosen and different combinations of forecast levels are combined, a whole spectrum of possibilities can/will be identified

3. What is Economic Development?

The purpose of Local Economic Development (LED) is to build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all.

It is a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation.

You have to put money in the budget for economic development.

Dr. Jackson asked if the Chamber was providing any services and Commissioner Holt said they could not name them. Dr. Jackson said if they are using the Chamber, the Chamber should be the entity that works with existing businesses because that adds value. He explained what he meant by working with them, they should be serving, they should be talking to them and as soon as one business says "I'm looking at a new product line" the Chamber should knock on your Economic Development door and say we have an existing business that is looking at expanding, could you provide them technical assistance. He said you have to be as proactive with existing businesses as you are with incoming businesses.

Project Confidentiality (F.S. 288.075)

Critical issues for most projects

- Develop Goals and Objectives
- You have to establish a formal economic development vision/mission (i.e., purpose)
- You want to show the County is ready to drive economic vitality through a clearly defined message or statement (i.e., vision and mission)
- You want this message to be direct and show the plan will improve the quality of life for residents, existing businesses and new businesses (i.e., is good for EVERYONE)

Think about the result; can what you want to achieve be clearly articulated?

- Is it full employment?

- Is it a diversity in economy?
- Is it sustainable growth?
- Is it enhanced efficiency?

Lunch Break taken at 12:04 p.m.

Workshop resumed at 12:26 p.m.

How to Report Progress

- People understand progress best when they can “see: the measurement of the change
- Wordy reports are hard to comprehend, but pictures speak to almost everyone
- Using graphs and target pictures will help people “see” the success.

You have to report, otherwise people will start questioning.

You want to keep increase in a property value.

4. Economic Development and Gadsden County

Gadsden County needs to establish a formal economic development mission/vision (I. e., purpose). You want to show the County is ready to drive economic vitality through a clearly defined message or statement (i.e., Vision and mission). You want the message to be direct and showed this plan will improve the quality of life for residents, existing businesses and new businesses.

Goal

Increase the County tax base through the addition of new targeted businesses

- Complete a target industries analysis
- Identify and create database of shovel ready sites and spec buildings
- Meet with target businesses, developers and investors to promote moving to Gadsden County
- Assist the targeted business through the development process from due diligence, to permitting to grand opening

Moving Forward

You have to take stock of resources. You don't know what you have to offer until you have identified what you have. A formal assessment or audit is needed. The results need to be collected in a database.

Buildings

- Where are buildings that are ready to be immediately occupied?
- Where are buildings that may need demolition or remodeling?

- Know the building characteristics-Neighborhood and what business is compatible in the area and any special features of that building/neighborhood

Regulations

- What regulations are in place-both Code of Ordinance and Land Development?
- Are there unique regulations a business needs to be aware of like noise, dust control, restrictions on hours of operation, required buffers, etc?
- Are these codes development/builder friendly or out of date with current standards or as compared to adjacent jurisdictions?
- Are any amendments needed?

Permitting

- Examine the entire permitting process from predevelopment meetings/concept talk to site plan review and approval through building permit
- How long does it take?
- Can it be streamlined?

Dr. Jackson passed out notepads to the Commissioners and asked them to list strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

He said there were more weaknesses and that was seen by the outside and where discussions should start.

He said in closing, they have to develop a plan, everyone has to work together.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THEM, THE WORKSHOP WAS DECLARED ADJOURNED AT 3:48 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON
AUGUST 1, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Carolyn Ford, Chair-Person of Tourist Interest
Jeff Dubree, Tax Collector
Brenda Holt, County Commissioner
Decorkus Allen, Havana Council Member
Keith Dowdell, Quincy City Commissioner
Linda Dixon, Tax Collector

Absent: Peter Patel, Tax Collector

Staff Present: Ed Dixon, County Administrator
Leslie Steele, TDC Administrator
Clayton Knowles, Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

There were technical difficulties for the first 15 minutes.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

Chair Ford called the workshop to order at 4:03 pm. The roll call was done.

2. General Business

- a) **Introduction Overview** – Leslie Steele said they are up by \$3,000. They will be getting the RFP done. It will go up September 30th of fiscal year. They will do the original campaign.

She directed to the first page in the booklet.

Keith Dowell entered workshop at 4:07 pm.

Ms. Steele said the budgeting office has caught up. The salaries and contracts are being taken out. There are legal services for Mr. Knowles. They have to do a budget amendment that was approved for special events. They have advertising when they do their meetings. They are at a good point and they need to decide on a good day to have a meeting and can approve the vendor for the marketing RFP. Also, so that they can approve the 4 companies that requested assistance with their events. After they make recommendations, they will have to approve those events.

Mr. Dubree asked what will happen if they can't get a quorum. Leslie said they will have a meeting. The reason for this workshop is because they needed to see the budget and make recommendations. Leslie said they can do marketing workshops. If there was a need for a meeting, they would go to quarterly meetings.

Commissioner Dowdell had a question about the rental and leasing.

Ms. Steele said the next page is the expenditure budget broken down. They did share with the budget office that they liked this style. After this year, they have transitioned.

Linda Dixon walked in at 4:16 pm.

Ms. Steele said TDC sponsored events are the events they decide to do that have not been allotted anywhere because they will be sponsored by them.

Commissioner Holt asked about the ones under the marketing reimbursement. She asked if they are only for right now? Ms. Steele said yes, she was just giving an example of the type of funding. Commissioner Holt said she wanted to ask a question. She asked if they are not permanent? Ms. Steele said yes.

b) 2022-2023 Financial Outlook

Ms. Steele referred to the budget worksheets. The budget team got together based off of where they are right now and the recommended budget is the \$12,648.00 for salaries, no pay increases there. The total amount for all the taxes comes from personnel services to \$16,393.00. She asked if everyone was okay with that and everyone agreed. For the professional legal component and travel per diem is \$10,000.00 for the legal team and \$3,600.00 for travel. The tourism conference is August 31st – September 2nd in Boca Raton and participation in that is \$549.00 per person. The tourism conference is August 31st through September 2nd in Boca Raton, for \$549 per person. In the past, they only wanted two members to go. It is already at \$1,700 without travel and hotel. They need to get with chairman on which direction to go. Communications was for \$100 and postage and freight for \$200. The Marketing Reimbursement Program is where they reimburse organizations that they partner with that do events and they help with the marketing of the County. This year they are asking for the \$45,000 so that they can have TDC sponsored events. The remaining of the TDC sponsored events is \$31,500. The Juneteenth event is out of the events grants fund of the \$20,000.00. Commissioner Holt confirmed that the category is different from the other events. Leslie said yes. Commissioner Holt said she asked for the numbers is because she wanted to make sure that the \$31,500.00 stayed. It's going to be a tradition to have Juneteenth. It should be funded separately. Ms. Steele asked if it will be in the marketing component and if the County will promote it? Commissioner Holt said that's what she wants. Ms. Steele asked if they want it to come out of the marketing dollars? Commissioner Holt said the fishing tournament is a good idea. It should be an annual event. They should do Juneteenth as a County event. They can decide where the money is going to come from but there should be two permanent events that they are going to do to bring as many people in as they can.

Ms. Steele said for the marketing dollars they have \$103,500.00 that's been allotted for the marketing firm. In that, the marketing firm would be responsible in the media plan they had them put together. They would be responsible for talking about the Crappy Tournament. Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Dubree how successful would it be if they brought it back. Mr. Dubree said it is expensive, they were spending \$20,000.00 to do the tournament. It brings people in but doesn't generate money for the county. He said right now, more people may be drawn to Lake Talquin because the state of Florida put a bass that they tagged in the lake that if someone catches it, it's \$5,000.00. Commissioner Holt said she asked that because it is a resource. Mr. Dubree thought that the \$103,500 was going to be used, not so much for events, but for bringing people here that just want to come to take a trip here

unrelated to an event. Ms. Stelle said for the media plan, that Juneteenth and the tournament would be included and it would be her recommendation that it be included in that \$60,000.00. Mr. Dubree said it doesn't bring a lot of money in his opinion. Ms. Steele said \$103,000 is not enough money for marketing. They need to think about making some adjustments. She said from going to the tourism meetings, the biggest complaint is that people can't find their website because it says it's "do something original" so they will be going to "visit Gadsden". Billboards and google ads come up when people are traveling.

Commissioner Holt said she wants people to come all the time but they have to have a hook. Mr. Dubree said we have a lot of hooks. Commissioner Holt said she understands, but she has some questions. She said if she comes through Quincy, she sees empty stores. In Chattahoochee she sees the river so they need to key in on some things. How do they get people here? Mr. Dubree said they need to run some advertising. Ms. Steele said that's what the marketing funds will be used for. Commissioner Holt said she's not debating it just wants a hook to get people to come. Mr. Dubree said he brought it up because they have the \$31,500.00 for sponsored events and then they have the \$20,000.00 in events. Whether that's the number they stick with, it's no problem. They need to separate on events and promoting the County that's not related to an event.

Ms. Steele said in other counties, they have smaller events, then the bigger event. They would need to know how to separate the money for the bigger event. The bigger event is like the calling card and will go under the events grant fund. The event that is expected to draw in 1,000 to 200 can only get this amount and then the event that draws in 10,000 visitors, this is a hypothetical number, that event can get \$20,000.00. Mr. Evans is providing her with his bedroom tax he generates from his reggae festival. She said Tallahassee does their events like that. Marketing funds is for marketing Gadsden to get people to visit. The other pot of money is for events specifically targeted for larger events.

Ms. Ford asked for the definition of the other grant. Ms. Steele said they had levels of those grants. Ms. Ford said she is just looking for the category. Ms. Steele said that's what she is saying. She said theirs can be community event grants funds and then it can be larger organization grant funds. She doesn't know the right name for it at the moment but she knows there's a separation.

Mr. Dowdell said they need marketing money for Gadsden County. Ms. Steele said that's why they need to add an additional pot of money. The \$103,000.00 needs to be spent just on marketing this County. Mr. Dubree said they only have \$125,000 a year income.

Ms. Ford said she is thinking about the county coming in for a big celebration to just market the County around May 10th to June 16th. It's in one month capsule leading up to the big days and plan. Even come up with a plan with the marketing firm to put Gadsden County on display. Ms. Steele said they need to have a separate pot of events. Ms. Ford asked for the special category. Ms. Steele said corporation events. Ms. Ford liked the community events. Ms. Steele would recommend they get back together to find out where they can get the funding to pay for the additional cost.

Commissioner Holt said it won't matter that much if they look at the \$103,000.00 they can use. She asked if the \$123,000.00 is what they have all together? Ms. Steele said yes. Commissioner Holt said they can talk about it but don't have the money. The kicker is if someone is going to buy something they have to have something to buy. They have to have something they want and then they'll buy it. They can market really hard but they aren't marketing what they want. She said what do they see

when they are driving by? She said they can spend X amount of dollars on marketing but what are they going to market? They will need to do some thinking about this once they leave and will need to have another meeting. Mr. Dubree said that information could be provided by the actual people that are collecting the money now. People that have hotels can say why people are staying there, whether it is for business, or for visiting family. They can say when their busiest seasons are. Commissioner Holt said surveying has been done with the cards for data. Mr. Dubree said it should be done digitally.

Mr. Dowdell said Coca Cola was Quincy's brand. He doesn't know why they left but if Coca Cola came up in conversation, they would talk about Quincy. He asked what happened? Ms. Ford said mainstream took over it. Mr. Dowdell said they need to get it back. Ms. Ford said a guy named Monroe, had it, then he got sick. From her understanding, there was some type of confusion around the whole thing, when they left, that was it. Commissioner Holt said how are they going to get money to go after some of these things. Ms. Steele said for the Tallahassee events, they get money from the TDC and from the Lottery and Walmart and other sponsors. As a smaller county, people tend to want the county to sponsor the whole event as oppose to getting other sponsors to help with an event. Another thing to focus on is what level of sponsorship do they want to have.

Ms. Ford said it's because they never asked. They have the biggest Trulieve and they don't give a dime to the county at this time. They responded to her by saying they got all this that's supposed to be opening up and then so many little small groups keep running. They want it organized. They never had a planning marketing firm to come in. Ms. Steele said that wouldn't be the county or the TDC, that would be the organization that would do it. What is happening with us, is everyone is coming to the county to pay for their event. They have to be careful with that approach. The county can't accept money from Trulieve for contributions.

Commissioner Holt asked Mr. Knowles what state statute says that. Mr. Knowles said they need to remit them to the clerk. Mr. Knowles said there was an issue that the clerk said they were taking money from one of the events. Commissioner Holt asked if there is a law for it? Mr. Knowles said another issue was that there had been some communications of vendors. If they want to raise money separately from businesses, particularly if they are not doing business in front of the county. Commissioner Holt said you can go to the state constitution and come on down. She said that is a research question they need him to research. Ms. Ford said the companies down south were donating. Commissioner Holt said they never took an initiative. She said she has not asked because she felt they need to be better organized. Companies do not want to be bothered. Mr. Knowles said she can send it to Ms. Steele and then she can send it to them. Ms. Steele asked if the CDC accept sponsorships. Commissioner Holt said the board has to approve it. Mr. Knowles said the statute for this board doesn't say it, it would be the ethics statute. Mr. Dubree said it is more customarily done in other places. Mr. Dubree said they have a hard time getting a quorum together and are now meeting quarterly for them to really put on a major event, especially 4 of them a year. He doesn't think they have the resources.

Ms. Steele went to the next item, which was books, publications and subscriptions and it came up to \$5,930.00. Mr. Dubree said he thought they weren't doing the FADMO. Ms. Steele said it was on the sheet for fiscal year '22. They agreed that they are getting rid of Riverway South. The entire budget would be \$212,568.00. She would like for them to have a meeting to approve some things. Commissioner Holt said they need the conference and they need to go. Ms. Steele said there is money to move around and recommends everyone goes to it and they make a budget amendment to it. Ms.

Steele asked who would be interested in attending. Everyone agreed to attend. Mr. Dubree asked if they still offer a discount. Ms. Steele said yes.

Summary Highlight

Fund Balance as of 8/1/2022

Revenue Details

Expenditure Details

c.) Special Events Request Update

Ms. Steele would like to have a meeting within the next 14 days so that they can approve those events. Once they decide whoever the marketing firm is, they can start doing workshops in September.

Commissioner Holt asked for deadline for events to be over. Ms. Steele said it is still open and for next year's events, it will open on August 31st. Commissioner Holt asked for this one, and Ms. Steele said no. Commissioner Holt said hopefully in the near future, they will be going on the Economic Development trip. They have to have other boards to go. This one is on the Tennessee and Mississippi border and Economic Development is what they need to go after. She said if people are not coming here to live and spend their money or visit, they are not going to get any more than what they are getting right now.

3. Next Scheduled Meetings

Ms. Steele asked if they can do August 22 or August 29? It would be a regular meeting. They confirmed the next regular meeting will be on August 29, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

4. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, CHAIR FORD DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 5:11 P.M.

CAROLYN FORD, Chair
Tourist Development Commission

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE VALUE ADJUSTMENT
BOARD HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON
AUGUST 2, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING
WAS HAD, VIZ:**

**Present: Gay Steffen, Homestead Property Representative
Cathy Johnson, School Board Representative
Eric Hinson, County Commissioner
Kimblin Nesmith, County Commissioner
Jean Baptiste, Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk**

1. Call to Order – Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk Marcella called the meeting to order.

2. Introduction of Board Members

Deputy Clerk Marcella introduced all of the Board members. She confirmed the quorum was met by having at least one County Commissioner, one property representative, and a school board representative.

3. Introduction of Clerk's Designee to Act as Clerk to VAB

Deputy Clerk Marcella introduced the clerks to the Value Adjustment Board.

4. Discussion and Nomination of VAB Attorney

Commissioner Hinson motioned to approve Attorney Baptiste. Commissioner Nesmith second with a question. He asked Mr. Baptiste if he was interested in being the attorney for the Value Adjustment Board. Mr. Baptiste stated yes, he is a litigation counsel for the Florida Tax Collector's Association. He handles all litigation matters for the tax collectors across the state, from Key West to Escambia.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

5. Adoption of Petition Filing fee of \$15.00

Commissioner Hinson asked if Attorney Baptiste should take a seat on the dais. Mr. Baptiste took his seat on the dais as a board member. Deputy Clerk Marcella asked for a motion for the filing fee. Commissioner Hinson made the motion and a second was made by Commissioner Nesmith with a question. He asked if that was the same fee that they typically charge. Clerk Marcella said that is the statute standard fee.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

6. Discussion of Dates for Organizational Meeting

Deputy Clerk Marcella asked for the dates that work for everyone for the organizational meeting. She stated that the training on the Department of Revenue website will be up soon and she will need the certificate before the petition hearings. Commissioner Nesmith asked if the attorney has everyone's contact information. Clerk Marcella said she will make sure he does. Commissioner Nesmith asked if there will be a letter from the board or was this just a verbal approval. Clerk Marcella said it is a verbal approval. She said at the organizational meeting she will have a resolution for the chairman to sign for the petition filling fee. Commissioner Nesmith asked for the timeframe for the meeting. Clerk Marcella does not have those dates yet. She said the property appraiser has always been good at working out the questions and issues. She has been here for ten years and there have only been two hearings in the whole ten years. Commissioner Nesmith asked Mr. Baptiste if he is ready to schedule the meeting. Mr. Baptiste asked how long the meeting will be. Clerk Marcella said 30-45 minutes. She said preferably the middle of August. Mr. Baptiste asked for August 9th and everyone agreed. Clerk Marcella asked what time they preferred. Everyone agreed to 4:00 p.m.

The organizational meeting is set for August 9th at 4:00 p.m.

7. VAB Hearing Dates – September 9, 2022 starting at 9:30 a.m. If any hearings need to be rescheduled, it will be on September 12, 2022.

Deputy Clerk Marcella went over the petition hearing dates. The hearing date will be September 12th, at 9:30 a.m. The trim notices have not been mailed out.

Adjournment

With nothing else to be said, Clerk Marcella entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hinson made the motion with a second from Commissioner Nesmith.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CLERK MARCELLA DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:13 P.M.

, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON AUGUST 2, 2022
AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: **Ronterious “Ron” Green, Chair, District 5**
 Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3
 Jeffrey Moore, District 2
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney

Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

1. Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the workshop. He asked everyone to bow their heads and have their own invocation. He then led to the pledge of allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

Chair Green read out loud the Citizens Requesting to be Heard statement.

2. Introduction, County Administrator

3. Citizens Requesting to Speak

Wilbert Butler, Jr. thanked the board for having him. He said the Havana CDC Community Development corporation is coming before them for a fund request of \$600,00.00. It is to address the rural healthcare services that they are proposing storage and county wide distribution for COVID related materials and supplies. Also, for cultural educational programs in which they are putting civil rights museum and have collected oral histories. The fitness and recreational program are for all age groups. They are proposing a farm to table to train people to grow and cook healthy foods. It will house two commercial kitchens. It will also have the STEM gym program which has been in place for a while.

Commissioner Holt entered at 4:07 p.m.

They conduct most afterschool programs in Leon County and Gadsden County. They have worked with East and West Gadsden. When East Gadsden has gone from F to a C, the STEM Gym was present. They have already had the plans drawn up and delivered. They have permission to move forward. They are asking for this money to help finish it up.

Chair Green thanked him for all of the work he is doing in the Havana community development.

Mr. Butler has a summary of things they have already accomplished. He said there was an announcement by WCTV in reference to \$1.2 million dollars that had been acquired to purchase the

Havana North Side site to convert it to a teen center and wants clarification on it. They have had a few people that have made financial contributions. People have volunteered to help them, like Mr. Miller who keeps their yard clean. They think that their contributors are being disenfranchised. They think that they have received the money from them and then going to sell the building. He wants to assure them and make them feel comfortable about what they are about doing because they have not been contacted about it at all.

Chair Green asked the administrator if he has had a discussion with anyone relating to the site. Mr. Dixon said not yet. Mr. Butler said the money was received to purchase the building and to create a teen center. Chair Green said this Board has never discussed any location. They did get information on some funding that will be made available. Mr. Butler said they have received phone calls from everywhere. Commissioner Holt said the congressman's office is where he needs to contact for clarification, that's who she spoke with. Mr. Butler said, without being confrontational, Commissioner Holt was the person speaking in that interview. Mr. Butler said it sends a bad message to their supporters and volunteers. Commissioner Holt clarified there was nothing said about purchasing the building that it was for a teen center. Mr. Butler said the article on WCTV specifically says "to buy the building and to convert it to a teen center". He said the pictures and interview was in front of their building. Mr. Butler said he will send the article and he wants a copy of the proposals.

Commissioner Hinson said the heartburn that Mr. Butler has is not about the teen center, it is about the purchasing of the building. The board did not agree on purchasing Havana North Side. He heard about it last week and thought it was a joke. Mr. Butler clarified it twice. Chair Green said in closing, they don't have the information and it didn't come from them. They do appreciate all their work they are doing. They will continue with this conversation as it relates to the \$600,000.00 they are requesting.

Chair Green welcomed Commissioner Jeffrey Moore to the Dias.

4. Summary Highlights, Assistant County Administrator

Mr. Dixon said they are here to talk about millage and it is that time again. Ms. Daniels will present some information again. They expect on Friday they will have a budget ready. They have gone through a couple of iterations for \$15 minimum wage. In this fiscal year, the Sherriff has gotten new monies in terms of a recurring \$500,000.00 grant from the state. There was the situation where they needed to add \$500,000.00 to his budget and they needed to get it out of the non-recurring box into the recurring box. Their recommendation is that they remain at 9 mills so that they can fulfill some of those obligations, especially to the workforce. They are suffering as everyone else is. They have to be careful to make sure they are not only keeping employees but how they can put themselves in position in the next year to bring along the people in compression.

Ms. Daniels welcomed Commissioner Moore. She passed out handouts and said a lot of the information has not changed. She apologized and said they are still working and massaging the numbers, maybe into next week for the complete budget. They will be receiving the remaining dates and they have August 12th as the preliminary budget distribution. The first public hearing is set for September 13th. They have to look at how many days before they have the advertisement that they can hold the public hearing within so many days. September 19th will be the second public hearing. Once millage rate is adopted and they approve those two dates, that information goes to the

property appraiser and he sends out the trim notice. He also will put the first public hearing date on the trim notice. Every property owner in Gadsden County will get one of those notices. That is the advertisement. Subsequent to that, they have to advertise in a local newspaper the second public hearing. Sometimes people get confused, but the trim notice is the advertisement. She continued and said the first page is just the calendar in the package. She asked if anyone had any questions. Commissioner Nesmith asked if only the first two public hearings are in writing. Ms. Daniels said they have those two dates because of the way the statute is written, on certain days they have to do certain things.

Commissioner Holt asked when they will get the complete budget. Ms. Daniels said August 12th or it could be before that. Ms. Daniels said she will meet with them and there will be another budget workshop. Commissioner Holt wanted to make sure they have discussion on budget before public hearing.

Mr. Dixon said he hopes to get them some unofficial copies of the budget. They don't want to put something out there that might change.

Commissioner Nesmith said there are other entities that have received money in the past. He wanted to know if they have the opportunity to come forward. Mr. Dixon said the constitutions will have every opportunity and they will be invited to come before them. Commissioner Nesmith said that is extremely important if they want to continue to receive funds from the Board.

- Funds Balance Summary

Ms. Daniels said they are still working with the audit, but these are preliminary numbers. The audited financial statements have not completely been done yet. This is the general fund, transportation fund, building inspection fund, and EMS Fund. Chair Green asked how long it will take for the complete audit. Ms. Daniels said they already started on it, they just needed one component to receive from the actuary. She said the Clerk is present and he may have some additional information. Chair Green asked Mr. Thomas about when it will be completed. Mr. Thomas said that was going to be one of his topics during the regular meeting. He asked if he should continue and Commissioner Holt said she wanted to hear it. Mr. Thomas said he is expecting in the next few weeks. He said the numbers for the actuary were not provided to the auditors by the Commission's staff. It wasn't provided until the month of July and it takes the actuary several weeks before they get that report.

Commissioner Holt exited meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Chair Green said they can wait for the more detailed information for the regular meeting. He has a valid idea now based on when it should be completed. He is hoping it will be completed before the first public hearing. Mr. Thomas said he can't promise that. He said the reason it was delayed was because their staff didn't provide information in a timely manner. They can't blame the auditors or the actuary because they only received the information that they were to give to them in the month of July. When it is presented, it should be a good audit, it's just delayed.

Commissioner Holt returned at 4:33 p.m.

Commissioner Nesmith said he knows they are waiting on information from the tax collector's office. Ms. Daniels said they have not received that information. They have to reach out to them. His budget is usually the same as the year before.

Ms. Daniels continued and said they have gone through the numbers as anticipated fund balances before. For the year ending in September 30, 2021, funds may go up or down depending on audited financial statements. Mr. Thomas said the general fund number is anticipated because of the restricted fund balance. It will probably be around \$1,000,000.00. Chair Green said for clarity and if he could reiterate it a little louder. Mr. Thomas clarified that he is suggesting that the fund balance may be a little bit lower, about \$4.4 million in terms of unrestricted fund balance. Unrestricted is what is presented to them to be spent.

Commissioner Nesmith asked the clerk what was the million-dollar difference. The Clerk said it takes into account money that was appropriated in fund balance for the current year. There was a transfer in that wasn't fully made. It appears there was money being transferred and there wasn't. So, they have to take that into account for the financial statements. It is the same thing as if they had appropriated a million dollars, so they take that in account in the general fund.

Ms. Daniels noted the note at the bottom of the page that says this is total fund balance and some portions may be considered non-spendable, restricted or assigned.

- Ad Valorem Tax Revenue Summary

Ms. Daniels said in the third column, \$1.788 billion was preliminary taxable values that was provided by the property appraiser on June 1st. On July 1st, he certifies a taxable value to them and that number went up a little bit to \$1.789 billion. That includes residential, commercial and new construction. That is the certified taxable value provided. Mr. Dixon said even though the evaluation has gone up, because of certain laws regarding home ownerships, most of the taxable value is not on homeowners. The only way to grow the base of Gadsden County is new construction. Otherwise, if your property goes up \$1 million today, it will go up 3% in terms of your taxes. So, growth is important to the life blood of the county.

Ms. Daniels said the first green line is the certified taxable value. The 4th column is the millage rate. There is no increase in millage rate. They would generate about \$16 million from the \$1.789 billion in property evaluations. They can only budget for 95% of that so it would be \$15 million, which is about \$1.2 million more than they had last year. The subsequent lines are the same taxable value but she gave some idea of how much would be generated if the millage rate was increased to 9.25, 9.5 and 10.

Commissioner Nesmith said they have additional commercial property that would bring in additional revenue. Ms. Daniels said it is included in the \$1.789 billion. Commissioner Nesmith asked, in addition, there is additional property? Ms. Daniels said no that's the difference between the number he gave on June 1st and the number

that he certifies on July 1st. He has some requirements that he has to do for Department of Revenue. Mr. Dixon said it rarely goes up. He said that is \$1.2 million in growth. The Sheriff's requirements are \$500,000.00 of that. Chair Green asked in the \$500,000.00, that is continuous that will be able to subdue for the request he asked for. Mr. Dixon said that is the \$500,000.00 that was on their plate when they got there. Last year they pushed it off with non-recurring money. If you throw in the \$15 minimum wage, \$600,000.00 would be the remainder. Commissioner Nesmith asked about the \$500,000.00 allocation. Mr. Dixon said that is on top of it. Commissioner Nesmith asked if it is recurring and for how long? Mr. Dixon said yes, as long as the state says so. Ms. Daniels said the \$500,000.00 they are putting in now is retro. Last year, they took the officers beginning salary for a deputy went from \$30,000.00 to \$39,000.00, now, they are saying they gave them some non-recurring money for that, this is the recurring money. Now the starting salary for a deputy in Gadsden County would be \$45,000.00.

Mr. Dixon said they leveled the playing field all over the state, so really, nothing has changed. The bigger counties will have that monetary competitive edge. Chair Green said they can't leave out the dispatchers. Mr. Dixon said none of that money goes to dispatchers. Chair Green said he had a major complaint when he met with some of the dispatchers.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the money is going to be restricted? How would they know? The Sherriff controls his budget, the Clerk of court can spend it on what they want. How do they know that the funding is being used? People are saying they are not receiving money. They need something in writing for salary increase. Ms. Daniels said they had to submit a spending plan to the state. That is contingent upon receiving the funds and there are reporting requirements. Commissioner Hinson said they need something in writing so they can speak to the citizens about the information they received so they can be on the same page. He wants to make sure that they get what they are supposed to get.

Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Hinson and Ms. Daniels are correct. The money they gave, they don't know how it was spent. It was given in hind sight. After this year's legislature the Sherriff's offices around the county got more authority to not give any information. He said do they have to give an increase without information? No, that's the leverage that they have. Ms. Daniels said they have to show payroll reports. Chair Green asked who is it given to and Ms. Daniels said the governor's office. In order to be reimbursed, they have to show documentation. The county is listed as the grant manager for that funding. Commissioner Hinson said he doesn't really speak to police officers but he is their biggest supporter. He said he doesn't mind supporting them as long as he has proof that the money is going directly to the officers' wallets.

- ARPA Update

Ms. Daniels said they received \$4.4 million from the federal government. They have spent, through different programs, they have remaining \$1.7 million. There are always requirements when you receive government funds.

Commissioner Hinson said he wasn't a part of the funding for the food cart with Piggly Wiggly. Ms. Daniels said they reached out to all of the local grocers in Gadsden County. Only Piggly Wiggly and Quality Meats agreed to participate in the program. Commissioner Hinson said he spoke to an elderly lady and she said that the younger people get all the food stamps and other help. The problem with the elderly is that they only get \$19 a month for food stamps. He thinks they should come together to see how they will distribute money. Some counties itemize different districts. Chair Green said as they move in the future, they will key in a workshop to be able to dig deeper with details in how they will assimilate the funds. Commissioner Hinson said he doesn't like rushing. They need to have budget meetings once or twice a week since they are behind.

- CARES Residual

Ms. Daniels said the remaining balance is \$2.9 million. The majority has been allocated for the hotspot distribution program. Other programs funding was allocated to. These are grant funds from the federal government so they met all the requirements.

- Departmental FY21 vs FY22

Ms. Daniels said they met with the commissioners already and had several commissioners indicate what their priorities were, and they were similar. They have to incorporate the \$15 minimum wage into it. The main thing she wanted them to look at was that last year they spent \$23.8 million, with this budget, they are anticipating \$25 million and that is about \$1.1 million more than last year. There are some programs that are specifically targeting our youth. They are currently only spending \$93,000 with BCG. There is funding included in the budget for elementary tutoring.

Commissioner Nesmith asked if they can reschedule their meetings. Mr. Dixon said yes. Chair Green said he is hoping everyone meets with the administrator to talk about priorities. Mr. Dixon said he will be meeting with Commissioner Moore as well.

Commissioner Holt asked what increases or decreases are for. Ms. Daniels said some are one-time things. Commissioner Holt said the fuel system is almost \$400,000.00 down from what it was. Ms. Daniels said they are considering building a new public works facility. They looked at things that didn't make sense. Commissioner Holt said that's why she said the narrative is there. Chair Green said he is asking constitutions to come as well. They have a lot to get done in the timeframe. Chair Green said after meeting with everyone, they can have a workshop.

Commissioner Moore thanked Ms. Daniels for a great budget presentation.

5. Board of County Commissioners Priorities and Direction

6. Adjourn

WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN ADJOURNED THE WORKSHOP AT 5:22 P.M.

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON AUGUST 24, 2022
AT 4:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:02 p.m. He followed with saying an invocation and then led to the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

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

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 11:00 a.m. on August 24, 2022. 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.

Chair Green read the above statement out loud.

Julie Baroody, 910 Sunset Dr. Quincy, FL – Main Street

Ms. Baroody came before the board and thanked them for letting her speak. She is speaking on behalf of Quincy Main Street, Inc. She read out loud the letter presented from the Board President, Crystle May, in regards to their mission and funding proposal.

Debra Wilson, 315 McArthur St Quincy, FL 32351

Ms. Wilson stated she is present as a member of the Sherrie Taylor Gadsden Wellness Senior Services. She was diagnosed with severe depression years ago and takes high doses of medications. Since she has attended the center, her doctor has noticed a change in her demeanor. She said it is because of the classes and the center that made the change in her. The programs keep her calm and she has cut down on her dosage of medication. She asks that they keep the program intact and don't do away with it.

James Hinson, 265 Hayward Dupont Rd Midway, FL

Mr. Hinson thanked the board. He said they are present because they want to make sure they are included in the budget with the Gadsden Wellness Center. They don't want to be left out. Before finalizing the budget, he wants them to keep them in mind. There are a lot of things that go on at the center and he would like to invite them to come by and look at what's going on. He said he is learning Spanish and learning how to type. They are taxpaying citizens and voting citizens. Chair Green said he was able to go by the center today and was impressed. He encouraged the other commissioners to also visit.

Gary Michael, 6942 Havana Hwy – Wellness Center

Mr. Michael said he loves this county and has been here 6 years. He asked commissioners to come by and talk to them to get the truth. He said they do have classes and they learn about health and nutrition. He said because of their ages, they need to be alerted to certain things. The center is significant in fellowship. There is no color barrier. He wants them to remember them in the budget because everything requires money. Chair Green said they are hearing their concerns and will follow through.

General Business

1. Introduction (Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon said they are here to talk about the budget. He said they have looked at every fund. Due to raising the minimum wage to \$15, they are going to have to discuss EMS who has a pay plan. They have looked at Animal Control. They have looked at that and realized some savings. They tried to be more precise about the budget. He understands they have laid out some big plans.

2. Summary Highlights/FY 2022-2023 Budget Enhancements/Reduction Summary
(Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator)

Ms. Daniels said they have had their budget document for about 2 weeks. She has met with almost all of the commissioners. She wanted to look at some of the highlights so she drafted a document with the highlights. She has two ladies that have been working with her on the budget. They have done an exceptional job, which is Vivian Howard and Silvia Numan. She wanted to give them their flowers now and thank them. She said it takes a lot to put those numbers together.

She continued with the budget document. She went over the general fund for the enhancements/reductions. The first item is an increase of \$155,000 in the county commissioners' budget, which is for events. They wanted to memorialize it and the citizens have enjoyed the events. She said everything costs money. They have a mandate with the elevator code to bring the elevators up to a new standard by December 31, 2023. They have 4 elevators they need to upgrade. This takes care of two elevators this fiscal year and two elevators next fiscal year. They are setting aside \$10,000 as a donation for the humane society. Mr. Dixon said they have done 129 different animals that have been moved over to the humane society this year. Ms. Daniels continued with the new administration assistance position for \$41,200.00.

Commissioner Holt entered at 4:28 p.m.

Ms. Daniels continued with the vehicle enhancement which is for \$33,000.00.

Commissioner Hinson had a question about extension services. He was curious why the County was taking over that responsibility. Ms. Daniels said they have several agents with extension services that their salary is shared with the universities. An agent is shared with FAMU and UF. FAMU provides their agent with a vehicle. She doesn't believe any other university provides vehicles. Commissioner Hinson said every employee works with FAMU and UF. So, he was curious. Mr. Dixon said they will check it out. Ms. Daniels said they do provide extension agents but not all of the support staff and vehicles are provided by the universities. Commissioner Hinson said he doesn't mind the partnership. Ms. Daniels said they have a greenhouse and they looked at replacing it. It would have been significantly more. The structure itself is intact and the \$25,000 is to replace the panels so that it is operational. Mr. Dixon said there are some contracts that lay out what they are responsible for.

Mr. Jones said the MIU contract with UF and the county, and FAMU extension in the county is that the county provides administrative staff.

Ms. Daniels continued with the Live Where You Live campaign. It is a \$50,000 allocation. There was some funding in the budget for parks & recreation for a large grant match. They were not allocated that funding. They are in the process of applying for grants that don't require that match. The next one is an enhancement for a permit tech position for planning and zoning. Mr. Dixon said every permit they see is a very different permit. They really need a person to get into them and not just pass them and say yes or no. The next one is a reduction in the fuel system management. They were going to put the fuel tanks underground at public works but they are anticipating building a new public works. So, it didn't make sense to spend \$400,00.00 for the tanks. The next item is new funding for the county's youth initiative. It is for the Just Read program, which is \$150,000.00. The next item is to increase the funding for the BGC. It is a \$181,699.00 increase, making it now to \$275,000.00.

Commissioner Hinson asked how the money will be dispersed with the Boys and Girls Club? He asked how many areas will it go to? Mr. Dixon said it is \$75,000 for each site. He expects that the Boys and Girls Club will become more important to them as they begin to look at the crisis that our children are in.

Ms. Daniels said the next item is for the general fund for interfund transfers. There are several other funds that the general fund supports when there is not enough revenue. It is also for when they transfer funding to the constitutional officers. The \$958,000.00 is interfund transfers including the constitutional officers and transfers to the library fund. The biggest transfer was for the sheriff. The last item is the living wage increase for \$66,532.00 is the general funds portion of the increase from the current salary to the minimum \$15 per hour. That includes different facilities. The general fund total is \$1,274,379.00. She continued with the county transportation. This is an increase because that is where majority of the employees work that were below the \$15.00 minimum wage. The library fund is about \$87,000. Building inspection has requested a new vehicle. The vehicles get unsafe so they have to replace them. Mr. Dixon said they have different kinds of vehicles. While looking at a fleet program, they weren't sure what kind of vehicles they could get. They can get 4-wheel drives. They are attempting to find some commonality and savings in their fleets. Ms. Daniels said they have looked at a leasing program. The EMS have some new mandates related to Medicaid so they put a place holder to get them where they need to be. Mr. Dixon said the legislation that was passed had a line that if they deal with that money, they must be paid \$15. Mr. Knowles said in that law, if they don't increase it, the employees can come back and sue them.

Ms. Daniels concluded with the health insurance increase. It affects various funds. Mr. Dixon said the big assumptions is that they understand the revenue streams coming in are super limited. He doesn't think they should pull back on seeking new revenues. It's an investment.

Chair Green said it is an investment. They have to spend more money to make money. He asked about the Just Read program and if they have reached out to the school district to see what funding they can contribute towards this program. Mr. Dixon said their funding comes with a lot of caveats. While they are at 9% Ad Valorem, they are at 3%. When you get a lot of state money, that state money has a lot of caveats. The Board's money is able to get directly the point.

Commissioner Nesmith said he saw the chairman of the school board, Mr. McMillan, and he asked for a joint meeting. That way, between the County Administrator and the superintendent, they can put together an agenda. Commissioner Hinson said he seconds that. Commissioner Nesmith said between the school boards resources and the commissioner's resources, they can put together a plan.

3. Board of County Commissioners Priorities and Direction

Commissioner Nesmith had a question about the increase for the County Commissioners regarding all the events. He asked if they included the 200-year celebration. Mr. Dixon said that is separate. Commissioner Nesmith asked about the elevator maintenance. He asked if the other two will last until next year. Ms. Daniels said it's nothing they are at risk for, it's that the code has changed. They have until December of 2023 to meet that code requirement. He asked about the vehicles, if they have a maintenance plan. Mr. Dixon said yes, they are maintained on a schedule. Commissioner Nesmith said the budget is the most significant job they have because it drives everything else. He said he googled the responsibilities of a County Commissioner and he read it out loud. He said they need to spend time going through the budget. They decided they needed an economic developer in house. He said the reason we are in the condition that we are in is because they have not been the guiding light for economic development. He said there was a certain amount going to one of the outside organizations and he asked that they zeroed that amount and put it into their economic development office. He asked that the person they hire responds to the board. He said he attended the Opportunity Florida Board meeting and there is a myriad amount of money out there. They had a presentation by Dr. Parrish who is the Chief Economist and director of state and local policy analysis for the John Scott daily Florida Institute of Government at FSU. He has been by the board before and would like to come by again. He said he googled the best counties for families in the state of Florida and the #1 was St. Johns County. He explained why St. Johns has the best economic development and healthcare from his research. He said they need to create their own health department.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 5:17 p.m.

Commissioner Holt entered at 5:24 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said somethings Commissioner Nesmith said that they need to address. They need to strengthen the infrastructures first. He wants to put money into a sewer system. His pet peeve is the senior citizens. They have to meet their needs. He heard someone tonight talk about health and mental health. They have to figure out ways to help the seniors throughout Gadsden County. He wants to talk about how they can strengthen the parks and recreation. They need to identify land throughout the county. Chair Green said he would like to see areas for pets in the parks.

Commissioner Nesmith said senior citizens is one of the departments in St. Johns County. They have divisions and one of them is the Family Integrity Program, Social Services, Housing and Community Development, Veterans Services Affairs, and the Health and Human Services Advisory Counsel. They have a fully staffed department that manages all health and human services and they partner with outside entities.

Commissioner Holt said a pet area is fine as long as they are cleaning up behind their pets. The parks need to be renovated and they need to grant another grant writer. Everything they are talking about requires money. The reason St. Johns County can do all those things is because they have money and they have major investors come in. They have to look at how they market themselves. In order to have a healthy County, they need to have a hospital and good healthcare. They have to have someone to go after those funds and they have to have an economic development director. Economic development is the only thing that slows them down. They need to become a certified provider under the Department of Aging. **So far**, the Senior Citizens Center was funded under Area Agency which is a contractor. They also provide services at home. They have to have some consistency. On the superintendent, he is

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bringing an economic development person which has some success stories. They have so many projects. There is no gap between there because there are deadline dates. They need to have a chart and the progress in between those two dates. Chair Green thought they had agreed to have an economic development director. Mr. Dixon said they did. Chair Green asked if they have advertised for those positions. Mr. Dixon said they have. Commissioner Holt said if they aren't getting the type of people they need, they need to sweep the pot and get the people they need.

Commissioner Hinson said he will talk to Mr. Dixon about some of the things they need in this County. He would like for the board to consider implementing emergency housing programs. Each district set aside some money. They need to vote soon on how they can put money for emergency housing program to help seniors.

Commissioner Moore said he would like to address the economic development department. He agrees that they need a plan. He wants to make sure there are some measurable deliverables included. If not, they will be right back where they are, giving money to outside entities and not getting any results. He said they don't need to create a department just to create a department. They need to be held just as accountable and produce what they need. He said if a permit tech in planning and zoning will expedite the process for local contractors and business men to get their projects moving faster, that will benefit the county and the economy. He said Love Where You Live is great because they have to have a positive clean county. They will have to stay on top of it and hire the right people.

Commissioner Nesmith said Dr. Parrish did talk about infrastructure. He also said they haven't had a workshop on what they expect from the person for the two positions. He hasn't seen the job description. They have not had a strategic planning meeting since early 2021. Mr. Dixon said they just had a meeting with Mr. Jackson about economic development and what their positions were. He has been with the county before and presented information to the county. They are working to close that gap and they pulled back the position because he wanted to redefine some things that he thought were more appropriate.

Commissioner Hinson said if they are going to invest that money, that person needs to answer to the board. Commissioner Nesmith wanted to clarify if they are not advertising for the position just yet. Mr. Dixon said it was out there then they pulled it back. Chair Green said they want to close it out.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was something for a budget director. Mr. Dixon said yes. Commissioner Holt said they are pushing for projects to be done and completed. Commissioner Nesmith asked about the amount for the hospital in the budget. Commissioner Nesmith asked if there was a certain amount of money set aside for the hospital. Mr. Dixon said yes and there were contracts in place before they got there. Commissioner Holt said the contract runs until 2034 and it is awful. Commissioner Nesmith asked if they could please have the attorney can go through the contract letter by letter.

Commissioner Moore asked about the other health care facility. He asked if they purchase their own land or they want land provided by the county? Commissioner Holt said they could not get commissioners to agree. She said it may be that they provide land or it may be that they purchase land. Commissioner Nesmith asked if they would want to do a virtual meeting. Commissioner Holt said they need to contact them first.

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Motion to Adjourn

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 6:13 P.M.

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON AUGUST 29,
2022 AT 5:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:

Present: Carolyn Ford, Chair-Person of Tourist Interest
Jeff Dubree, Tax Collector
Brenda Holt, County Commissioner
Decorkus Allen, Havana Council Member
Keith Dowdell, Quincy City Commissioner
Linda Dixon, Tax Collector

Absent: Peter Patel, Tax Collector

Staff Present: Leslie Steele, TDC Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

1. **Welcome** – Tourist Development Council Chairman, Carolyn Ford
Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. She then led to the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.
2. **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**
Roll call was done and everyone was present except for Peter Patel and Linda Dixon (arrived late).

3. **Amendments and Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Ford asked for a motion to approve the amendments and the agenda.

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

4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a) Budget Workshop, August 1, 2022

Chair Ford asked for a motion to approved the meeting minutes.

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

5. **General Business**

- a.) **Introduction Overview** – (Leslie D. Steele, Tourist Development Director)

Ms. Steele said they were scheduled to go the Visit Florida Tourism Conference. However, in their efforts to schedule, she realized they do not have a credit card for the Gadsden County Tourist Development Council. There is a need for it in order to go to workshops and reserve hotel rooms and such. They will be able to go to the East Northwest Florida annual meeting at the end of September.

- b.) **Discussion/Action 2022-2023 TDC Budget** – (Leslie D. Steele, Tourist Development Director)

Ms. Steele said in their workshop, everything indicated no changes. No changes in professional services, communications, and marketing reimbursements. Their RFP is out. She may need a little guidance to put the same RFP as they put out last time, however, there was no request for the budget proposal to be submitted. Three applicants, or people that have shown an interest have asked if they need to submit a budget. Zimmerman and two other firms asked for a copy of their budget. She wanted to know if they wanted to extend the time and allow people to submit a budget proposal? Or do they want to leave it as is? Ms. Dixon had a question. She asked how many applications do they have? Ms. Steele said 8 firms have asked for the RFP. Ms. Dixon asked if they will be sending out an addendum? Ms. Steele asked Attorney Knowles if they can send out an addendum and ask them to submit it. Attorney Knowles said usually they can withdraw it, but there is usually a timeframe. Ms. Steele said everything else stays the same in their budget. The budget starts on page 11 of 86. She said the entire budget is \$212,568.00. She mentioned the Board of County Commissioners had their budget workshop and there were no changes made with the Tourist Development Council, they accepted the recommendations for the budget.

Linda Dixon walked in at 5:12 p.m.

COMMISSIONER DOWDELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TDC BUDGET OF \$212,568.00 AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

There was a voice vote roll call:

Carolyn Ford -	Yes
Jeff Dubree -	Yes
Brenda Holt -	Yes
Decorkus Allen -	Yes
Keith Dowdell -	Yes
Linda Dixon -	Yes

THE BOARD VOTED 6-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

c.) **Discussion/Action TDC Credit Card/Line of Credit** – (Leslie D. Steele, Tourist Development Director)

Ms. Steele said this item is to allow her to apply for a credit card/line of credit for the TDC. Currently, the county has a \$25,000.00 credit limit with Bank of America. She wants to recommend the same company since the county is in business with them already.

COMMISSIONER DOWDELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 6-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

d.) **Discussion/Action Special Events Payment Request** – (Leslie D. Steele, Tourist Development Director)

Ms. Steele said they have one from the grant for the Havana Reggae Festival, the Dr. Martin Luther King committee for the MLK event, Room Shade Lodge for the father/daughter dance, and the North Florida Education Development corporation total cost will be \$5,000.00 apiece.

COMMISSIONER ALLEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER DOWDELL MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 6-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. Next Scheduled Meetings

Ms. Steele said they need to determine when they will have the next meeting. She recommends getting some dates for some workshops regarding their marketing and tourism RFP so they know what they want for the applicants. She asked how they would like the process to happen, if they want to meet the top 3 applicants and interview them themselves. There is a select committee and they will be in placement order. They have the ability to do an in-person interview as a board.

Commissioner Holt said she would like for them to come before the board. She feels like as soon as possible, they need to have some locations and items for them to look at. They can't complain if they don't have some input.

Chair Dixon asked about the comments made before? She asked if they have copies of those minutes. Ms. Steele said they do. Commissioner Dixon asked for it to be brought to the next meeting. She said that has to do with the plan that they wanted to put together to change the whole image of Gadsden County. Ms. Steele said to include the information for the remaining firms. Then have 3 firms come before them and put a presentation on for them as to what they can do for the county. Chair Dixon said if she remembers correctly, they would have comments workshops for input before they say what they want to do. Most will come in cold and not know besides what's online. Ms. Steele asked her if she wants that to be the selected firm or all top 3 firms? Chair Dixon said the top 3. They need to have an idea when they come in. It should be standard so they can get a good plan from the citizens. Ms. Steele said they will bring the selected committee score sheet to allow them to make their own scores.

Commissioner Dubree asked how they have top 3? What's the criteria? Ms. Steele said they have a selection committee that is going through all of them. They would still have access to the bottom 5. Commissioner Dubree asked what was the criteria? Ms. Steele said it is the same as the last score sheet. Chair Dixon asked who is on the selection committee? Ms. Steele named all of them. Chair Dixon asked if all were from Gadsden County? Ms. Steele said two of them are. Chair Dixon said she feels comfortable with Ms. Steele being there.

Chair Dixon asked the board if there were any comments. Commissioner Holt asked Attorney Knowles about the request for donation to government. Attorney Knowles said he sent Ms. Steele a memo. Commissioner Holt asked for him to tell her about it. Attorney Knowles said they need to be careful about soliciting sponsorships. The board will accept or deny sponsorship requests. They need to make sure everyone can see it. The issue would be conflict check. Typically, counties do the sponsoring. He said he sent a form that shows what levels of sponsorship are. Commissioner Holt asked if Ms. Steele could send it. Ms. Steele said

she sent it to her. Commissioner Holt said they need to have a letter that would notify the business or individual that they are not obligating any type of special exception to them as far as contract. Attorney Knowles said they can tailor it to their needs. This board is more advisory. Commissioner Holt said he needs to forward it to everyone. Attorney Knowles said he doesn't have everyone's e-mail addresses.

Commissioner Holt said it has been done for years. They really need to see it. They are office made and need a policy in place. She was at Celebration Florida and there were people from Miami Dade that their school system received money from businesses up to \$3 million. If that's something they can do, they need to know how to draft some language that would fit the state statute. Attorney Knowles said they can and it can go before the board. He said the question was if they could do it, and the answer is that they can, they just need the proper guardrails.

Commissioner Dubree said if it is feasible to do, then they can cross that bridge when it comes. Commissioner Holt said no, they have to have a policy in place. It came up with the county commission too. Attorney Knowles said the memo was dealt towards both. They do need a policy but this body will probably not have many conflicts.

Ms. Steele said her confusion is where the document says, "the statute says that employees can accept gifts". Attorney Knowles said the goal of the statute is to prevent gifts being made for the purpose of some other gain later on down the line. If they accept something, sent it to the Clerk.

Commissioner Holt said it is probably better to have who accepts those gifts. Attorney Knowles said they need to be remitted to the clerk. Commissioner Holt said she is saying on this side of the street. If a gift comes in, who accepts the gift to give to the clerk. Attorney Knowles said the administrator. Ms. Steele said it is not a gift, it is a sponsorship. Attorney Knowles said it could be considered a gift. Ms. Steele asked why? Attorney Knowles said someone can say a commissioner told them if they did X, that they would get Y. That could be viewed as a gift even if it isn't true. Commissioner Holt said right, because people lie. Commissioner Dowdell said no one should be accepting money anyway.

Commissioner Holt said any board would be covered. Attorney Knowles if they could have a clearing house where it goes in one portal and goes to another portal. Ms. Steele said the difference is they are asking them to become a sponsor, if they do, fill out the paperwork. Commissioner Holt said if they plan an event, it's good to get sponsors. Commissioner Dowdell said just do not accept money. Commissioner Holt said it is not them, they want them to go to the county, but they need to have paperwork in place. Commissioner Dowdell said Nick (Clerk) has to do that. She said no, they write the policy, then he follows the policy. What came in before was implications from him that there may be something going on over here. So, this would solve the problem. They want to have their paperwork in place so that they can get this going. Commissioner Dowdell said if Nick thinks there's something, then they will tell Nick to write the policy. Commissioner Holt said no, they don't want Nick to write anything over here. Commissioner Dowdell said Nick can write the policy and they can still approve it. Commissioner Holt said no, they have to be separate elected officials.

7. **Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR FORD
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:43 P.M.**

**CAROLYN FORD, Chair
Tourist Development Council**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m., Pastor Mark Moore gave the Invocation and Ashton Battles led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon added Item 6a-Assignment of City/County Funds from the Opioid Litigation Settlements to the State Fund to the Agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Mr. Dixon said the Sheriff has been meeting with other local agencies to consider consolidation of the Dispatch Center.

Commissioner Holt arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Col. Bobby Collins appeared before the Board concerning a consolidated dispatch center and explained the Sheriff’s dispatchers take calls for the County’s EMS, some fire departments, the City of Midway Police Department and Gretna Police Department. Col. Collins said this was something the Sheriff’s Office could not handle on its own and the County has to be involved.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a workshop regarding this matter.

Commissioner Holt said it would be good to have a cost analysis done also. Col. Collins stated the Sheriff’s Office has been in touch with the Florida Sheriffs’ Association to conduct the cost analysis and feasibility study at no cost to the county or department.

Commissioner Moore asked if there were a time schedule established yet and was told no. He said it was best to proceed slowly but thoroughly because this was a critical issue for everyone in the county.

Commissioner Holt mentioned the Guardian Program with the school system. Col. Collins said they were on a different radio system. They agreed to a workshop.

CONSENT

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

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **July 28, 2022 – Joint Workshop**
 - **August 2, 2022 – Budget Workshop**
 - **August 2, 2022 – Regular Meeting**
3. **SHIP Annual Report and Certification**
4. **Approval and Signatures for Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien**
5. **Approval of the E911 Rural County Grant Application for Recorder Annual Maintenance**
6. **Approval of Participation in the Application Process for the Federal FY 2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)**
- 6a. **Assignment of City/County Funds from the Opioid Litigation Settlements to the State Fund**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on September 6, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner NeSmith read aloud the above statement.

Betty Culver, 860 Sparkleberry Blvd., Quincy, FL – Gadsden Senior Services

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, FL 32351

Mr. Watson appeared before the Board concerning Sycamore Road and it getting on the list for the 5-year Road Program. He said Sycamore Road was in very bad shape and needs to be paved.

Janet Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road

Cynthia Bryant, 801 E. Circle Drive, Quincy, FL Gadsden Senior Citizens

Kathy W. Brown, Gadsden Senior Citizens

She appeared before the Board to represent the Gadsden County Senior Citizens. She said they could co-exist with the Gadsden Wellness Center. She understood that they Wellness Center was to receive part of the money they were supposed to get. Chair Green said they had money in the budget that was to go to the Gadsden County Senior Citizens and that money was still in their budget. He added that the Gadsden Wellness Center has sent a letter asking for funds and would have nothing to do with the amount the Gadsden Senior Citizens would receive.

Rose Jackson, Gadsden Senior Citizens

Willie Gaines 5775 Ben Bostick Rd, Quincy, FL Community: speed limit signs, trash round-up 2nd annual

Mr. Gaines appeared before the Board and stated his community was having serious issues. He said Frank Jackson Road has become a raceway and is dangerous and something needs to be done. He also said on Ben Bostick Road, there are only 2 speed limit signs, one at the start of the road off Highway 90 and the other is past Harbin Road. Once you pass Harbin Road, the community actually becomes a residential area until it comes to Cane Creek Road. He felt that road should be 45 miles an hour speed limit. He also said Obama Blvd. and Ben Bostick does not have sidewalks and was dangerous and grass was knee high at times.

Commissioner Holt asked Pastor Gaines if they had signed off on the forms to get speed bumps put in and he said it had been sent to the Public Works Director.

Jeremiah Lee, Public Works Director appeared before the Board to address the speed bump process. He said they have to get a traffic count of the area to start the process.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval of Carrier Commercial Service Maintenance Plan for the Chillers located at CRMC-Gadsden Campus

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Carrier Commercial Service Maintenance Plan for the chillers located at CRMC-Gadsden campus.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any local vendors for Carrier or if they had their own vendor.

Allan Meeks, Facilities Manager, appeared before the Board. He said Carrier was the manufacturer of the equipment. They do have contractors that would service them but was his finding when they have to get quotes, Carrier was usually several thousand dollars cheaper and this was the maintenance program.

Commissioner NeSmith said he did have an opportunity to meet with the Administrator but still had questions. He asked if this was a renewal agreement for 5 years and it was explained.

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

8. Approval of Resolution 2022-019 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2022

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and said it was for approval of Resolution 2022-019 and for authorization for the Assistant County Administrator and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for FY 2022 BOCC budget. One is an EMS matching grant and transfer from General Fund for the matching grant, the other is a DOT Grant and CIGP grant; Library donation of \$500.0 and an adjustment for the grant program for the LAPA Adams Street sidewalk

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

9. Appointment to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla)

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and said this item was presented to the Board to appoint/reappoint a member to the Circuit 2 Alliance Community Action Team. Chair Green currently serves in this capacity and Linda Blackshear is the alternate.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Moore asked for an executive summary of this Board and Chair Green explained.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10. Point Milligan (CR 161) Change Order Number 3

Ms. Daniels introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of change order number three for CR 161 Point Milligan Road to add a guardrail for safety enhancements.

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

CLERK OF COURT

11. Updates

There was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

12. Updates

Ms. Daniels reminded everyone of the first budget public hearing that was scheduled for Tuesday at 6:00 and the Final budget hearing will be September 19th at 6:00 p.m.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

13. Updates

Mr. Knowles explained Item 6a and said it was ½ Million dollars they were sitting on that the County could receive from the State.

Commissioner Hinson asked Mr. Knowles to explain. He said we were one of the local governments that will receive a settlement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

14. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Jeffery Moore, District 2

Commissioner Moore gave appreciation to the citizens that came out to represent the Gadsden Senior Center and felt the County was big enough to have both groups. He said as with any group that receives money, they need to lay out criteria, give boundaries as to what the money could be used for and have some sort of audit to ensure the County funds were being used for the purposes designated.

He also stated regarding the road ways, speed bumps were hated but could help resolve some of the problems.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said she has been trying to help some veterans receive benefits and asked if they sent the flow chart out regarding projects and grant funding etc. Ms. Daniels said it was sent out the past Friday.

She asked progress on the Budget Director and Ms. Daniels said they were advertising for a Senior Management Budget Analyst.

Commissioner Hinson said he thought they put money in last year for a Budget Director, Chair Green said it was budgeted but it was just advertised. Commissioner Holt said they may have to raise the money to get someone.

Commissioner Moore said to not exclude lobbyists from the list.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith recognized Mr. Leroy McMillan, Chairman of the School Board that was sitting in the audience.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:06 p.m.

He continued and said at the last meeting he presented to the Board the opportunity for a joint workshop with the School Board and they all agreed to get together for the workshop.

He recognized his Legislative aide, Ms. Stephanie Jackson, and she appeared before the Board and was introduced to the Commission.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:08 p.m.

Regarding the hospital, he spoke with the Administrator to see if they could schedule a joint workshop with the hospital. He said they were purchased by HCA. He said they have indigent care dollars going to the hospital and need to have a joint meeting to see how the resources were being used and what type of resources were available at that facility.

Regarding economic development, he said he Spoke with Ms. Daniels, the Assistant County Administrator, several weeks ago and she told him she needed guidance from them.

He added as Commissioner Moore alluded to earlier, they need to provide the non-profits with guidelines and a list of expectations. He said they give them money and there are no deliverables. He said in lieu of providing any money to any entity, he would like to place those dollars into contract services for those entities so those partners that normally receive those funds, if they have a project they are working on, they could submit a proposal. Then the Commissioners would have an opportunity to vet the proposal.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO PLACE DOLLARS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTO CONTRACT SERVICES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WOULD GET REQUEST/PROPOSAL ON THE FRONT END.

Commissioner Holt said it was difficult to vote on something they did not see in writing, but the other thing was, if options were presented to them, they still have until the next week to decide. She said some Counties have a committee to review the applications and then they are forwarded to the Commissioners.

Ms. Daniels said the budget was set up for economic development and they still had money going to the Chamber and GCDC and did not know if they wanted to use that money for the economic development department they were developing and still give money to the other agencies or how they wanted to move forward.

Commissioner Holt said the \$80,000 did not have to be committed anywhere, leave it there until decided in the workshop.

Commissioner Hinson echoed the same thing. He said the Hospital gave money back and they could use it how they want to now.

Commissioner NeSmith said he was comfortable with that money being set aside.

He said he would like to do the same thing for health care and get a Health Care Coordinator. Ms. Daniels said the money going to the Health Council goes into Reserves now.

Chair Green asked if the Gadsden Community Health Council was ordained by the Board and Commissioner Holt answered yes.

Commissioner Holt said they are not a separate nonprofit, they were created by this Board and became a separate nonprofit. She felt the Board may want to try to get that board placed under this Board because they place all the funding into that. Chair Green asked if they have to have a public hearing.

Mr. Knowles said they are a separate non-profit and did not know a mechanism as to where the County could own a corporation or a non-profit. He added they could have a 501(c)3 type of organization where they are primarily funded by a government that is a separate organization that is created and could get the information for the commissioners if they wanted it. He said if they wanted to bring that under the auspices of the board and then dole that money out, that was one thing, but owning a nonprofit (inaudible). He reminded them it would be like the GCDC or The Chamber.

Commissioner Holt said the organization may not want to continue to do this, they should discuss it.

Commissioner Hinson said Board also created the GCDC. He added that part of the ½ cent sales tax also goes to GCHC.

Commissioner Holt stated that was the purpose of the workshop.

Commissioner NeSmith asked when the annual report was coming out. Ms. Daniels said the last one was for June 2021.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the procedure for the evaluation for the two employees. Ms. Daniels stated she would get back with regarding that.

Commissioner NeSmith also stated that Rosetta Rolle Hylton Anderson passed away this past weekend.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION FOR A FORMAL RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF MS. ANDERSON AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

Commissioner Hinson said he had one thing that he forgot. This Thursday at the City Office in Midway was a Come-Out Party at the Midway United Fellowship Church.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green stated on September 22 is the meeting at the Joe Adams Road Fire station regarding a 4-way stop sign at Joe Adams/Jim Lee Road.

Chair Green asked Mr. Lee when stripping will start on Joe Adams.

He said some were wearing yellow and gold to represent childhood cancer and the Courthouse square is lit at night in yellow and gold.

Chair Green gave his Greenlight moment:

“A champion is not defined by their wins, but how they recover when they fall.”

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 6, 2022 – Regular Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:37 P.M.

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2022, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious “Ron” Green, Chair, District 5 - Zoom
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice-Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, District 1
Jeff Moore, District 2
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Nesmith started the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The invocation was led by Mrs. Howard and then followed by the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Nesmith asked Ms. Daniels if there were any amendments to the agenda. Ms. Daniels said no.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator’s Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on September 13, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Moore read the above statement.

Tony Lambardo – 312 1st St NW Quincy, FL - Havana Main Street

Tony Lambardo is the President of Havana Main Street. He stated Main Street’s mission and said they are requesting \$10,000 to support the marketing program. They have been awarded \$800,000.00 worth of grant and foundation money.

Commissioner Hinson said he is very impressed and fully supports their program.

Commissioner Moore said he has attended the Woodfest and there were a lot of people and merchants making money. There are 3 main streets in the county, which is Quincy, Havana and Chattahoochee. They all bring economic impact to the merchants.

Commissioner Holt said there should be an application process so that it is fair to everyone. She said they should set money aside that they are going to award. The reporting criteria should be set aside before they award money to any organization.

Commissioner Nesmith said they need to come up with a process to strengthen their organization. He talked about having a workshop to put a process in place.

Chair Green asked Ms. Daniels if they have money set aside for non-profits and organizations. Ms. Daniels said they do have money set aside in this upcoming budget fiscal year 2022-2023, which is \$50,000.00. Chair Green thanked her and wanted it to be known because several people are requesting funding from the County. He said he is a supporter of Main Street and thanked Mr. Lambardo.

Amy McBride

Ms. McBride said she is not here to ask for money, she is trying to keep the money in her pocket. She asked about the proposed increase in the millage rate for next year. She is opposing the increase because there is so much money for taxes which are getting higher. She asked what the increase in property tax will be used for?

Ms. Daniels said the millage rate being proposed by the Board of County Commissioners is the same millage rate as last year. Ms. McBride said her TRIM notice says it is supposed to be approved for 10 millage rate. Ms. Daniels said she may be looking at someone else's. The millage rate is 9 mills, the same as last year. Ms. McBride asked if they should ignore the trim notice because it is not correct? Chair Vice Nesmith said there are various governmental entities. She asked if there is a proposal to increase it for next year. Vice Chair Nesmith said no.

Commissioner Holt said for her to contact the property appraiser's office for more information on the TRIM notice. Ms. McBride said she went to the tax collectors and they did refer her to Mr. Cunningham.

Commissioner Moore said the overall rate is composed of different components. He said the Board of County Commissioners voted to keep the rate the same and if there is an overall increase, it could be from adjustments from the school board or another entity, but they did not increase. Ms. Daniels said there may be an increase in value of the property.

Commissioner Holt said he said that, and they were the only county left that did not raise the value. The state is saying that it has to be adjusted but the Board does not get to vote on that.

Commissioner Hinson said he wants them to get that information. He wants the information that Commissioner Holt said in writing.

Ms. McBride asked if the County can talk to the state to have the local people make a proposal to them first. Vice Chair Nesmith said that is something they will need to research.

Chair Green said they are not raising the millage rate. He suggested that she contacts the property appraiser's office as Commissioner Holt stated.

1. Public Hearing: First Public Hearing for Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget for FY 2022/2023

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator)
Ms. Daniels said the tentative budget has been formulated based on maintain the current County wide property tax rate of 9.0000 mills. The calculated roll back rate is 8.3341 mills. Which is in turn .665 mills lower than the current millage rate of 9 mills. The fiscal year 2022-2023 tentative budget is \$56,954,316.00, therefore staff recommending 3 motions tonight.

The first one is a motion for the adoption of the proposed millage rate of 9 mills for fiscal year 2022/2023. The second motion is for the adoption of the tentative budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 at \$56, 954, 316.00. Finally, the staff is recommending a motion to advertise the second public hearing to be held Monday, September 19th at 6 pm at the Board of County Commissioners Chambers.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MOORE, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE MILLAGE RATE OF 9 MILLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.

Commissioner Holt asked if there was anything new in the budget? Ms. Daniels said there a few changes. The tax collectors budget went up about \$30,000.00 and there was an error that was corrected in custodial services and fire control.

Commissioner Hinson wants to know how much money is set aside for the commissioner aids. Ms. Daniels said they have \$78,000.00 set aside, not inclusive of the benefits. Commissioner Hinson asked if that was for the aids? Commissioner Hinson said he thought they had like \$150,000.00 for all aids. He said it's hard to find a person for that amount to serve them. He said this is the first time they ever had money set aside. He thinks they need to be bold and find some people. He thinks a fair number would be \$50,000.00 per commissioner.

Commissioner Holt doesn't think they need an increase in that area. She said they are elected to go to events and meetings. She didn't agree to the aid, but if she does, they need to be part time first. They need to be giving a little bit more to the legal aspect. Ms. Daniels confirmed that it is for 5 part time commissioner aids at \$15 an hour.

Chair Green asked how many hours would be considered part time. Ms. Daniels confirmed 20 hours a week.

Commissioner Hinson said he is not in Commissioner Holt's situation. He needs someone to help him relay information to the people. He said it's called effective and efficient. He believes that no one is more active than him in the community. He has big ideas to help people. As they give other people the authority to do what they can do, but they can't do what they are supposed to do. Commissioners should have a full-time aid. Commissioner Hinson made a motion to support a full-time aid at least for 1 year at \$40,000.

Chair Green asked if they have looked at the true numbers. He said he would also like to have an aid at some point, but he wants to make sure that it does make sense.

Commissioner Hinson said this is the first time in history they can do something. He said they just gave the administrator the authority to spend \$35,000.00 at his pleasure. He said they have \$1.2 million in the CARES Act that is not a part of the general fund. There is \$2.8 million in the American Rescue Plan that is not a part of the general fund. He said if the County Administrator wants to hire 4 aids for him, he could do so. He said he also needs help himself to do more.

Commissioner Holt said if he wants to help the people, then put the money on the houses. Commissioner Hinson said that will be his second motion. Commissioner Holt said she is still speaking. She agrees to have part time aids for this year. Commissioner Holt asked Ms. Daniels if they have \$1.2 million left in CARES Act that is not spoken for? Ms. Daniels said no. Commissioner Holt said OKAY, she didn't have to explain. Commissioner Hinson said he wanted her to explain it. Commissioner Holt said no, she is still speaking. She asked if they have \$4.5 million in American Rescue that is not spoken for? Ms. Daniels said no. Commissioner Holt said if money is spoken for, they can't use those numbers. She agreed with Chair Green that if they vote to move money and they don't know where it comes from, then it doesn't make any sense. She said it makes more sense to request that it is brought back.

Ms. Daniels reminded them that this is the 1st public hearing to adopt the tentative budget. She said they have to adopt it and if they want to look at something else than what has already been proposed, they can for the next meeting.

Commissioner Hinson said last time she presented it was \$1.2 million in the Cares Act. Ms. Daniels said it was \$2.9 million and \$1.7 million in the American Rescue Plan. The funds have already been allocated. He said they need to put the money back into the people's pockets.

Commissioner Hinson said they fattened the budget by millions of dollars. He guarantees they can find million dollars added to the budget.

Commissioner Holt said if the money is not assigned, it will be there. They can always meet after they set the budget and they determine where they want the money put.

Commissioner Moore asked how did they get from the tentative budget to the final? He wants to proceed with caution before they can't make any changes. Ms. Daniels said they are required to have 2 public hearings to adopt a balanced budget. At any time, the board has the right to amend the budget. It is not final until November 2023. Commissioner Moore asked if even the final budget is flexible? Ms. Daniels said yes.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much they have in general fund? Ms. Daniels asked the fund balance? Commissioner Hinson said yes. Ms. Daniels said they currently have \$3.9 million unassigned restrictive fund balance. She said there is \$2.3 million that is restricted. Ms. Daniels said they had a meeting with auditors this morning and they are just above what is recommended that they keep at all times.

Commissioner Hinson said they haven't got the audit report yet. Commissioner Hinson made a motion for one year to pay for a fulltime aid at a minimum of \$40,000.00, an extra 4-5 thousand dollars for insurance, but less than \$50,000.

Commissioner Holt said that's a different motion to have a minimum of \$40,000.00 because it could be \$60,000.00 if he says a minimum in his motion. She said to look at excessive money. She doesn't think it is time to take a motion on this right now.

Commissioner Hinson said she is right; he wants to do it at \$40,000.00. He said the CARES money can go into general fund and \$2.9 million can go into general fund. Everyone voted 1-4. There was no second to the motion, therefore the vote died.

Commissioner Moore asked if they had aids last year? He said he is open for discussion.

Commissioner Hinson said they set aside funds for emergency housing corporations. He wanted to make a move that they set aside \$25,000 per district for emergency housing for seniors and disabled people that qualify.

THERE WAS A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MOORE.

Commissioner Holt had a question, as long as there are criteria set in place because she doesn't want there to be personal preference.

Commissioner Green said they have to have workshops on qualifications on all of this funding. They are neglecting the purpose for tonight's meeting. The money is there but they can't do that. Those things should have been on the agenda. He wants them to get back on task.

Mr. Dixon said if they want a program that Commissioner Hinson wants, \$25,000 isn't going to shape nothing with housing. He said to allow them to do what they need to do. The next meeting, they will add it if they move to approve. He wants to give them that flexibility.

Commissioner Nesmith said they need to approve a tentative budget. They will have the opportunity to come back.

Commissioner Hinson said since he has been on the board, they have stayed up until 10 pm because somethings need to be adjusted. He said they are not slowing down the process, they are giving directions based on what they want. He said they have to take their time to get the budget right because it is important.

Chair Green said he doesn't know what those qualifications are. He doesn't want that responsibility as a commissioner to see if they qualify. He wants to look at the things that are there and give it to the board supporting it. Chair Green wants it to be more but will stick to the question that was given. Commissioner Holt said it is \$25,000 per district so total would be \$125,000.

Commissioner Moore asked if that will come from unspent CARES fund? Chair Nesmith said they have not decided yet. They haven't vetted the process yet.

Commissioner Hinson said yes, they know.

Ms. Daniels said they need direction for the staff. They need time to make changes.

Vice Chair Nesmith called out who will vote yes or no. They were all confused and suggested a roll call.

Chair Green said he is confused. If they make this change now, this will cause them not to be able to approve the tentative budget. Ms. Daniels said they have the revenues and the expenditures balanced, so if they are considering an additional \$125,000.00, then they need to be able to look at where that funding is going to come from. Chair Green asked is it something they can adjust and make happen? Vice Chair Nesmith said the assistant county administrator has been clear that they can adjust the budget at any time.

Vice Chair Nesmith asked if it is any different than the program already in place with SHIP? Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Hinson is advocating who decides where the money goes. Commissioner Hinson said SHIP has their own set of money, but some people need help now. He said SHIP funding is grant funding by the federal government.

Commissioner Moore wanted to clarify if they make this change, will they be able to approve budget tonight? Mr. Dixon said yes, it would just be easier for staff if they approve the budget that's proposed, then allow them to bring them back the changes.

Commissioner Hinson said he will resend his motion to help the senior citizens out in October.

Roll call for the votes was done:

Hinson	Y
Moore	N
Holt	N
Nesmith	N
Green	N

THE BOARD VOTED 1-4 BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

Commissioner Hinson wanted to add in Havana Main Street for \$10,000, Quincy and Chattahoochee Main Street. He said they purchased for an EMS in Havana, so he wants them to look into money for the property next to it for more room space. They had to build a holding pond. He will talk to the county administrator.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much money they have set aside for summer youth employment. Ms. Daniels said \$200,000.00. He asked how much is going towards students? Ms. Daniels said all of it except for fees for the OPS workers to work with the program.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2022-2023 COUNTYWIDE BUDGET.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE TO ADVERTISE ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET FOR 2022-2023 AND THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF THE FINAL PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET FOR FY 2022-2023.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
September 13, 2022, Budget Workshop

MOTION TO ADJOURN

**UPON NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE CHAIR NESMITH ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 7:43 P.M.**

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT THE FINAL BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious "Ron" Green, Chair, District 5
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, District 1
Jeff Moore, District 2
Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Opal McKinney-Williams, Asst. County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green welcomed called the meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Hinson gave the Invocation and the Chair then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on September 19, 2022. 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.

Chair Green read the above statement aloud.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing: Second Public Hearing for Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Final Budget for FY 2022/2023

Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator appeared before the Board. She said after the September 13th meeting after board discussion and public comments regarding the tentative Millage rate and budget, the board adopted its tentative Millage rate prior to adopting the tentative budget. She explained tonight the board must adopt their final Millage rate and budget. The calculated rollback Millage rate (the property tax rate the generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year) is a 8.3341 mills which is 0.6659 mills less than the current rate of 9.0000 mills. The current year rate of 9.000 mills as a percent change of the rolled back rate (8.3341 mills) is 7.99% more. She said they were also here to adopt the FY 2022/2023. The final budget for Gadsden County is \$57,594,834.

- She said there were a couple of items discussed at the last public hearing that were included in the number:
- \$10,000 included for Havana Main Street:
- \$10,000 for Quincy Main Street;
- \$3000 for Gadsden Wellness;
- \$125,000 for emergency housing; and

- Salary adjustments had to be made for Emergency Medical Services Unit because they were mandated to take those employees to \$15.00 an hour.

She said the increase in the above expenditures were offset in the increase in appropriation of General Fund balance.

Mr. Dixon said hopefully they had what was asked for and had recommendations on some things. For the Havana and Quincy MainStreet, they requested that they not fund them because they fund the CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency). Quincy has 2 CRA's and will receive \$340,000 for their CRA and CRA number 2 \$7,500, Midway \$165,000, Town of Havana \$20,000 and those Main Streets exists within the those CRA's and receive funding thru Main Street. But with that, he said they were already funding redevelopment downtown and they have the option to use those dollars or not.

Chair Green asked if it were known the amount given to each Main Street?

Commissioner Holt said CRA's have been a debate throughout the State for years. It is up to those Boards to decide what to do with CRA dollars once they get them.

Commissioner NeSmith said Ms. Daniels named five or six adjustments-\$10,000 for Havana Main Street; \$10,000 Quincy Main Street, \$3,000 Gadsden Wellness, \$125,000 for Emergency Housing, and \$244,000 for EMS for salary adjustment.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how much Havana was receiving and Mr. Dixon explained further the CRA dollars. CRA #1 is \$340,000 and CRA #2 is \$7,500. Commissioner NeSmith asked if they receive money from CRA and Mr. Dixon explained not necessarily.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the Wellness Center and Ms. Daniels said they were included.

Chair Green explained the Wellness Center requested \$60,000 and each Senior Center receives \$10,000 for the year. Commissioner NeSmith said they had not agreed on a process. Chair Green explained no-one would receive money until they agree on a process.

Mr. Dixon explained.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had an opportunity to visit the Wellness Center and they are doing awesome work. He said they should set up a process first and then give them the opportunity to apply for money.

Ms. Daniels said there are two different pots of money: \$50,000 that was set aside for non-profit organizations and also provide satellite senior centers with money. Commissioner Holt said they should not attach title to any money until after they set the budget. This was not included or discussed at the last meeting. She said Commissioner Hinson mentioned last meeting giving \$25,000 per district and they have not decided how it will be used. They need a process in place. She said she has a huge debate on this one. Commissioner Holt said to approve the budget and millage rate

Chair Green said it needed to be agenda items and the Board has not discussed how to spend the money.

Commissioner Hinson said he was biased when it comes to seniors and youth. He said if they gave every group \$60,000, it was still too low of a number because there was still a major need in the community. He said the State took funding from the other organization.

Chair Green interjected and said he did not think they should discuss what the State funds. They need to be fair to each organization.

Commissioner Hinson continued and said since they have an influx of money, they have almost \$10 Million in addition to the General Fund, they should give \$60,000 to both organizations.

Commissioner Holt said those statements were not true, they should wait until the workshop and then can make those decisions.

Commissioner NeSmith said he had an opportunity to visit with Gadsden Wellness and need to make sure they position them to be successful and the way to do that it is make them accountable.

Commissioner Hinson said funding was moved from the Gadsden County Senior Services to Gadsden Wellness. He said Gadsden Senior Services along with Gadsden Wellness needed funding. With Havana MainStreet, Chattahoochee MainStreet and Quincy Mainstreet, all three organizations need funding because the County was trying to grow.

Chair Green said they knew there were needs for funding from County government. He asked the Administrator when could they schedule the appropriate workshop so they would know how to dispense the funds. He said that did not neglect the funds from being in the budget, but would give them the opportunity to come up with guidelines and plans. He asked so they would not have to prolong the conversation so they could agree if those funds were enough to do what they need to do, they could approve the budget and then can have a workshop to decide how to distribute the funding.

Commissioner Moore said he was in favor of the process of vetting; Quincy and Havana Main Streets came before the Board and asked for \$10,000 and thought they had vetted them. If they have not been vetted, what do they need to do? He said he was comfortable the organizations will sail through and be approved with no problem.

Commissioner Holt said they have to approve items individually and added with Emergency Medical Services, they knew that amount was mandated and had to be taken care of.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT VIA RESOLUTION, THE FINAL FY 2022/2023 COUNTYWIDE MILLAGE RATE OF 9.0000 RESOLUTION NO, 2022-027 AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MOTION.

Commissioner Holt asked how they would they approve the funds for EMS? She asked if the first four were included. Mr. Dixon said they would back them out. Ms. Daniels said it would go

into Reserves. Commissioner Holt said she would rather they put no names on anything and leave where it was and approve the budget with Emergency Medical Services salaries and her motion would include just having EMS included in the Resolution 2022-028.

Ms. McKinney-Williams said the Resolution has a set dollar figure, will this upset the budget? Ms. Daniels said yes. They could move those funds to Reserves and could adopt the Resolution without the \$148,000.

Ms. Daniels said the original proposed budget was \$57,594,834 and would now be \$57,446,834 as the new budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE FINAL BUDGET OF \$57,446,834 AS THE FY 2022/2023 COUNTYWIDE BUDGET AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson had a question. He wanted to be consistent with what they said last week and felt they should keep it as is and could amend the budget in the future. They need to make sure they include Havana, Quincy and Chattahoochee Main Street and emergency housing.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:57 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair

ATTEST:

Nicholas Thomas, Clerk

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green started the meeting at 6:06 pm. He proceeded with a silent prayer and then led to the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon said there were no amendments.

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

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

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadscdencountyfl.gov until noon on September 26, 2022. 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.

Chair Green read the above statement.

Commissioner Hinson walked in at 6:09 pm.

Public Hearing

1. **Public Hearing: Adoption of Ordinance No. 2022-002**, An Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Gadsden County, Florida, renewing and extending the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Ordinance of Gadsden County, Florida, Ordinance No. 2012-003, as amended by Ordinance No. 2015-005, previously renewed by Ordinance 2019-014, currently codified at Chapter 74, Article I, Section 5 of the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, providing for repeal, severability, inclusion in the Gadsden County Code of Ordinances, modifications that may arise from consideration at public hearing, and correction of scrivener’s errors; and providing for an effective date.

Attorney Knowles went over the ordinance and how it works.

Chair Green said this is a public hearing and said they will probably need to read the whole description. Mr. Knowles read the description of the ordinance.

Commissioner Nesmith asked Mr. Dixon when this ordinance was first adopted? Mr. Dixon said in 2012. Commissioner Nesmith asked if it has made an impact? Mr. Dixon said it has been impactful for the businesses that has used it. They continue to request the Ad Valorem refund from them. It has been in play with a couple of groups and for them to continue to receive it, they have to renew it.

Commissioner Nesmith asked if there were any particular changes needed to enhance it? Mr. Dixon said you wouldn't want to change it right now. He suggested to let it ride and they can make changes later. Mr. Knowles said this still has to be approved, so their action here is to put it on the ballot.

Commissioner Holt said this isn't the only referendum to pass. They can always do something later but this is something that was started.

**UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER
NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE FOR OPTION 1.**

Motion to Adjourn

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:16 PM.**

**RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A MEETING OF THE TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON
SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 AT 5:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING
PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Carolyn Ford, Chair-Person of Tourist Interest
Jeff Dubree, Tax Collector
Brenda Holt, County Commissioner
Keith Dowdell, Quincy City Commissioner
Decorkus Allen, Havana Council Member
Linda Dixon, Tax Collector
Peter Patel, Tax Collector

Absent:

Staff Present: Leslie Steele, TDC Director
Clayton Knowles, Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

1. Welcome

Chair Ford called meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

The Pledge of Allegiance was done and roll call was taken.

3. Amendments and Approval of the Agenda

Chair Ford asked for a motion to approve the amendments and the agenda.

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

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) Regular August 29, 2022, Meeting Minutes

**UPON MOTION BY MR. DUBREE AND SECOND BY MR. PATEL, THE BOARD VOTED 5-
0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

5. General Business

a. Introduction Overview

Ms. Steele said they put their RFP out twice. They had 11 people requested the first time they put it out. The second time they put it out, they had 2 people requested. The first time they had only 1 respondent. Most people called and asked for copy of budget and \$103,000.00 scares them away because they are asking them to put together a marketing plan as well as make a media buy through social media. She spoke with the chair person for direction as the fiscal year starts 10/1.

b. Discussion/Action Marketing RFP/Marketing Process

Ms. Steele recommends that Visit Florida comes in. They are a part of Visit Florida and have them help them prepare a marketing plan. They can also do the media buy which is the \$103,000.00.

Linda Dixon walked in at 5:20 pm.

She wanted their permission to see what they offer. She wants to know what to do with \$103,000.00 not having a marketing firm.

Chair Ford asked if that was the only one submitted? Ms. Steele said she doesn't have the submission; she will send it to them. She said they are a local firm and their name is Greydog Communications. She asked if they want to piecemeal it or what do they want to do with the RFP so that it can work?

Mr. Dubree said Visit Florida would have magazine options.

Ms. Steele said she doesn't want to pay Visit Florida, she wants them to prepare their tourists destination plan for free. Mr. Dubree said they have all different kinds of packages. Ms. Steele wants permission from them to talk to Visit Florida for them to give them a workshop and possibly put together their tourist destination marketing plan.

Commissioner Dowdell asked what does Greydog bring to the table? Ms. Steele said they didn't select them because they only had one. Their rule is that they have to rebid it out again.

Commissioner Dowdell said she doesn't need their permission to do that, she can talk with whoever she wants to. Ms. Steele said when it comes to money, she wants to be overly cautious. Commissioner Dowdell said she can talk with them just can't offer them no money. Ms. Steele said she wanted to inform them that they had 13 submissions, once everyone found out about the budget, no one wanted to apply. Commissioner Dowdell said they can't let that dictate how much money they will spend. He wants to see what Greydog is bringing to the table. Ms. Steele said she will ask for a copy of that.

Commissioner Holt said they should talk to Visit Florida and have them do their presentation. Ms. Steele confirmed that \$103,000.00 is just for marketing and \$212,000.00 is the total budget. Commissioner Holt said she thinks Visit Florida can give more since they are doing the whole state instead of just them. She said it would be good to have the company that did apply to see what they are about to compare to Visit Florida. She said they can't change \$103,000.00 unless they sit it out a year and see what they are going to start paying for rentals.

Mr. Dubree said they spent more money on legal services and not marketing. Commissioner Holt said she told them they don't have to have an attorney every week. Mr. Knowles said he hasn't billed this fiscal year. Commissioner Holt said it doesn't hurt for them to sit down with the

commission. She said the budget is done but money can be moved around within the budget. It doesn't hurt to have a workshop.

Mr. Dubree said he likes the Visit Florida idea. He said one thing they would be missing out on is that they don't have marketing company they previously had. They got \$2,500.00 a month to manage all of their social media. They also paid \$30,000 a year for those services and another \$60,000.00 for media buys. Ms. Steele said it will still be laid out the same. She said media markets have increased and they would want to market to other places.

Mr. Allen walked in at 5:29 pm.

Ms. Steele said that destination marketing has changed.

Mr. Dubree asked if anyone had sources from one of the universities. Ms. Steele said they can reach out. She said she has a person in technology that can do the social media for the board and the TDC. Mr. Dubree said it gets the locals involved as well.

Commissioner Dowdell said do they want to spend money just to spend money. He said they have \$103,000.00, nobody bided but they have one company and they don't want to listen to what they got to say. Ms. Steele said not at all, when you have a marketing RFP go out, the Love Where You Live campaign had \$50,000.00 that lasted 60 days. The marketing cost has gone up, but because they haven't been marketing themselves, they don't have the hotel tax to provide to take care of their marketing budget. She said we can't live off of people in Gadsden County. Commissioner Dowdell said they have to have something going on. Chair Ford said that's the reason for the marketing. Ms. Steele wants to make sure she provides the firm that applied, but wants a realistic look for tourist destination plan.

Chair Ford asked for a motion to have Visit Florida come in to conduct a workshop.

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

Chair Ford asked when? Ms. Steele asked if they can do it within the next 2-3 weeks? Everyone said yes. She said she will make it a workshop.

Commissioner Dowdell said to give them the opportunity.

Mr. Dubree asked if there was any progress on the 9 members. Ms. Steele said she has 2 requests out but there are thresholds they have to meet. There has to be a minimum of 3 bed taxes. Mr. Patel asked if she contacted Mike Patel from Comfort Inn. Ms. Steele said she will contact him. Ms. Steele said that Maurice Grant expressed a desire to serve on their board, but he has Air B&B's. She asked if that qualifies. Mr. Patel said it doesn't. Ms. Steele said she will call Mike and Maurice.

6. Next Scheduled Meetings

7. **Adjournment**

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR FORD ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 5:37 P.M.

CAROLYN FORD, Chair
Tourist Development Council

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Ronterious "Ron" Green, Chair, District 5
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice-Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, District 1
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to Order at 6:01 p.m., Jamaal Lockwood gave the Invocation and Jordan Moore then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Item 9-Approval of Budget Amendment for the Purchase Agreement for the Property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00311-0000 and add Item 15a-Approval to Change the Personnel Policy, Section 4-Pay Plan, Adding Language Provided by FEMA to Clarify Payroll During Declared Emergencies and Natural Disasters and add Item 15b-State of Emergency Resolution.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY CHAR GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

2. Ratification Memo
3. Approval of State Aid Grant Agreement

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on September 27, 2022. 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.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

3. Approval of Resolution 2022-020 Grant Budget Amendments for FY 2022

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of Resolution 2022-020 and for authorization for the Assistant County Administrator and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for fiscal year 2022 BOCC budget.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson asked for a brief explanation.

Mr. Dixon said this was additional salaries to Sheriff's deputies for \$500,000 and would raise their salaries to a certain level.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

4. Approval of Fraud, Abuse and Waste Policy

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval of a Fraud, Abuse and Waste Policy.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY CHAIR GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

5. Medicaid Provider Supplemental Wage Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Medicaid Provider Supplemental Wage Agreement.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson asked if this was for everyone and Mr. Dixon stated this was only for EMS.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. City of Gretna Animal Control Interlocal Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Gretna.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7. Approval of the Agreement with the Krizner Group to Provide Interim Human Resources Services While Simultaneously Providing an Overall Assessment of the Human Resources Department

Mr. Dixon stated there was a change to the contract amount, he explained the fiscal amount would be \$57,000 isn't it was \$28,500 was they were going through the fiscal year and at this point now on the total contract is \$57,000 with the Krizner Group and would take them through January 31, 2023. He said this was a contract with their employment specialist and they are assessing the Human Resources Office and will be manning that office until they can get the proper employees there. He added they would be reviewing every file, every program, every benefit program and making sure they do not have any of the snafus that they have just recently experienced.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR GREEN ASKED FOR CLARITY AS IT RELATED TO THE \$57,000.

Mr. Dixon said the previous contract only went through September 31st. The \$28,000 went through the end of the fiscal year. This is extending the contract through January to make sure not only to bring the talent in, but that they are properly trained and that office is reset and so can be functional and not get the County into situations they were in.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if they have an agreement with Krizner at the moment and Mr. Dixon stated yes. He asked the amount of that contract.

Ms. Daniels appeared before the Board to explain and said this was like a task order. They have an overall contract and she could get that information for the Commissioners, this was a task order under the overall contract.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

8. Consideration of the Execution of an Option for the Purchase of Property located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00311-0000

Mr. Dixon said they have an opportunity to consider the purchase of property on Pat Thomas Highway, THE owner has requested A \$20,000 earnest money retainer and it will give them an opportunity to see what the value is in terms of having a survey done, having an appraisal done, look for brownfield and see if there is any negativity with the property at all. It also would give the county an opportunity to look at what their uses of that property could foreseeably be. The earnest money is returnable if the Board should decide to not purchase the property and there would be known loss. They do not know what the purchase price will be, that will be negotiated but there is an asking price of \$750,000 and it is 52 acres. He said this is an opportunity for the County and to jump-start economic development. He said the county has the ability to do things as they spoke of the other day in terms taking the first step investing in properties in terms of infrastructure, in terms of building roads, things that they would do for any private business that they get out ahead of. He said if they wait on business to come they would still be waiting as they have been.

Chair Green said they have had the day opportunity to discuss the possibility of this property and have had many sessions as it relates to economic development and at some point, do have to step out to invest in economic development in the County.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt said the stipulations were on page 3 of 8 of the attachment.

Chair Green said for the sake of clarity, the \$20,000 would be refunded if they do not go in that direction.

Commissioner Hinson asked if there was anything on the east side of the County that could generate development.

Mr. Dixon said he has spoken with folks in the Hampton Heights area and have had conversations regarding economic development.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9. ~~Approval of Budget Amendment for the Purchase of Property Located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3 24 2N 4W 0000 00311 0000~~

Item Pulled

10. Off-System Project Maintenance Agreement Realigning the Dover Road and SR 10 (US 90)

Mr. Dixon explained this item and said it was presented to the Board for approval of FDOT's Off System Project Maintenance Agreement for the county to agree with maintaining the project realigning of Dover Road and SR 10 (U.S. 90) that is located on the County's right of way.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. Off-System Project Maintenance Agreement for the Sidewalk on CR 274 (Barack Obama Blvd) from Ben Bostic Road to Martin Luther King Blvd.

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of FDOT Off System Project Maintenance Agreement for the county to agree to maintain the sidewalk and its associate components within the County's right of way.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

12. Havana Middle School Sidewalk Project Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Havana Middle School Sidewalk Project Supplemental Agreement.

COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE SECOND.

Mr. Dixon said costs has increased due to increase in product material and services. He added the contract went from \$163,892 to \$376,975.

Commissioner Hinson said it goes up to Concord Road and said there was a large family in the area, could another grant be written to go past the school so the ones from Concord Road could walk to school as well. Mr. Dixon explained this was an old grant that was inherited and gotten back on track.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

13. Ralph Strong Road Sidewalk Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the Ralph Strong Road Sidewalk Supplemental Agreement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

14. CR-159 Dover-Scotland Road Guardrail Project Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the CR – 159 Dover-Scotland Road Guardrail Project Supplemental Agreement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM,

15. Iron Bridge Road Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval of the Iron Bridge Road Supplemental Agreement.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

Hinson/Holt 4-0

15a. Approval to Change the Personnel Policy, Section 4-Pay Plan, Adding Language Provided by FEMA to Clarify Payroll During Declared

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for approval from the board to change the Personnel Policy, Section 4: Pay Plan, by adding Section 4.20-Emergency Pay during declared emergencies and natural disasters.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said staff who worked overtime were compensated at a double rate, however, FEMA'S Rules and policies would only reimburse the County in accordance to the County's written policy relating to compensation. He asked if they were going with time and a half and not double time rate. Mr. Dixon explained it would only allow time and a half.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE MOTION. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

15b. State of Emergency Resolution

And Mr. Dixon said this item was a Declaration of an Emergency and the attorney would explain.

Mr. Knowles introduced the above item and stated Hurricane Ian could be headed our way and in order to receive certain funding and mobilize certain resources in the event it does come our way, this Resolution would need to be in place ahead of time.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

CLERK OF COURT

16. Updates

Mr. Thomas was present and said there has been conversations at recent meetings regarding the hospital and he wanted to clarify some things regarding the terms. There is a 15-year contract with two (2) 5-year renewals. They pay rent, \$200,000 per year and it goes into the General Fund and is used for general operations. The County no longer pays them money and why they have undisbursed money that he has mentioned several times. He said they have approximately \$1.8 million and it has to be used for hospital and indigent services. He said there is a statute, an Ordinance and a Health Plan that establishes the hospital as the priority in terms of the tax and is pledged for a bond. There is \$4.5 Million left on that bond to be paid. One thing they could consider was accelerating the bond. HCA (the parent company) only leases portion of hospital, about 40%. The County owns the building but has use of the unleased portion. Counties that receive less than \$10 Million from ARP, can use some of that money for hospitals if they choose. He said he would encourage them to read the Ordinance, Health Plan and Statute before diverting the money.

Commissioner Hinson asked how much was disbursed to the Health Department and Mr. Thomas said \$400,000 a year. Commissioner Hinson said that was a state-funded organization and asked how the County could enhance it.

Mr. Dixon said the contract with the Health Department will be forthcoming soon. When talking about health care, that was a different animal and was not dollar for dollar.

Commissioner Holt said this would be for a workshop and they need to look at the numbers, see all the plans the Clerk mentioned and look of the contract.

Commissioner NeSmith thanked commissioner Holt for mentioning a workshop. He said there was a lot of moving parts with healthcare.

The Clerk said there was another important factor in the numbers. When this started, it was only collecting about \$1.2 Million and was now up to over \$2 Million a year. He said this money was designed to come in and be disbursed back out. He said they had the debt payment, which was constant, but the other entities received more money because the collections increased and was being disbursed by a formula.

Mr. Dixon asked if there was a non-compete clause in contract and Mr. Thomas thought they had a first right of refusal if the county decides to bring in someone else.

Chair Green said that was information to discuss in a workshop.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

17. Updates

Mr. Dixon said with the hurricane news, they have fallen out of the cone of influence and it looks to be coming to shore around Tampa. They do expect to have 40-45 mile an hour winds on Thursday and will meet tomorrow to review.

Commissioner Hinson asked if the State of Emergency covered Constitutionals and the Clerk said it covered all of the county.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

18. Updates

Mr. Knowles said there is litigation and they are trying to settle and requested to schedule a shade meeting for next Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A SHADE MEETING NEXT TUESDAY AT 5:00 P.M. AND COMMISSIONER HILT MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Mr. Knowles said they did pass the pharmaceutical settlement and once they receive the money, he will ask for a workshop regarding same.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

19 Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson reminded citizens to take pictures of their house and property before the storm for insurance purposes.

He said he has received questions regarding sandbags.

Jeremiah Lee, Public Works Director, appeared before the Board and they have taken dirt to different parks and was available there.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned large item pick-up. Chair Green said his date was October 31st through November 3rd.

Commissioner Hinson then said he received a call Friday that a commissioner resigned and withdrew from the election for personal reasons.

He wanted to thank the Board for bringing this agenda item and thanked Staff and the Clerk for making them aware of what was going on in the County.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH SOME QUESTIONS.

Commissioner NeSmith wanted to make sure Ms. Bradley was here and that it fit within the policy just established.

THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt wanted them to review their policy on advertising their meetings.

She also wanted to look at possible sewer lines going out west on Highway 90 for development.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith congratulated the new attorney in the County, Landous Anderson.

He said it was time to evaluate their two staff people. They need a policy or need to develop one and need to set up a system.

He asked if Economic Development plan would come before them and was told yes.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green thanked the Joe Adams and High Bridge community for coming to the meeting last week regarding a stop sign at that corner.

He mentioned the bulky Item pickup dates for his district and that date is October 2nd through October 5th -

He added they failed to mention the beautification of the Chambers in their last public meeting.

He thanked Tashonda Whaley for her work with Emergency Management.

Mr. Dixon said the new generator will be installed next week behind the Butler Building.

Chair Green said Mr. Thomas Taylor, County employee, passed away and gave his funeral information.

Commissioner Hinson also announced Linwood Herron passed away.

Chair Green gave his Greenlight moment:

“Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:18 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

Gadsden County, Florida
Value Adjustment Board
September 29, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Present: **ERIC HINSON, Commissioner, Chair**
 KIMBLIN NESMITH, Commissioner
 CATHY JOHNSON, School Board Representative
 GAY STEFFEN, Real Property Representative
 LOUIS J. BAPTISTE, VAB Attorney
 MARCELLA BLOCKER, Deputy Clerk
 CRYSTAL JIMENEZ, Deputy Clerk

Absent: **FREDERICA YOUNG, Commercial Property Representative**

1. Call to Order

Marcella called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Nominations and Election of Chairman to Value Adjustment Board (VAB)

(Must be a County Commissioner)

Commissioner Hinson walked in at 3:01 pm.

Commissioner Nesmith made a nomination to have Commissioner Hinson as chairman for the VAB. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

Passed 4-0

Chair Hinson took his seat as chairman.

3. Rules of Uniform Procedure-Instructions from VAB Attorney

Mr. Baptiste spoke and said they received their training materials so that they can attend the online training that is offered by DOR. He said it is doable and long. They have received two petitions and both were received late after the deadline. He confirmed that the TRIM notices were sent on time. It doesn't stop the analysis that they are on timely. They have to review if they show good cause. VAB has authority to review. Mr. Baptiste read the definition of good cause. First petition was the petition and apology note. Supposed to consider the petition at the time of filing. Not sufficient cause, recommends the board denies it. Subsequently, Mr. Patel provided some attachments of some records. Decide what material will be reviewed.

Commissioner Nesmith said he needed clarification. TRIM notices did go out on time. Mr. Baptiste said deadline is Sept. 9. He asked when first docs were received. Sept 12th. Marcella said Sept 13 he called asking if we received petitions and a letter could be sent. She asked him to send an explanation for the board for being late. Nesmith asked about the correspondence on the 12th, because he was 3 days late. Mr. Baptiste clarified. Marcella confirmed August 24th TRIM notices deadline.

Mr. Baptiste said August 14th on website. Nesmith asked if they could send them before. Ms. Steffen said if appointment was on the 9th, he should have enough time.

Commissioner Nesmith asked Mr. Baptiste, when a resident receives TRIM notice and want to contest, do they start with property appraisers' office first or to the board?

Mr. Baptiste said once they receive the notice, they can appeal with the board or go straight to circuit court. Commissioner Nesmith said he's looking for a reasonable reason why the petitioner did not respond prior to Sept. 9th. Flight was on August 26 and then returned 8/29. A doctor's appointment 8/9 which is a month before deadline. Mr. Baptiste said 7/21/2022 seems

to be a receipt from emergency center work excuse for his wife. Mr. Baptiste understanding was what was happening in his life. More to support his issues that his wife has migraine issues. Ms. Steffen asked what happened on the 23?

Commissioner Nesmith asked what's their options on the first action. Mr. Baptiste whether they review. Secondly, make a motion if there is sufficiency for good cause.

Commissioner Nesmith asked for the first.

Commissioner Nesmith made a motion that they did review the information received on the 12 and 13th/ second by Ms. Johnson. Passed 4-0.

Commissioner Nesmith made a motion and Ms. Johnson second that they have not met good cause for the petition. Passed 4-0.

Designate to review the sufficiency for good cause for late petitions.

Commissioner Nesmith made a motion that the board designate attorney to be designee to review petitions for good cause/Johnson second. Passed 4-0.

Mr. Baptiste said he has reviewed the petition and has determined that the petition has not demonstrated good cause.

Marcella asked if everything needs to be sent back to him. Mr. Baptiste said just the check.

4. Rule Chapter 12-D-9; FAC

- Chair to announce that the Uniform Rules of Procedure are readily available on the Clerk's Website.
- Announce that any and all forms needed to participate in the hearing can be found at the Clerk's website.

Rules and trainings are readily available where rules are maintained and necessary to review those rules. Have to operate with the Sunshine. Copy of Sunshine manual is available.

5. Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law

- VAB meetings are subject to the Florida Sunshine Law.
- Copy of the Book is in the room.
- A copy of the book may be obtained from First Amendment Foundation at 336 E. College Avenue, Suite 300, Tallahassee, FL 32301 or by calling 850-222-3518.
- The book is available for review in the Clerk's Office, Office of the County Administrator as well as the public library.

6. Discussion of Local Administrative Issues

- VAB Training, if not completed, is available on the Department of Revenue website.
- Members will need to become certified and turn in the certificate to the Clerk for the record before Petition Hearings.

Mr. Baptiste went over the bullet points above.

Marcella said everyone should be withdrawing their petitions. Lindsey is still working on one. There were 7 scheduled. 2 confirmed withdrawals.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the certificate. Marcella said they need to go through the training and then take the test. Commissioner Hinson said it depends on the clerk.

Marcella said according to DOR everyone needs to take the test. Mr. Baptiste recommends that clerk checks with property appraiser to figure out status of pending petitions. Clerk reach out to petitioner by COB tomorrow. Commissioner Hinson asked if someone could send that information to the board. Depends on the county and less than 75,000 people. Mr. Baptiste said he will review it and see which one is required.

Mr. Baptiste read who is required to take the test. Marcella said this meeting doesn't adjourn; we recess.

7. Adoption and Ratification of the Filing Fee of \$15.00

Commissioner Nesmith made a motion to adopt and ratify the filing fee/Ms. Johnson second.
Passed 4-0.

8. Discussion and Direction of Late Filed Petition

Commissioner Hinson thanked Baptiste for being knowledgeable. Thanked Marcella.

UPCOMING HEARING DATE

Petition Hearing date is scheduled for October 10, 2022 starting at 9:30 a.m. and a quorum will need to be present.

Confirmed hearing date. Will have resolution for chairman to sign.

MOTION TO RECESS

Commissioner Nesmith made motion/Ms. Johnson made second.

Passed 4-0.

Recessed at 3:57 pm.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ERIC HINSON, Chair

MARCELLA BLOCKER, Deputy Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 4, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., Invocation was given by Elder Terry Shaw and Major McNealy led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon asked to pull Item 4, add Item 10a-Cares Act Money Reallocation and Item 10b-CDBG Program to the Agenda.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Presentation Regarding National 4-H Week, Gadsden County 4-H Update and the 2022 Peanut Butter Challenge Kick-Off

Mr. Dixon introduced above presentation.

Robbie Jones, Gadsden County Extension Director, appeared and spoke in regard to National 4-H Week celebration.

Evie Blount, 4-H Agent in Gadsden County, appeared before the Board and spoke regarding the 4-H program.

Wilson Croley appeared before the Board and spoke on the Peanut Butter Challenge.

Ty Vontae Starks appeared before the Board and spoke about the 4-H program.

Evie Blount reappeared before the Board and spoke a little more.

Commissioner Hinson said Havana Middle School had an awesome agriculture program and resources. Ms. Blount said they had sent information to all schools and last year two were all that got in touch with her.

CONSENT

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **Approval of Satisfaction of Special Assessment Lien**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on October 4, 2022. 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.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

Mike Watson, 2793 Sycamore Road, Quincy, Fl - Sycamore Road

Mike Watson appeared before the Board regarding Sycamore Road and the shape it was in.

Bishop Willie C. Green, 296 Bradwell Road, Quincy, FL - General Concerns

Bishop Green appeared before the Board and wanted to make sure everyone was well prepared for any bad weather that may come our way.

His greatest concern was Commissioner Moore and knew everyone was taken aback by his resignation. He asked if there has been any response from the Governor or Commissioner Moore as to why he resigned in such a quick fashion. He said he was not making any accusations.

Chair Green said the only letter he received stated he resigned for personal reasons.

Mr. Dixon said just as Mr. Moore was appointed by the Governor, he resigned just as such. He was the one that took the letter and only information stated was it was for personal reasons.

Bishop Green said the picture portrays an image that is a symbol of hate that affects all of the citizens of the county and thought that would bring concerns from the citizens. He asked if the Board could formally come up with a resolution requesting the Governor and/or Mr. Moore to give an explanation as to what happened. He expected there should have been some type of a vetting process that should have been done by the Governor and hoped he could give an explanation. He added that he was not condemning Mr. Moore, there may be a reasonable explanation as to why he was wearing such an offensive outfit. He asked if it were possible for the board to adopt a Resolution requesting the Governor give an explanation as to the process used to appoint Mr. Moore

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 4. Approval of Resolution 2022-029 FY 22/23 Budget**
Item pulled

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 5. Approval of Mosquito Control Certified Budget with Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) FY 2022-23**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was for board approval of the Mosquito Control FY certified budget with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs).

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND WITH A COMMENT.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they had full-time person and was told not at the moment. They were sending someone to school to become certified.

Robbie Jones appeared before the Board to explain the training and testing for the person that will fill that position.

Chair Green asked if it was possible to get some type of literature regarding this.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

- 6. Approval of Attapulgus Highway SCOP CEI Selection**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the proposal ranking for Construction Engineer Inspections (CEI) services of Attapulgus Highway and for authorization of staff to negotiate an agreement with AE Engineering for these services to be executed by the Chair.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HOLT HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Holt asked if there were any local preferences and if not, they need to look at the bid process.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

- 7. Approval of Resolution 2022-021 Grant Budget Amendment for FY 2022**

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of resolution 2022-021 and for authorization for the assistant county administrator and finance director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for fiscal year 2022 BOCC budget.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

8. Approval to Accept the following Emergency Management Program Grants: Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Agreement #A0268; Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement #G0402

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the board to accept the Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Grant and the Emergency Management Performance Grant FY 2022-2023 agreements.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith had a question for Ms. Whaley.

Tashonda Whaley, Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Board. Commissioner NeSmith asked if this was a reoccurring grant and Miss Whaley stated yes.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

9. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of Florida, Dept. of Health, Gadsden County Health Department and the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the board for approval of the memorandum of agreement between the state of Florida, department of health, Gadsden County health department and the Gadsden County sheriff's office.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said he hoped they could get aggressive with the fentanyl issue.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

10. Approval of the Contract Between the GC BOCC and the State of Florida Department of Health for the Operation of the Gadsden County Health Department

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval of the annual contract between the Gadsden County board of county commissioners and the Florida Department of Health for the operation of the Gadsden County Health Department for the contract year 2022-2023.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if that was the same amount as last year.

Dr. Adriane Cooksey, MPH, Administrator, Florida Department of Health in Gadsden County, appeared before the Board to address the question. Their operational budget has increased from year to year. Partially that has been due to taking in additional funding, she has been able to bring in Federal funding and also had increases in state GR based off services they have been able to provide in the community.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

10a. Set-Up/Reallocation of the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Grant Remaining Balance

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said this was for board approval to set up/reallocate the remaining balance of the CARES act fund for fiscal year 2022-23. This moves money into contingency; part of which is what was set aside for Figgers Communication.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. CHAIR GREEN HAD QUESTIONS.

Chair Green asked if this was some of the funds they had talked about using for the Boys and Girls Club.

Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator, appeared and said those funds were no longer restricted and had met all obligations that were needed to be met as far as the CARES Act and those funds were now unrestricted and was being moved. The majority of it was being moved to Reserves for contingency. There were some projects that had not been completed like the redesign of Commission Chambers and would be moved into improvements of buildings so they could finish out the sound system and some equipment that was on backorder. The rest would be moved into reserve for contingency for things such as the assistance for Boys and Girls Club for acquisition of their building, trying to make a land purchase and that funding could be available for that. This item will come back before the board where the General Fund will accept the money.

Commissioner Hinson said the only thing that gave him heartburn, he wanted to make sure they were transparent and when they start moving \$2.8 Million, wanted to make sure it was properly advertised and this was not. He said that was the reason why he could not approve because it was not properly advertised.

Mr. Knowles said they were simply moving money into reserves, this was money that they did receive and was moving from one fund to another. He did not know if that required to be separately advertised apart from what they were doing. He said he would have a little bit of heartburn if it were going into a different fund but since it was going into reserves and not being allocated and spent.

Ms. Daniels said this does not move it, it is in the grant fund. The plan is to set up a budget so it can be transferred, but does not transfer it yet. This will come before them on the October 18th as a Resolution and will advertise both pieces.

Commissioner Holt said that was in the motion.

CHAIR CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

10b. Amendment to Community Development Block Grant Agreement M0026, Gadsden County EMS/Quincy Project

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was a request for approval to seek a substantial amendment from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to the Community Development Block Grant Agreement M0026 for the Gadsden County EMS/Quincy project. He said on Thursday, September 22nd, the City of Quincy approved property contribution on Joe Adams Road and now asking for approval to ask grant funder to approve not only building the new building, but to move the location to Joe Adams Road along with new EOC and Sheriff's Department.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND.

Chair Green said although this was just given to them this afternoon, they have been talking about this item for a while.

Commissioner Hinson said this was the first time he was seeing this and could not vote on something he has not seen yet.

Justin Stiell, Growth Management Director, said this was just a formal request to see if they could ask DEO if they could amend the agreement, it does not change the original agreement, just the location of the building.

Commissioner Hinson said he could not confirm nor deny what the county administrator said because he has not had a chance to read this. He said while he trusts him he also must verify it.

Chair Green said he heard Commissioner Hinson's concerns.

Commissioner Holt said with the CDBG, once awarded, they will not go back and not award it, this was just requesting the location be changed.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

CLERK OF COURT

11 Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

12 Updates

Mr. Dixon said he had no updates.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

13 Updates

Mr. Knowles said he had Ordinances for them to review, one dealing with Economic Development; also, on the Planning and Zoning Board, they may have too many members,

there are currently 12 members and need 7. The other is looking at the alcohol ordinance. He asked the Commissioners to let him know if they wished to workshop these matters.

Commissioner Hinson said he had brought up earlier about alcohol and felt they have too many liquor stores in the County.

Chair Green said this is the reason to workshop this item.

Mr. Knowles said commissioner Holt has asked about notice requirements on advertising and it is in the Ordinance and not necessarily required by statute.

Chair Green said he hoped he would mention the heir property workshop and that will be next Saturday on October 22nd.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

14 Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said love cures a lot of things. He said they battle a lot but he loves everyone.

He said he has received several phone calls and did not know the answer, with Public Works, he thought they had put something in for a bonus for all workers. Mr. Dixon said have not addressed that this year, but have taken the employees to \$15/hour.

Commissioner NeSmith stepped out at 7:18 PM

Mr. Dixon said everyone below \$15/hour will automatically go to \$15.00, they will then address ones already making that amount across the County.

With Senior Citizens, he wondered when day would have that conversation on how to improve senior citizens.

Commissioner NeSmith returned at 7:20 PM

Chair Green said he just recently asked the Administrator about a workshop and how they could house them under the County's umbrella as a county entity at some point. Chair Green asked the administrator if he had a perspective date as it relates to when they can have that discussion.

Mr. Dixon said have a drop-dead deadline and the RFP comes out in a couple of weeks that they have to respond to with the Area on Aging Agency. Their directions to him has been to figure out how they could be an influence and help that model and make it go faster, bigger, wider, help more people, do more things and they are running towards that area.

Commissioner Hinson also said Trevis (?) Lane was a private road in Havana and Gadsden County is an aging community and the average age on that road is 70. The road is in bad shape.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said Commissioner Hinson could suggest that road on his private road list to Public Works and if it meets the test, it could be part of the 1 mile that he would get every year.

Commissioner Holt returned at 7:27 PM

Commissioner Hinson said they received funding from the CARES Act and ARP and inflation is horrible, prices are astronomical now and he felt they need to give all Seniors \$250 food cards or gift cards for food assistance. He said they were going into the holidays.

Mr. Dixon said they could save that for a workshop to discuss the whole package and that would be easier for him and his staff.

Commissioner Hinson said he was fortunate to be in this position because of his senior citizens and wanted to give back to the ones that gave to him.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said with the Gadsden County Senior Citizens, she wanted to make sure they were still looking at becoming a vendor for them because there were different folks coming and asking for money. She said Chattahoochee was supposedly getting money for a Senior Citizens Center there. She said if they become a provider, they would not have that problem. She said they do need to workshop that. She said regarding its falsehoods with Ms. Taylor's program not receiving money because of her was not true.

She said they need an update on Stevens School and the other projects that are funded because she has received several calls regarding that.

She said the Ordinance on Indigent Care is one that the new commissioners may need to look at and the disbursement of the money. She said definitely one they should look at is the Industrial Board, they are the only other Agency that can tax, that can bring in funds and businesses.

She also added that with the Planning Board, it was very unusual to have an even number of members on the Board to help prevent a tie when voting and they needed to look at that.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith said several meetings ago, Commissioner Holt mentioned the need for a number of workshops and as have been stated, they and are very behind.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the Administrator brought the policy for the evaluation for the County Administrator as well as the County Attorney. He said they need to put policies in place so they have a system that works well into the future.

He also wanted to reiterate they were waiting and knew was forthcoming, they requested three items to come before them from the Economic Development workshop they just had. They stated they wanted to look at the job description for the Director, the strategic plan and the incentive plan.

He said there was also two new businesses that have opened in town and he was not aware of it until he read it in the paper. Also, there was a new business in Chattahoochee, Baker Cleaners.

He asked regarding the property they just approved, was that moving now and Mr. Dixon responded yes.

He congratulated Commissioner Eric Hinson, he was just elected Chairman of the Value Adjustment Board.

He said earlier this year, the legislature passed and the Governor signed the Florida Motor Fuel Tax Relief Act of 2022. He said the law reduced the tax rate on motor fuel by 25.3 cents per gallon and the timeframe of that abatement is October 1 thru October 31.

He asked what was the plan to assist homeowners after the gas tax relief ends?

He asked if they could start looking at moving away from carbon-based fuel and looking at electric vehicles.

He thanked the Chair, Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Hinson for the progress made with the generator in back of the Butler Building.

He asked for them to start thinking about the county-wide motto as Gadsden County does not have one.

They have not looked at their organizational structure, all their policies, have not reviewed their ordinances and all are outdated.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green recognized Commissioner Holt before going into his closing comments.

Commissioner Holt said when they come up with ideas, they need to come up with the money for them. They will need to have funding for them and need to do research before they come in here. She said programs costs. For the things they want, they need more staff.

Chair Green said they have a lot of projects that have not been completed. He wants to see growth now and knows that it will not happen overnight and they need to find more money.

He said for District 5, they have two days left for bulky items pickup. He said they did not want the items on the side of the road for a long period of time.

He invited everyone to come to the lake this Saturday as there was a huge community yard sale at Cook's Landing.

Disc Village will be at the next meeting to give a presentation on preventions on the fentanyl drug.

He said they spoke on private roads and wanted to make sure they were addressing them again.

As Bishop Green stated, they were fortunate enough to not have Hurricane Ian hit here and hope they can be a big brother or sister to help impacted counties recover. He said he would love to figure out how they could collect items to send down to help and it was something to ponder.

Commissioner NeSmith said Tim Mosley contacted him this morning and will be driving to the area on Thursday and he has a list of items he is trying to collect.

Commissioner Green's Greenlight moment: "Always remember haters start rumors, fools spread them and idiots believe them."

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A MEETING OF THE GADSDEN COUNTY VALUE
ADJUSTMENT BOARD HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON OCTOBER 10, 2022 AT 9:30
A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Eric Hinson, District 1 Commissioner, Chair
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Gay Steffen, Homestead Representative
Frederica Young, Commercial Property Representative
Cathy Johnson, School Board Member, District 1
Louis J. Baptiste, VAB Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Clerk's Designee at VAB, Deputy Clerk
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

1. Reconvene Meeting from September 29, 2022 and announce all pending petitions have been settled.
2. At 9:34 AM, Marcella Blocker took roll call and the meeting was called to order. It was stated for the record that all pending petitions had been settled.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. August 2, 2022
 - b. September 29, 2022

MS. JOHNSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING
MINUTES WITH A SECOND FROM MS. STEFFEN. THE BOARD VOTE 3-0 BY
VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Hinson walked in at 9:47 am.

4. **Discussion of Attorney Fees**

In the past, the VAB Attorney was paid \$2,500.00 with the BOCC paying 2/3 and the School Board paying 1/3 of the fee.

Commissioner Hinson asked what was the pay period of when the contract was negotiated. He asked what year it was?

Marcella said she has been here for 10 years and they have not since she has been here.

Commissioner Hinson discussed how times and cost of living has changed since this contract has been discussed. He also mentioned how the County is in good position to do some great things. He suggested, with the experience and time put in of the attorney, he suggested \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Nesmith wanted to know if the amount they decide on has to back before the two boards to approve of it? Commissioner Hinson said no.

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Marcella said Mr. Monroe would send the County Commission their part of the bill and then send the school board their part of the bill. So, he would get two checks, but totaled the \$2,500.00.

Commissioner Hinson said the school board can pay up to \$15,000.00 without board approval and the County Commissioners can pay \$35,000.00 without board approval.

There was discussion of increasing the fee to \$ 10,000.00.

Ms. Steffen asked if they are able to increase the amount during the two-month process if the attorney has more than average communication and research to do.

Marcella said it is up to the board.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND SECOND MADE BY MS. JOHNSON, THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 TO APPROVE THE VAB ATTORNEY COMPENSATION OF \$ 10,000.00.

5. Adjournment

With no questions or comments and no further business, Commissioner Eric Hinson thanked everyone for volunteering their time.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 10, 2022 WITH A SECOND FROM MS. STEFFEN. THE BOARD VOTE 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

MS. STEFFEN MOTIONED THE MEETING TO BE ADJOURNED AT 10:27 AM.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

ERIC HINSON, Chair

MARCELLA BLOCKER, Deputy Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON OCTOBER 26, 2022 AT
4:30 P.M, THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD,
VIZ:**

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

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green started workshop at 4:33 pm. He acknowledged former Commissioner Sherrie Taylor for being present. Ms. Blackshear did the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S Flag.

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

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 11:00 a.m. October 26, 2022. 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.
Chair Green read the above statement.

General Business

1. Introduction

Mr. Dixon said they have been working with Gadsden Senior Services to see what their issues were. Triple A, the Area Aging, pulled their funding and it was redistributed to two agencies, Gadsden Wellness and Eldercare. In meeting with Gadsden Senior Services, he was directed to look at solutions to bring services back into Gadsden County that brought stability into the program. Gadsden Senior Services is the lead agency for elderly services in Gadsden County. They have been talking about a model to meet those goals. Gadsden Senior Services is leaving the business. A foundation board would be created as a single purpose. Mr. Dixon read the GCS Foundation. There was a half million dollars left on the table this year alone. There a multiple millions of dollars every year. Gadsden County is not reaching up to pull it down. Everyone is aware of how much money Gadsden County leaves on the table. Some programs have it on automatic that the money comes into their house. They are attempting to lay out a plan that will provide services all across the county. An RFP is forthcoming of the area agency office. If they are serious about this, they have to be prepared to respond to that RFP. It will be up in the next 2-3 weeks and they need to be ready for it.

Chair Green said he thought that the Gadsden Senior Services was governed by the board completely. He found out it was different. This gives them a great opportunity to move Gadsden Senior Services forward. They want to make sure they can engage and reach seniors across the county.

Commissioner Nesmith said he also thought Gadsden Senior Services was under the board. There have been issues that have come to their attention. He said the seniors are important to all of them. He is pleased with the direction they are going in.

Commissioner Hinson said he is concerned about the liabilities. If someone gets hurt, will it be the county's responsibility? He is looking at the physical impact that they will be encountering. Certain services they need to pick up but it is more liability. He said he wants to know the reason they are at this point. There may be something like needing a budget director or executive director. They could have multiple lawsuits. He is 100% for the senior citizens but he wants to make sure they don't put the county at risk.

Chair Green said it would be a non-profit that would oversee the entity and those non-profits are required to have liability insurance. He said he could be wrong, but it shouldn't affect the Board of County Commissioners. It doesn't have anything with an individual, it had to do with the system that failed for various reasons. They are trying to solidify that they know the problems and they can be sure that the problems don't continue to happen.

Attorney Knowles said he just received the document today so he's not sure how it will be set up or run. He said looking at the policy with insurance, they do have general liability insurance up to \$3 million. He doesn't think that non-profits are necessarily required to carry insurance. Most vendors are required to have some sort of insurance. Mr. Dixon said the county has always required non-profits to carry insurance. Mr. Knowles said if it is a partnership, they can be named as a party. He needs to read through it so he can't give an answer right now.

Commissioner Hinson said they have heartburns about a non-profit but yet, they are talking about giving another non-profit the opportunity, because that's the one that they trust. A non-profit is a non-profit, so they are still going to have the same thing.

Commissioner Holt said this is a great idea. They need to bring this organization under the County. In any contract, they may require one party to provide a liability insurance and they include the other party on the insurance policy, so that way, they are covered. The senior citizens will always come to the county to ask questions. It is time to bring the senior citizens within the realms of the county. The situation has some concerns. She said she has met with several people about this and this is the best plan that they have so far. There are several departments under the county and they are liable for each one of those. In this case, they would be able to require liability insurance.

Commissioner Nesmith asked Mr. Dixon when was Gadsden Senior Services created? Mr. Dixon said it rolled out of the of the Gadsden County Senior Citizens Incorporated and the whole idea is about 30 years old, so one evolved into the other. Commissioner Nesmith asked Commissioner Holt if they have ever had any legal action taken against the organization because of acts of anything that occurs at Senior Services facility? Commissioner Holt said not that she can remember.

Chair Green said this is not just a model they are coming up with. This has been assessed and other counties have adopted. There is nothing illegal about it.

Commissioner Hinson said they are a private entity. They are in partnership with the Board of County Commissioners. They are in partnership with Gadsden Senior Services now. They have staff that works part time with them. He wants to be fair about the process. He wants to find out who ever get it, fund it more so they have more resources. They need someone that can raise

funding for them. He wants to know what the budget is. Chair Green said the model shows multiple centers in the county. Commissioner Hinson doesn't understand why people try to sue the county. He said why don't they just give them the funding that they need. Chair Green said "they" who? Commissioner Hinson said Gadsden Senior Services for one, and whoever else they can see that is doing what's right. Then they need to fund areas like Havana, need to empower them.

Commissioner Holt said the non-profit organizations that they consider would have to have a background check, they would have to have their information so the public can see it, and the contract would regulate who they select. They can advertise for a non-profit, but it is up to the board to select that non-profit. They have to have this done in a proper manner. She said they need to investigate first, then make their move. The citizens will always come to the board to ask about what is going on. This Board will be responsible for those seniors. She said this is nothing to think about, they need to hurry up and do.

Mr. Dixon said that they hope to lower the age to 55 to get young seniors into the mix. They want to create one-stop shop seniors centers. He said they could come into a senior center and be evaluated for not only the utility bill, but for housing. If they take in a senior, how much extra does it cost to bring your loved one home? Everything will be available in this plan at the senior centers across the county.

- 2. Gadsden County Elder Affairs and Services Department**
 - a. Gadsden County Senior Foundation**
 - b. Organizational Chart**

3. Review and Discussion of the Economic Development Job Description.

- a. Gadsden County Economic Development Plan

Mr. Dixon said Dr. Alvin Jackson is present online. They will look at furthering this discussion. They have the job description for the economic development director. They also have the plan again and an ordinance.

Chair Green stepped out at 5:19pm.

Chair Green returned at 5:20 pm.

Commissioner Nesmith said Dr. Jackson has been very clear with his presentations. Economic Development is key.

Holt walked out at 5:22 pm.

Commissioner Nesmith said everything is impacted by Economic Development. There are opportunities all around us.

Holt walked back in at 5:25 pm.

They need to look at the organizational chart. His recommendation is that in Economic Development, they need to be looking at the future that Gadsden County is going. He stated that they need to think about how the decisions they make today, impact when none of them are on the board and into the future. He recommends to change the first line under the general guidance and direction of the county administrator, that they have the director answer directly to the

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
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commission in collaboration with the County Administrator. Board of County Commissioners plays a vital role in Economic Development. He wants this person to answer directly to the Board.

Chair Green asked, legally, how does it affect the board? He asked him to give clarity on how that person will be an employee of the county, opposed to being an employee of the department? What category this individual falls under so that they are not affecting the regulations of what they can do?

Mr. Knowles said it is based off the organizational chart. There is an ordinance they can put it in.

Dr. Jackson said he understands Commissioner Nesmith's concern. The Economic Development director will need to work very closely with the county commissioners. However, they have a very aggressive Economic Development plan. It is very difficult for the board to manage the day-to-day activities of the Economic Development director. The County Administrator needs to have direct oversight ensuring that procedures are followed. The County Administrator and the Economic Development director has to have a close working relationship.

Chair Green said they weren't trying to neglect that and that they have power over the position. So, he asked if his advice is not to do that? Dr. Jackson said when you talk about sustainability, you have to be very careful. The Economic Development director will be the go-to person for the board. It has to be structured. Chair Green said he wants to be careful because it will already be a difficult position to fill and the more difficult language they put in; it could deter the best that they can get.

Commissioner Holt said they need to report to the administrator, they need checks and balances. They need to consider that they do not know that person. They may look good on paper, but they need oversight. This is small and not worth discussing right now. They need to get the person. The system is fine how it is set up, but they need to move on and go after something on the ground.

Commissioner Nesmith asked Dr. Jackson if he was reporting directly to the board in Suwanee County? Dr. Jackson said yes, he has been through it before as an administrator previously. The County Administrator will give the director the flexibility to work with the board on sensitive issues. Commissioner Nesmith said he is going to continue to make the recommendation that he made before, and he said he thought he was being very clear when he said under the general guidance and direction of the board in collaboration with the County Administrator. It is not about an individual, it's about a structure.

Chair Green said they are not confused, they understand. He said they already have the language and he doesn't see the necessity to make that change. He said they can put all of these things in places, that they want to live beyond them, but the next level of board leaders can change all of it. Commissioner Nesmith said the changes seem to be working.

Commissioner Hinson said Dr. Jackson didn't become a superstar until he got to Suwanee County. He said he agrees with Commissioner Nesmith for the director to work in collaboration with the County Administrator. They need someone that fits their personalities.

Commissioner Holt said that is the security blanket. They are assuming that the commissioners will always be rational. She said they need to get the position out there and if they want to make changes later then they can. Chair Green said that's not the purpose of the language. Any project will come before the board anyway.

Commissioner Hinson said he is in favor of it. He believes that they need to trust someone. He said the Board of County Commissioners needs to invest in infrastructure.

Commissioner Holt walked out at 5:57 pm.

Commissioner Nesmith said he didn't think it would be that complicated. The director of economic development will work in collaboration with the county administrator. He doesn't know how clearer he can say it. It gives them the opportunity to stay in constant dialogue with the economic development director who will have a plan that they draft, so that he or she will not be moving from different projects. They will have a plan they will be following.

Dr. Jackson said as they develop the contract, it needs to be stated in the contract as their evaluation, needs to be part of that collaboration. It works either way but they have organizational structure that is proven.

Commissioner Holt returned at 6:02 pm.

b. Adoption of Ordinance and Incentive Plan

4. Questions/Comments

Motion to Adjourn

**WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN
ADJOURNED THE WORKSHOP AT 6:02 P.M.**

RONTERIOUS GREEN, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON OCTOBER 27, 2022 AT 4:30 PM, THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the workshop at 4:32 pm. He stated the purpose of tonight’s workshop. Bishop Salem gave the invocation. Then, Chair Green led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator’s Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 11:00 a.m. October 27, 2022. 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.

Chair Green read the above statement.

Bishop Charles Salem III, 847 Jetty Ave Quincy, FL 32351, Share Your Heart Ministry

Wilbert Butler Jr, 2028 Pemberton Court, Non-Profit Support

Sherrie Taylor

General Business

1. Introduction

2. Review and Discussion of Funding for Non-Profits of Gadsden County

Mr. Dixon said they were present to discuss the process for the funding of Non-Profits. He said Ms. Daniels would be presenting a presentation.

Ms. Daniels said she had a PowerPoint presentation. They looked back at prior processes the County had for funding to non-profit organizations in the community. There had been a process in place several years ago. It was the Gadsden Non-Profit Partnership (GNPP). She read the purpose of the GNPP and the packet included the procedures. This process has been used by the county several years ago, so they took that process and streamlined it. This gives them the opportunity to read through the process, application and the agency review form. They will be bringing the item back at next board meeting to approve.

She said the public notification expected to go out. If approved, will be advertised in the paper on November 10th. The staff will be providing technical assistance. The due date will be advertised when the applications are advertised and all the applications will go through the same technical review process. Chair Green wants everyone to understand the process they are considering. Ms. Daniels said she could go through some information they are requesting for the agencies that are applying. This process will require each commissioner to appoint one person to the review committee. If they are going to be a part of the partnership review team, cannot be an applicant for funding. The partnership review team will review the application, complete agency and problematic assessment, and they will make the initial funding recommendation to the board. Award letters will be forwarded to the agencies. There will be appeals process and they will have a contract with them. It is for this fiscal year 10/01/2022-09/30/2023.

Chair Green asked if the review team member need to be a representative or someone from your district? Or can they recommend anyone within the county? Ms. Daniels said it can be anyone within the county.

Commissioner Hinson entered at 4:45 pm.

Chair Green asked what the review board will be looking for? Ms. Daniels said there is some specific line-item funding for specific agencies. This funding is open and available.

Commissioner Holt walked in at 4:47 pm.

The allocation for this year is \$50,000. The review team will be looking at what's available. Chair Green said he likes the concept of having a review team. He wants to make sure they can work on a more detail process of the qualifications.

Commissioner Hinson said he went on conference and someone posed a great idea. He said they should find out what they need and build a social infrastructure. Sometimes they need more help other than just funding. Social infrastructure instead of social programs. He said it is to entertain the thought. They also had 5 commissioners and they divided the money. He said Quincy has 3 commissioners that touch on the City of Quincy, if they work together, the other cities would be left behind.

Commissioner Holt said it is a great idea. They have done it before and it makes too much sense. Chair Green wants a simplified process to apply.

Commissioner Holt said the reporting on those items. They need to consider a length of time. If they keep funding the same group, they will never get new groups coming through.

Chair Green said the reporting should be a part of the application process. Ms. Daniels said it is a part of the application process.

Commissioner Hinson said they all serve different people. Some may have more than others. He thinks it will be best for the board to talk about this and give the direction to the County Administrator. If they start from scratch and see what they need. As a commissioner, they should know who is serving.

Chair Green said to keep in mind that the team is making a recommendation to the board. He does like the concept. Commissioner Hinson said yes, that is what most counties are doing.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 27, 2022, Workshop

Chair Green asked if there is a section for need assessment? Ms. Daniels said she misspoke. Based on the process, appointee needs to be from commissioner's district.

Commissioner Nesmith apologized for not being in person. He was able to work for the youth of Gadsden County with the Gadsden leadership academy. Part of that application, they were able to include the sustainability portion. They have a unique opportunity to assist them and help sustain themselves.

Commissioner Nesmith said since it is in the initial narrative, they were able to request funding for the second year because they included how they expanded the program. Ms. Daniels said in the application, it has a section called Organizational Overview. It asks about the mission and goals of the organization. They can add the questions of sustainability. Chair Green said he wants to make sure they are supporting non-profits that will have longevity.

Chair Holt said if they are going to fund the non-profit at a certain amount, they need to gear down their commitment to fund them. If 20 applications, can only fund 10 this year. It's a stair step. That allows other non-profit to have an opportunity. The complaints before that they always fund the same people. Some of the other commissioners that get funding, have offices for those districts. Sustainability is very important. Tourist Development Council did grants and it's a 3 year wait. She asked if they could get the packet 2 weeks ahead of time to sit with the administrator to get to work.

Chair Green sees it on the agenda and asked if it is something they can take off? Ms. Daniels said they can move it to the next agenda. They are trying to streamline the timeline so it doesn't take so long. Everything depends on when its approved and when it's advertised for agencies to fund. That gives time to incorporate issues. Chair Green said it gives them time to meet.

Commissioner Nesmith said the sustainability section needs to be a separate section and it needs to be clearly stated. They want every non-profit in Gadsden County to be successful. They are not ready to move on this at Tuesday's meeting, he wants to sit down with administrator.

Chair Green asked how many non-profits are in the county? Ms. Daniels said she has an old list; it is several years old. They don't know if some organizations are still in existence. Chair Green said he would like for them to send a literature to invite them to come out to a workshop.

Commissioner Hinson said a private school can be a non-profit and churches. They need to be clear on what they're doing because they can open pandoras box.

Ms. Daniels said they must have a 501C3. Churches and schools have it different. The commissioners said it is the same. Chair Green said they will still have the process in place.

Commissioner Holt said they can put whatever restrictions they want. Marketing has to be to everyone because its tax dollars. As long as they have a step-down process, they can keep rolling the same system and it will work.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they can give churches money that is not from CARES ACT but from regular funding? They also have daycare centers. From their reserves, he thought there would be some heartburns. Attorney Knowles said he could look into it. Chair Green said most churches that have daycares still have a different ID #. It's more of a profit because they will receive funding from government or parents paying. Commissioner Hinson said even if they have a non-profit, they still can get money.

Chair Green said they need to go through the package so that they can go through more appropriate questions.

- a. Gadsden County Non-Profit Partnership Procedures**
- b. Gadsden County Non-Profit Partnership Application**
- c. Gadsden County Non-Profit Partnership Agency Rating Form**

Chair Green wished an early birthday to Commissioner Hinson.

Mr. Butler asked about the \$50,000.00 limit. He asked about other funds that comes to the County like CARES Act or American Rescue Plan, will they fall up under the same process? Chair Green said they will talk about it, but it will be the same process. They are expecting more funding to come any day now. They will come back as a board to decide how to disperse those funds. Mr. Butler asked if they are searching for grants made available to non-profits to help them because when money was given, funds were directed other places as opposed to those individuals or businesses. He asked when will the county understand that non-profits are very beneficial in helping them get things done that they can't do on their own? Chair Green said that's why he wants to do a workshop to bring in some experts so that non-profits can have other ways and other means to know how to get funding.

Commissioner Holt said the money was divided up amongst small businesses, large businesses, towns, cities, non-profits, they had to look at several different categories. That's how they divided up.

Commissioner Hinson said they have \$2.8 million dollars from CARES Act to go to non-profits and small businesses. The American rescue plan, have some million dollars. They have \$4.5 million they have yet to apply for. This is the best time of the year to get small business working. If they have asked for funding before, they will keep coming back. Mr. Butler said they have worked really hard; they have asked for funding several times. Their facility is needed on that side of the County. It's providing an avenue for events and putting people to work. They are asking to assist them to finish building. If they have funds, he wants them to look for a way.

Commissioner Hinson said it wasn't for Demings, Al Lawson or Charlie Christ. it was for all parties. It was a non-partisan event.

Commissioner Holt said there are two things that happened. Some money is already assigned. It's not money they can just give away. She loved the building and enjoyed the event. There were large constituents that said they shouldn't give any dollars to non-profits. They have to report fundings. She is not saying that she agrees with everything. Mr. Butler said the more people that come, the economic impact is great on the town. Commissioner Holt said she agrees with him. They have to consider both sides of everything they do. Chair Green said the purpose again is the process. Mr. Butler said he wants to move up the list.

Commissioner Holt left at 5:30pm.

Commissioner Hinson said he wants people to know that they give extended invitation to everyone. They have \$2.8 million dollars and \$1.7 million that hasn't been allocated to anybody.

3. Questions/Comments

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
October 27, 2022, Workshop

Motion to Adjourn

**WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 5:32 PM.**

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

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 1, 2022 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

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

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., Isaiah A. Telusca, Crossroads Academy Charter School of Business Senior, gave the Invocation and Darian Johnson, Crossroads Academy Charter School Pre-K student, led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dixon requested to pull Item 10 from the Agenda and the item was tabled until the proper time.

Commissioner Hinson appeared at 6:05 pm.

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

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

1. Update on Workforce Labor Data

Jim McShane, CareerSource, appeared before the Board to give an update. He introduced the Board to the new staff while waiting for the PowerPoint to load.

Ariel Stewart appeared, introduced herself and told a little of what she does at the Center. He then introduced John Hershey and he spoke also.

Mr. McShane re-appeared before the Board and presented his PowerPoint.

Chair Green asked how he made the determination on which careers best fit the county? Mr. McShane said it is made by what jobs are posted in the county. Jobs are tracked by DEO. They can only spend federal money on jobs that are in high demand. Commissioner Nesmith asked what is the time period? Mr. McShane said July 1st, 2021-June 30, 2022.

Commissioner Hinson asked for the number and the website.

Mr. McShane said the online services are www.careersourcecapitalregion.com. Toll-free number is 1-844-CAREER1.

Commissioner Holt stated for him to explain the Reach Act and if it is Federal or State? Mr. McShane said it is state. She said he will be involved with the new Economic Development Director.

CONSENT

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

2. **Ratification Memo**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **September 6, 2022 Regular Meeting**
 - **September 19, 2022 Final Budget Hearing**
 - **September 27, 2022 Regular Meeting**
4. **Approval and Execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Gadsden County School Board for Sheltering**
5. **Approval and Acceptance of the FY 2021/2022 Audit Findings from Purvis & Gray**
6. **Ratification of Support Letter for Commissioner NeSmith to Apply to Serve on the NACo Board of Directors**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on November 1, 2022. 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.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

GENERAL BUSINESS

7. Approval to Award Bid No. 22-07 for Security Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award the above-referenced bid for security services to Isaac Security, LLC. He said while it was not the lowest bid, they were the current contractor and felt they have provided a great service to them.

A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER HINSON AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked how were the recommendations that were received? Mr. Dixon said excellent.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

8. Gadsden County Elder Affairs and Services Department

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to partner with the newly formed foundation, Gadsden County Senior Foundation, direct the Administrator to respond to an RFP was issued by the Office of Area Aging and to approve the creation of a coordinator Position in the Elder Affairs and Services Department.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if there has been a process of drafting the documentation for the new organization? Mr. Dixon said they are engaged. Commissioner Nesmith also wanted to make sure their counsel was a part of the conversation but until they received the green light from the board they were not going to make a move.

Commissioner Hinson said he had an opportunity to look over this and talked to several people in the community. He stated if they dissolve GSS, it would null and void every contract, found out it was not transferrable, and if they dissolved it they would have to re-apply for aid and re-apply to be a Medicaid provider. They would have to apply for all state licenses that GSS holds.

Mr. Dixon said they will be working with GSS in the transition to make it as easy as possible. He also said that GSS has voted to partner with the County in the transition. Chair Green said there will be some things they would have to apply for.

Commissioner Hinson read aloud the first paragraph in the Analysis section. "The final phase of Gadsden Senior Services, Inc. (GSS) is ready to transition all assets and operational documents and services to the Gadsden County Senior Foundation (nonprofit) that manage, operate, and grow senior services throughout the county, creating a seamless product."

Mr. Dixon said their Board has voted to work with the County Commissioners in the transition. The DOH documents are not what is up right now. They will be up next year.

Commissioner Hinson asked about the ages for billable services and stated anyone younger than the age of 60 was not eligible for billable services committee. He also stated the BOCC did not need to form a new foundation to assist seniors. They could apply for the case management RFP from that area agency on aging and a higher aid bachelor's level social worker to do case management and outsource to other entities to provide the in-home services. That would be less liability that the county would need to take on.

Mr. Knowles said this was a separate 501(3)c organization separate and apart from the County. He said if they were unable to get the proper licensing and transition assets that would not be the county's problem. The Foundation itself will not be owned, run and maintained by the County.

Chair Green said he could not answer his questions because they were not a part of the Board. They were trying to move away from problems that have happened in the past.

Commissioner Hinson asked the difference in the parties as both were acting in partnership with the BOCC.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HINSON OPPOSED.

9. Approval of the Economic Development Proposal

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and stated it was presented to the Board for approval of the Gadsden County Economic Development proposal. He said this was to create not only the program but to put in place an Ordinance and position to make this go. The request is that they approve the position description for the director, approve the draft economic development plan and approved the ordinance and incentive plan and authorize the county administrator and the County Attorney to advertise the public hearing for the ordinance to be heard and voted on.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION 3 AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner NeSmith had questions. He stated he would like for it to read “Under the general guidance of the Board of County Commissioners in direct collaboration with the County Administrator”. He said they have to look long-term and it was important that the Board have a direct line to this Director.

Chair Green said he understood his point the first time he presented it and it was the direction they all wanted to go. He wanted to make sure they were not involving themselves in the day-to-day operations. They need this position filled.

Commissioner Holt said in this situation, they will have the Economic Development person under the Administrator and explained why. It was a safety net that would help the Board.

Chair Green said he did not believe it was meant that they would have different projects going on because every project would come before the Board.

Commissioner NeSmith said there was reservations about aides and his was working out great.

Chair Green understood and Commissioner NeSmith wanted them to have direct contract without having to ask permission to speak with them.

Commissioner Holt said they did not need a Planning and Zoning director, Human Resources Director, EMS Director, Road and Bridge Director or Fire. because they could all report to the Board.

Mr. Dixon said with the Board hiring someone, it commits them to a public process that that person would always have to report to them in public and when there are non-disclosure agreements, and this was a highly secretive business, they would not be able to discuss it with them.

Commissioner Holt said she was glad he brought that up and confidentiality was very important.

Commissioner Hinson said when look you look at facts is that you could add engineering as well.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE POSITION DESCRIPTION TO INCLUDE “UNDER THE GENERAL GUIDANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ADVERTISE THE POSITION, APPROVE THE DRAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR GADSDEN COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AND APPROVE THE ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE ‘UNDER THE GENERAL GUIDANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND INCENTIVE PLAN AND AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNTY ATTORNEY TO ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ORDINANCE TO BE HEARD AND VOTED ON. COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.

Chair Green said his question to the attorney was there a legal way to do this? Mr. Knowles said yes, they would change the Ordinance to reflect the language that Commissioner Nesmith said.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-1 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER HOLT OPPOSED,

10. Approval of the Non-Profits Funding Proposal
Item pulled

11. Approval to Award RFP No. 22-03 Federal Lobbyist Services

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for board approval to award RFP Number 22-03 Federal Lobbyist Services to Alcalde and Fay Government and Public Affairs Consultants for the county’s Federal lobbyist, as they are the firm with the top score. However, it was the recommendation that they approve Ballard Partners, Inc. as the lobbyist and they come highly recommended.

Commissioner Hinson said he had heartburn based on the performance that the County He said the Administrator and the Assistant changed positions and if they felt they could bring funding to the table, good.

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

12. Approval to Award FRQ No. 22-01 Professional Services-Engineers/Engineering

Mr. Dixon introduced the above item and said it was for approval to award RFQ No. 22-01 Professional Services Engineers/Engineering Consultants contract to AE Engineering, Inc. and Alday-Howell Engineering, Inc. He said this will come in-house and will cut 60-90 days off the timeline.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Hinson said with the previous firm used, they did a yeoman's job. He asked how often do women and minorities get an opportunity at this?

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

13. Approval of Settlement Agreement

Attorney Knowles said he has spoken with each Commissioner individually and the carrier has decided this is case that it needed to be resolved. He said could not have an executive session to discuss this in private due to no court reporter being available.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND WITH A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked if the handout was any different from what was in the book?
Chair Green said no.

CHAIR GREEN CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THIS ITEM.

CLERK OF COURT

15. Updates

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

16. Updates

Mr. Dixon said they have to do much more sooner, more often and in more places.

They had the dedication of new ambulances earlier today. They will be entering into a contract with Palm Beach County that will be helping out with a long-term donation of general items. As they found out, the ordering date for new ambulances is 2-3 years out.

They are beginning the planning for the 200th anniversary for the County.
He said Christmas coming up, they have a committee looking at the situation at the Courthouse and working with cities and municipalities and was working out beautifully.

He said again they are kicking off Black History Month and hoping for more County emphasis.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

17. Updates

Attorney Knowles said they had a great turn-out for workshop due to it being advertised in the newspapers and on Facebook and had a packed house.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

18. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he talked with several people concerning food cards and City of Quincy gave \$100 to help with utilities. He said they have funding for food cards that could help with Thanksgiving and Christmas and they need to think about it and come up with plan on how they could address that issue.

He said there was a shooting across from FSU campus and 1 person died. There have been a lot of shootings in the area. They need to be bold and look at social infrastructure to help out. There is a need for a community Center on both sides of the County.

Chair Green stepped out at 7:53 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson said when he was young, he could have been that guy. He said the east and west sides of the county are desperate. Right now, they have money to do it and people are dying.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt said Dollar General in St. John was looking very nice and they hope to have a ribbon cutting on November 12th.

Chair Green returned at 8:00 p.m.

She said they did not thank the Housing Department, they were ones that came up with the issue with deeds. After Hurricane Michael, they were coming up with issues on deeds.

When looking at the election coming up, she wanted to thank everyone for being civil. They need to make sure everyone votes.

Commissioner Holt asked that people that were not on bottom tier to get paid, is there a step-up plan? Mr. Dixon said they were working on that.

She asked the attorney about the final information he found out about the census. Mr. Knowles said he sent the information by email to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Holt asked Attorney Knowles to bring back up the policies and procedures since he was the Parliamentarian to help cut time down and keep things moving.

Chair Green said in reference to time, it did need to get handled.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, Vice Chair, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Commissioners for bringing to his attention some items he failed to mention. He thanked the Administrator and County Attorney for the heir Workshop, it was a packed crowd.

He thanked everyone for making sure the Dollar General building was a nice building.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 8:12 p.m.

He congratulated Mrs. Evans of Oak Grove area, on the 12th she will be turning 100 years young.

He thanked the Administrator and Mr. Lee for maintaining quality health care in District 3.

Mr. Dixon thanked the City of Quincy; the County's heavy equipment machines went down and they said yes to the request to help Public Works with the bulky items pick-up.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5

Chair Green asking if there was a date for striping because he never got an answer. Mr. Dixon said they had to review the listing and culled the list down and it still came out to just over \$70,000 more than what was budgeted. He said they reached out to a local provider that just started in Tallahassee and got the Leon County contract for striping was hoping to piggyback on the contract.

Chair Green said it had been brought to his attention that the County owns over 200 properties and was not sure what policy has been put in place in relation to re-selling or utilizing the properties for the county's own use. He said he wanted to pay some attention to properties that was already owned. He said there was a couple hundred names on the list for the SHIP program and asked how to go about and what the process was for funding for the Program.

Commissioner Holt returned at 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Dixon said in regard to the list, they have been working on it and have gathered the know I had not list over the past few months. They wanted to go through the list, look at property to figure out what it looks like and if it was usable. Chair Green said he saw the number was 221, Mr. Dixon said he had the short list.

Commissioner Holt said that would be good workshop because property was lost every day because of taxes. Chair Green asked for project updates by the next meeting. He asked if he knows when they are expecting more funding? Mr. Dixon said it was pinging now, Chair Green said they should workshop it.

Chair Green said Trunk or Treat was a phenomenal event last night.

Commissioner Hinson said he got caught up talking about the killing crimes, but wanted to say he was at the Town of Havana and they had a Trunk or Treat there as well.

Chair Green said the Relay for Life is the last weekend in August and asked if the County had a team. Ms. Steele said they have had in the past.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION THAT BOCC BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE GADSDEN COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE ECONDO. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt asked said there were also other fundraisers and they normally give money individually from the Board but was from the Board members themselves.

CHAIR GREEN MADE A MOTION FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR SIGMA GAMMA RHO THAT WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY ON NOVEMBER 12TH AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 4-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Green said this is Custodial Week and thanked them for all they do.

Chair Green said his Greenlight moment was: “If you focus on the hurt, you will continue to suffer. If you focus on the lesson, you will continue to grow. All of us go through something in life, whatever it is that you are going through, make sure you are growing through.”

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON NOVEMBER 9TH, 2022
AT 5:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious “Ron” Green, Chair, District 5
Kimblin NeSmith, Vice-Chair, District 3
Eric Hinson, District 1 – Not Present
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the emergency meeting at 5:00 pm. He proceeded with a moment of silence for the invocation and then led to the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD (3-Minute Limit)

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda. If citizens have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours. The Board of County Commissioners would like to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility during this time.

Chair Green asked if anyone citizens wanted to be heard. There were none.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Approve Resolution 22-035 regarding Tropical Storm Nicole

Mr. Dixon asked the board to review and approve the resolution above due to Tropical Storm Nicole and calling for declaration of emergency in Gadsden County.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 3-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Holt asked the attorney if they can vote by call in, in the case of an emergency. They were able to suspend meetings during COVID and she wants to know if there's any

literature that says that. Attorney Knowles said if they are in an eminent dangerous situation, they can do that legally. Commissioner Holt said if there is anything in writing then they don't have to look for this later. Attorney Knowles said there's nothing in writing from the governor in this particular order. It doesn't apply to them and it would also suspend the quorum requirement. So no, there is nothing in writing that they have or that they can promulgate that can supersede the legislatures quorum requirement. Commissioner Holt said they don't want to supersede it, but she wants to know if he could check with the attorney general and see if there's anything out there on something like that. Attorney Knowles said they can request to get the Attorney General's opinion. He said they should look at the ordinance and suggested they authorize the chairman to declare a state of emergency until board can meet. Commissioner Holt said they don't need to worry about it today, it's for future references. Attorney Knowles said if they are inclined to do it, they can make it a part of their ordinance and they can empower the chairperson or administrator to do that if necessary. Commissioner Holt said only if they are within statute. Attorney Knowles said yes, of course.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

UPON NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR GREEN ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 5:04 P.M.

KIMBLIN NESMITH, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FL ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022
AT 6:00 P.M.,THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS
HAD, VIZ:

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

Swearing in of Newly Elected District 2 Commissioner, Alonzetta Simpkins and
Re-elected District 4 Commissioner, Brenda Holt
(The Honorable Judge Kathy Garner)

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green welcomed everyone to the meeting at 5:53 p.m. to start the introduction of the new Commissioner, Alonzetta Simpkins. He thanked everyone for being present. He asked Ms. Simpkins to address her family. Ms. Simpkins spoke and thanked her family for being with her. He asked Commissioner Holt to speak as well.

Commissioner Holt thanked everyone for attending. She appreciates everything they do. She thanked them for bringing Ms. Simpkins to them. She also appreciates all the votes.

Chair Green officially called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Invocation was done by Reverend Alvin Bush. He then led with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

Judge Garner welcomed everyone and continued with swearing in Alonzetta Simpkins and sitting Commissioner Brenda Holt.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dixon said there are no amendments and asked that they approve the agenda.

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

Reorganization of the Board

1. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon present the item. Commissioner Holt nominated Commissioner Green for Chair. Commissioner Hinson nominated Commissioner Nesmith. There was a misunderstanding on who voted. They agreed to do a roll call vote for the nomination of Commissioner Nesmith.

Votes for Commissioner Nesmith:

Holt	NO
Green	NO
Nesmith	YES
Simpkins	YES
Hinson	YES

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HINSON, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER NESMITH AS CHAIRMAN.

Commissioner Nesmith took his seat as Chairman.

Commissioner Nesmith thanked everyone for all of their work. Mr. Dixon advised that they have the office of Vice Chairman to fill. Commissioner Nesmith opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations. Commissioner Holt nominated Commissioner Green. Commissioner Nesmith nominated Commissioner Hinson. A roll call vote was completed for the nomination of Commissioner Hinson.

Votes for Commissioner Hinson:

Holt	NO
Simpkins	YES
Hinson	YES
Green	NO
Nesmith	YES

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 3-2 BY ROLL CALL TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER HINSON AS VICE CHAIRMAN.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

2. Proclamation Honoring Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
(Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners)

President Davis appeared with the women from Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Chair Nesmith presented the Proclamation to them. Attorney Alicia Davis thanked the board for honoring them on their centennial year.

Chair Nesmith asked Dr. Gallop Franklin to come forward to speak. Dr. Franklin, the newly elected State representative for Gadsden County and half of Leon County, spoke. He stated their goal is to partner with the local municipalities that help with economic development. He said economic development happens from a regional perspective. He looks forward to working with the commissioners to move Gadsden County forward. Chair Nesmith spoke about Dr. Franklin's background.

Consent

Mr. Dixon presented the item.

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

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to pull item #9 so that the community can know exactly what's going on there.

3. **Ratification Memo**
(Clerk of Court)
4. **BOCC Meeting/Workshop Minutes:**
 - a. October 4, 2022 – Regular Meeting
 - b. October 18, 2022 – Regular Meeting
5. **Approval of the 2023 Holiday Schedule**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
6. **Approval of the 2023 BOCC Meeting Calendar**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
7. **Approval of Library Annual Plan of Service 2022-2023**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/Tabitha D. Washington, Library Services Director)
8. **Gadsden County EMS Award Grant**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)
9. **Palm Beach County Ambulance Donation**
(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator/Kris Hood, EMS Director)

Items Pulled for Discussion

Palm Beach County Ambulance Donation

Mr. Dixon discussed item #9 and said specialty vehicles are on worldwide back order. Their ambulances started experiencing wear and tear. They reached out to Palm Beach County and their agreement requires them to keep in service 7 ambulances around the clock with 2 for backups, and they got down to 7 because of mechanical failures. They offered to send 2 units for free to stabilize their force until they can get ambulances in. It's counties helping counties. Commissioner Hinson asked him to expound on what happened last week. Mr. Dixon said they received 2 new units in which they been waiting almost a year for. The Board turned the ambulances over to the EMS and Chief Hood. Those ambulances cost a quarter of a million dollars a piece before anybody drives them.

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

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on November 15, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record; however, the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Chair Nesmith read aloud the above statement.

No citizens to be heard.

Public Hearings

General Business

10. Approval to Allocate Funding From the Reserve for Contingency to Purchase Property Located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00311-0000

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item and said it was presented to the board for approval to allocate funding from the Reserve for Contingency to purchase from seller the above referenced property. He said that Representative Gallop spoke of economic development and investment. He said this is an opportunity for the County to invest in acreage. Along Highway 267 (Pat Thomas Parkway) to stimulate economic development. The city does not have water pressure in certain places and the County's involvement allows the county to partner with them to increase the water and the economic exposure. They were donated 20-25 acres by the City of Quincy for the development of the new Sheriff's office, the new Emergency Operations Center, and the new Emergency Medical Services building. They have already invested \$20,000 to look at the property. They had the surveyors go out and they have had an appraisal and is a fantastic 52 acres. They are looking for shovel ready situations and this is an opportunity. The appraisal has come in over \$100,000 more than the asking price. The purchase of this property at the amount of \$750,000. If they look into the future of this opportunity, they can see how it will turn dollars for this community quickly.

Commissioner Nesmith said they have been talking about economic development and they have been talking about this property for a number of months.

Commissioner Hinson said the fiscal impact says to be determined. He asked who did the appraisal? Mr. Dixon said they had to hire a third party, Cureton Johnson and Associates, LLC. Commissioner Hinson said they talked about it but they did not figure out the "why". He stated that someone said the price was \$750,000 and now it is up to \$865,000. What is their "why" for purchasing the property. They need to look at all areas first and then do a need assessment. They need to determine where they need to put it, in Quincy, in Midway, Havana or Hardaway. It is hard to make that investment without knowing the "why". He asked for a

workshop for the “why” and the exact amount. He said they should put the money on infrastructure instead.

Commissioner Nesmith asked Mr. Dixon if they were under contract? Mr. Dixon said they have gotten an opportunity to look at the property. Whether they accept it or not, they will negotiate the price, that’s why they don’t know the fiscal impact. They first had to get an appraisal of the property to know what value it was.

Commissioner Green said he agrees with Commissioner Hinson. He said they should consider more than one appraisal. He likes the concept of the possibilities of being out there but, after doing some research, it may not be the best place. He wanted to make sure they are seeing all the possibilities that are out in the county before they make an investment of \$750,000. He said his biggest thing was the appraisal part and wanted to know that they had more than one appraisal.

Commissioner Nesmith asked for the timeframe. Mr. Dixon said the owner did their appraisal but they needed to do their own. So, there are 2 appraisals out there. They have spent millions of dollars every year on maintenance for old buildings and they have 52 of them.

Attorney Knowles said there was a purchase option executed for \$20,000 and they got an extension as they tried to get an appraisal, tried to get a title search and survey. They can use any legally prescribed method they want to use, as long as they did not want to keep the purchase. They are within the law but they are not at the purchase point yet. This agenda item is still asking them to negotiate that. They can get another appraisal if that is the Board’s will. They do have a good seller. Commissioner Nesmith wanted to be clear that this was just a motion to authorize them to start discussion for a purchase price.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if this was the appraisal report? She said because it states it is for the sole purpose of assisting a client, Betty Register Family Trust. Mr. Dixon said this is their appraisal. She said looking at the property component itself, a large amount of the appraisal is the body shop, which was \$350,000. She would like to see a plan. Mr. Dixon said there is a body shop already on the property, another vendor and housing on the property. Those leases will continue, until the board decides otherwise, as they develop the real plan. Commissioner Simpkins said down from the property, there is state property. She asked if they have looked into it? Mr. Dixon said they have had gentle conversations. It is an opportunity. They have grand opportunities there that are coming along as they speak.

Commissioner Nesmith wanted to remind them, whatever amount they negotiate, has to come back before the board. They have the opportunity to go on a different direction and for more workshops and additional meetings.

Commissioner Holt said anything along I-10 will have a price tag on it. She said nothing is cheap. Companies are not going to come if they do not have land. Pipes have to be in the ground, if not they will get outbid. She said they have to buy property. She said that 3 comparables should have been done in this appraisal and was done. These points should have

been brought to the administrator before this meeting. This is a negotiation of the prices, not a sale. She said they need to move on and need to look at getting a Grants Coordinator.

Commissioner Nesmith confirmed they are working on grants and Commissioner Holt said a Coordinator as well.

Commissioner Green said if the County was to purchase that property, that value probably would increase more than what it is now. If they get the property and do the ground work, it would be appraised for more in 10 years.

Commissioner Hinson said he was perplexed. They need to buy land but need to do it the right way. He said the Agenda Request says, if it is approved, they are going to purchase and it was not coming back to them again. He said he was not against buying, but make it make sense. In regards to state property, if they can be good partners with the University of Florida, they may say they have a 99-year lease on land for free. They may have options to look at.

Commissioner Nesmith said they can make a motion to authorize the Administrator to start negotiation process.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION #1 WITH A SECOND FROM COMMISSIONER GREEN.

Commissioner Hinson said to make sure they recognize the motion says “approve to allocate funding”. Commissioner Holt said it says to allocate funding, not purchasing anything, they are moving money out of Contingency.

Attorney Knowles said Section 2-113 requires there be a public hearing prior to the purchase of any real estate and would need to come back to the Board. Mr. Dixon said if dealing with these negotiations, good faith is important. Your request simply says they are interested.

Commissioner Green said he was going to ask Attorney Clayton for legal advice of this item.

Commissioner Hinson said if it is approved, the language is not on there. The seller could say once it gives permission, it does not say what the attorney said. He said what is the rush? They should do a workshop and fix the language. It doesn't say that it will come back for a public hearing.

Commissioner Holt said the request says to approve to allocate funding, that is moving money from one account to another. Mr. Dixon said there is no number there because no negotiation has taken place. In any negotiation, you have a buyer and seller. It has to come back to the board, whether it is written or not.

Commissioner Simpkins asked with allocating the funds, since there is no amount there, what are they transferring? Mr. Dixon said they do not know. She asked when would it be determined? Mr. Dixon said if they can agree on a purchase price. Commissioner Simpkins

asked at what point are they allocating the funds? She asked are they only identifying some funds? Mr. Dixon said yes.

Commissioner Hinson said it is called public trust. He said if the wording is not in the motion, then it will not come back before Board.

Commissioner Green asked if there is an Ordinance that says that they have to have a public hearing automatically? Attorney Knowles said it is required to bring it back for public hearing. He asked Commissioner Holt to tweak the motion.

Chair Nesmith asked Commissioner Holt to amend her motion to include whatever purchase price is negotiated between the Administrator and the seller, it come back before the Commissioners in a public hearing.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOLT AS STATED, TO AMEND CONTINGENT UPON COMING BACK BEFORE THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL IN A PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND MADE BY COMMISSIONER GREEN, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

11. **Approval of the Audit Engagement Letter**

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon presented the above item.

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

Commissioner Nesmith asked how long they have used the accounting firm for? Mr. Dixon said forever, it should change up. Commissioner Nesmith asked if they submitted an RFP? Mr. Dixon said no, due to everything being late. The request is for 2 years. Commissioner Holt said it's been in and out. She said when they have another firm come in, do it for 2 years. They need to look at accounts they have questions about.

Commissioner Green asked that they make sure they have the RFP earlier, in the future, so they have other options in a timely manner. Commissioner Hinson said if they can get all the contracts and see the dates.

Clerk of Court

12. Updates

(Nicholas Thomas, Clerk)

There were no updates.

County Administrator

13. Updates

(Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator)

Mr. Dixon congratulated Commissioner Nesmith. He thanked everyone for Veterans Day. He said next week is Thanksgiving. The week after, they also have the FACT Conference. For legislative day, any ideas could be brought forward. They have been in negotiation with

Ballard for next meeting. He said they will be partnering with Quincy, Havana, Chattahoochee, Midway and others to continue to push forward.

County Attorney

14. Updates

(Clayton Knowles, Esq., County Attorney)

Attorney Knowles congratulated Commissioner Simpkins. He said on December 6th, they will be getting another \$44,000 in opioid settlement from Walmart. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Nesmith also recognized Colonel Collins. Colonel Collins congratulated Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Holt.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

15. Commissioner Eric F. Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson congratulated Commissioner Simpkins and Commissioner Holt. He asked for everyone to pray to just do what's right. He said mental health is prevalent, especially in the youth. He went to a meeting; they stated that outdoors activities can help stimulate kid's minds. He said they need to do more of that. They need to bring a community center in Havana and Sawdust.

Commissioner Green stepped out at 7:53 pm.

Commissioner Green returned at 7:54 pm.

He said they should schedule a meeting on the community center on the west and east side of town.

Commissioner Alonzetta Simpkins, District 2

Commissioner Alonzetta thanked everyone for allowing her to sit with them. She dittoed the county administrator in regards to the Veteran's day event. She agreed to put infrastructure in place to move in the direction they want. She also agreed mental health is real, she said she is die hard for the youth. She wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Brenda A. Holt, District 4

Commissioner Holt congratulated Commissioner Simpkins, she said they need to continue being brief so people don't walk out on them. She wants them to get aggressive on economic development. She said if you don't have land, don't have anything. They need to start the negotiation.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Chair Green congratulated Simpkins, chair and vice chair. Recognized his aid, Nick Frison. He had questions for Mr. Lee. He asked about Jim Williams Road; they talked about uplifting. He wanted to see what the process was. Mr. Dixon said he will check tomorrow. He asked if he can speak to Mr. Steele. He asked the status on planning and zoning board. When is the last

time they had a meeting? Mr. Steele doesn't have an exact date; he thinks it was June. Commissioner Green asked how often do they meet? Mr. Steele said once a month. Commissioner Green said they all selected people on that board. He doesn't want to embarrass anyone but wants to make sure they are communicating. He wants them to get back in the flow of having meetings. Mr. Dixon said they discussed planning and zoning; they are looking into getting more members since they don't always have a quorum. Commissioner Nesmith asked about the policy, he asked is there a statement that say if they miss so many days, they can move in a different direction? Mr. Steele said if members are not showing up, they would notify that commissioner, after missing 2 meetings. Commissioner Green said December 2nd is the Christmas parade. The staff is preparing them to be a part of the parade. December 17th. Lake Talquin will have Christmas parade. He was asked to be the grand marshal of that parade. He asked Mr. Dixon for the foundation of senior services. It is coming in quickly, any updates? Mr. Dixon said he will know tomorrow or the next day. Commissioner Green asked about the adoption of road process. He wants it emailed to him, so that they can see the process of the adoption of roads.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GREEN FOR A PROCLAMATION FOR DEXTER JACKSON THAT IS NOW A PART OF THE FLORIDA HALL OF FAME SINCE HE IS FROM GADSDEN COUNTY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HOLT, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Commissioner Green said November 18th, at 2pm, Riverchase will be hosting an Alzheimer's walk. He would like to see more involvement with their facility. They have a new director and have a welcoming with her. They have had a turnover.

Commissioner Holt said on planning and zoning board, they need to provide training and workshops. They may require funding; they deserve stipend because they are working for free. Mr. Dixon said it may be the hardest job, it is difficult to be a planning and zoning professional.

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

Commissioner Nesmith asked the commissioners to complete the evaluations on the administrator this week. Human resource has only received one. Commissioner Holt said she completed hers. He thanked the administrator for the veteran's day program. He said it was fantastic and close to running out of food and other items. They are entering the legislative season, he asked if they have met with all the municipalities? Mr. Dixon said not yet. They have a project with City of Midway. Commissioner Nesmith thanked the administrator for broadband workshop. He asked who schedules the meeting with the legislative team? Mr. Dixon said they have to wait for them to be sworn in. This time they probably won't. They are trying to get ahead. When they organize, will invite them in. They need to be ahead of that process. Thanked Commissioner Green for mentioning Riverchase. He asked Mr. Dixon to email dates. He congratulated Nick Frison on becoming Commissioner Green's aid. He said Frison was the first president of the law academy class. He is like a son to him; he watched him grow and mature.

Greenlight moment: "A flower does not think about competing with the flower next to it, it just blooms. In other words, we are on this Dias together, and no matter what choices we make

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or disagree with, we are not competing with each other. We are working together so that we can bloom together in this County.”

Motion to Adjourn

**UPON NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:27 P.M.**

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

**AT A SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR
GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON NOVEMBER 28, 2022,
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 Green, District 5
 Edward Dixon, County Administrator (appeared by phone)
 Georgette Daniels, Assistant County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
 Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair NeSmith called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, Commissioner Green gave the Invocation and Chair NeSmith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chair NeSmith asked if there were any amendments to the agenda and Mr. Knowles said there was one amendment, which was the addition of Item 2-Approval of Extension of the Option Agreement for the Purchase of the Property Located at Gadsden County Parcel ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100.

Commissioner Hinson stated he did not realize this was a public hearing and asked if this met the public hearing requirements because he thought ordinances required 10 days' notice. Mr. Knowles explained this was a public hearing and asked Ms. Steele if this was advertised. Ms. Steele responded it was advertised in all three local newspapers and met the 10-day threshold for the budget portion. Commissioner Hinson asked if this was going to affect the budget, should the public have a chance to weigh in on it. Chair Nesmith explained they were not moving money regarding Item 2 that was the extension on the option agreement.

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

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items or non-agenda items should schedule or notify the County Administrator's Office before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Also, Public comment for Commission meetings can be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until 11:00 a.m. on November 28, 2022. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson read the above statement.

1. **Public Hearing: Approval of Resolution 2022-036 and Final Budget Amendments for FY 2021-2022**

Ms. Daniels, Assistant County Administrator, introduced the above item and said this was for approval of Resolution 2022-036 and for authorization for the County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, and Finance Director to complete and execute all budget amendments necessary to maintain a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 BOCC budget. She said there was attached a Resolution 2022-03 for budget amendment numbers 2022-037, 2022-053, 2022-054 and 2022-055 that required a public hearing to amend the budget. She stated there was one correction for budget amendment 2022-053 and a copy of the amended budget amendment was passed out to all Commissioners and the Deputy Clerk. She explained budget amendment 2022-037 was to correct an error in FY 2021/2022 adopted budget. The transfer into fund 214 was budgeted correctly however, the transfer out of the general fund was budgeted incorrectly; and 2022-053 was for the purchase of the three ambulances, one was a replacement of the wrecked ambulance. There was a loan for the wrecked ambulance and insurance paid that off and the county had to finance that one unit.

Commissioner Holt had been appearing by phone and arrived at the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

She further explained budget amendment 2022-054 was a transfer to the EMS fund in the General Fund and this was now a transfer to the Debt Service fund for striker equipment and budget amendment 2022-055 showed the transfer from general fund for striker equipment. There was a budget amendment, 2022-052 that did not require a public hearing (and was not included in the packet) that moved it from one line item to another and covered the cost of pay for the additional students that worked the Summer Youth Program.

Commissioner NeSmith asked the attorney what action they needed to take and Mr. Knowles said to approve or not approve the item.

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

2. **APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF THE OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT GADSDEN COUNTY PARCEL ID# 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100**

Ms. Daniels said this item has been added to the agenda and was for approval of an extension to the option agreement to purchase from seller the Gadsden County parcel ID number 3-24-2N-4W-0000-00330-0100 and is located on Pat Thomas Highway. She said it seeks approval for an extension to the option agreement to purchase that parcel and would authorize the Chair to sign the documents.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner Simpkins said she had just received the extended option agreement and was something they would need to be able to read over the initial agreement that was made, she was not privy to that information and would need to know the initial agreement that was set forth. She said in looking at this particular agreement, if they did not agree to the extension they would

lose the \$20,000 down payment plus the additional \$7500 that was a non-refundable amount which shall not be applied to the purchase price at closing for a total of \$27,500.

Ms. Daniels said that would be if they did not agree to extend the option. A good faith deposit of \$20,000 was put up through November 28th to decide if they wanted to purchase the property or not. This item was just to extend that option so they would have additional time to do their due diligence and the money would not be lost.

Commissioner Simpkins said if they do not agree to the extension of the option, they would keep the \$20,000. If they agree to extend the option and then decide to not purchase the property, they would lose \$27,500 based on this contract.

Mr. Knowles said sort of. If the option is extended until today, there will be a public hearing on Tuesday regarding the actual purchase pursuant to their Code. If the County wants to get a second appraisal, because there has been talk about that at the last meeting, the Sellers are requesting an additional \$7500 as consideration for them granting the County additional time to obtain a second appraisal. The \$7500 paid to the Sellers would be non-refundable and would not apply to the purchase price. With the \$20,000 already paid, if they elect to extend and then purchase, that \$20,000 would be deducted from the purchase price of \$750,000. He said she was correct in that, if they choose to extend this option tonight and then elect to not purchase, the \$20,000 is gone; the \$7500 is only if they want a second appraisal and that was what the sellers were requesting.

Commissioner Green wanted to make sure they understood why they were asking for the extension. He did know on the seller front of it, they could have the opportunity to move forward to sell the property to someone else, and was their decision to make, but he was one of the ones that asked for a second appraisal. That was why they would need the extension to have the time to have a second appraisal done between the last meeting and now. Being that they were asking for the appraisal and was interested in the property and the second appraisal, it was a chance they would have to take because they have legal fees that is holding on this project on their behalf and was where the \$7500 was coming from because they were asking for a second appraisal. He asked if they would be able to get a second appraisal done by the time they were getting the extension.

Commissioner Simpkins said going back to the last meeting, she was under the assumption they were in negotiations and asked if there was a set price on the property? Mr. Knowles stated yes. Commissioner Simpkins said she understood at the last meeting there was no set price on the property. Mr. Knowles said there was not an amount of money that was moved and the price was in the option and that was before she came on the board. There is an Option to Purchase for \$750,000 that they have had since late September. He added they have paid the \$20,000 and if they elect to approve this, it would be \$730,000. Commissioner Simpkins asked if this property was advertised for sale or was this property they just inquired about.

Mr. Dixon said the property was not advertised for sale. The property across the street was advertised and the County was looking for property and found this piece. He said to add to what the attorney said, they met with the owners' representatives of the property in order to talk about the price and the owner based it in great part on the appraisal they have gotten and their asking price still stands at \$750,000.

Chair NeSmith said he had the opportunity to follow this discussion with the County Administrator since he discovered this property and there was one appraisal that was done on this property and they were all aware of that appraisal and the Administrator, to his knowledge, implemented due diligence to make sure the property was useful for the purpose they discussed and he also had additional discussions with Mr. Morris, Gadsden County Building Official, regarding the quality of that property. He was satisfied with the feedback he received from the Administrator and the Building Inspector regarding the quality of the property before them. He asked the attorney if it was mandatory they have a second appraisal and Mr. Knowles said no. He said they were seeking it for their knowledge and the attorney said yes. He said also regarding the three options they have, they did not have to choose, the only purpose of the \$7500 was if they wanted an extension to provide a second appraisal. Mr. Knowles stated that was correct. They could move on this agenda item and exclude number three, and essentially one and two was part of the original agreement.

Mr. Knowles said they would just sign the extension and not get the second appraisal if that was what they wanted with the caveat that the \$20,000 would become non-refundable and property of the seller and next week if they voted to not purchase it, the seller would keep the money. Chair NeSmith said if they vote this down they would get the \$20,000 back and Mr. Knowles confirmed if it was voted down tonight they would. Chair NeSmith said if they vote for the extension on December 6th, they would lose the money if they did not move forward with the contract. Mr. Knowles said if they voted to extend the contract tonight and do not vote to approve the purchase of the real property, yes, that \$20,000 is gone. Commissioner NeSmith asked if they could vote tonight to approve the purchase of a property and the \$20,000... Mr. Knowles said no, they would have to vote to approve the property at a public hearing, this was just an extension.

Commissioner Holt asked if the withdrawal of the motion would determine that they did not want an appraisal. She asked if the motion to approve this was to approve the second appraisal and Mr. Knowles said no. He said the motion to approve was to approve the extension. He said it might be better to start over and clarify the motion. Commissioner Holt said that was why she said to withdraw the motion and Mr. Knowles asked if the second could be withdrawn. She said if she withdrew the motion that would be withdrawing the \$7500 for the second appraisal. She said they would not get too many appraisals that were any different and the Property Appraiser's value was 80% of the true value (inaudible) and they were not going to do formulas tonight. She said what they would do was withdraw the motion, vote this down and go ahead forward with the sale.

COMMISSIONER HOLT WITHDREW HER MOTION AND COMMISSIONER GREEN WITHDREW HIS SECOND.

There was discussion regarding the motion and Mr. Knowles stated in the Background section of the Agenda Request, there were three terms and conditions the seller and buyer were requesting to be a part of the contract. He said with the third term if they were not going to obtain a second appraisal to not make that a part of a motion. He said her motion as he understood, they want to hold a public hearing next week as required by 2-133 to purchase the property but he also wanted the board to be aware if they vote up or down on this, the \$20,000 is non-refundable and wanted that in the motion so the board understood.

COMMISSIONER HOLT MADE A MOTION TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY UNTIL DECEMBER 6, 2022 AND PROVIDE FOR THE INITIAL DEPOSIT OF \$20,000 TO BECOME NON-REFUNDABLE AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER HINSON HAD QUESTIONS.

Commissioner Hinson said he was reading if the extension was not approved the board shall have five days to request a refund of the \$20,000 deposit amount in full. Chair NeSmith said his understanding was if they did not approve the extension tonight, they would have 5 days to request a refund of the \$20,000. Commissioner Hinson said you would think everything would be in writing instead of saying what they think it would be what they see, everything should be in detail because everybody goes by what is in writing.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 6:36 p.m.

Chair NeSmith said they had a motion on the table and Commissioner Hinson stated he wanted to be transparent to the public. He said they were purchasing a piece of property and did not know the why and asked Chair Nesmith if he knew why they were buying the property and what it would be used for. Chair NeSmith said they were “in the property acquisition business because we want to expand...” He said once they determine the why, that would give him the motivation to vote for this. He knew of other properties in the County that they could go after if they were in that field that may be a lot cheaper than this. Commissioner Hinson said he wanted to make sure if they were going to spend that kind of money to know why and what the use would be.

Commissioner Holt returned at 6:37 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson also said there was a lease on a portion of the property for another two years, what would they do with the leasee, would they be evicted and Commissioner Holt said that would work. Commissioner Hinson went on to ask if they had checked for asbestos. He said if they had their own realtor they would check for things like that and make sure everything was clear so there would not be any problems with this piece of property. He said a realtor would know exactly what was best for them and find out whether or not there were wetlands in the area because a realtor knew that. In buying 50 acres of property would you go by what you knew or get a professional person to look out your best interest. If you are buying a piece of property, would you go by what the seller said or would you hire a realtor. He said they were looking at public trust. He said they had a realtor by Commissioner Holt, she is a realtor, would she go with what the seller said or tell her citizens to get a second opinion. Chair NeSmith asked if he would like the County Attorney to explain the part about if the extension was not approved.

Mr. Knowles said in the prior agreement there was a time frame to request a refund and that time frame was five days. They have to send written notice within five days if they elect to not exercise the option. Commissioner Hinson said the first time they had an in-depth conversation was last week. He said they talked about it and hinted on it and September 6th the board was really not as engaged in this process during that time. He said normally, the Board of County Commissioners Chairman would give the County Administrator directions on when to execute whatever they were going to execute on behalf of the Board, not on behalf of the County Administrator, but on behalf of the Board. He said they did not execute that on September 6th, they could not do anything without the Board giving directives and the reality is it should be null and void on September 6th because the board never gave him direction to do this.

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
November 28, 2022-Special Budget Hearing

CHAIR NESMITH CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 3-2. COMMISSIONER HINSON AND COMMISSIONER SIMPKINS OPPOSED THE MOTION.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR NESMITH DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:42 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING
COMMISSION HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FL ON DECEMBER 15, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.,
THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:

Present: Rev. Dr. Joe Parramore, Chair, District 5
Lori Bouie, Vice-Chair, District 5
Eugene Sherman III, District 1
John Youmans, District 2
Tracey Stallworth, District 2
Mark Moore, District 3
Charles Roberts, At Large

Staff Present: Justin Stiell, Planning and Zoning Director
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Crystal Jimenez, Deputy Clerk

Not Present: William Chukes, District 1
Wayne Williams, District 3
Charles Hayes, District 4
Anthony Powell, District 4
Karema Dudley, School Board Representative

Due to the restrictions on gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting and public hearings may be viewed by accessing the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/GadsdenCountyBOCC.

Those wishing to provide public testimony for the meeting and public hearings will be able to do so by accessing the Zoom platform, with virtual meeting access details that will be posted to the Gadsden County website, www.gadsdencountyfl.gov. Anyone wishing to speak on agenda items should schedule or notify the County Public Information Officer at 850-875-8671 or emailing media@gadsdencountyfl.gov at least 3 hours before attending the meeting and will be asked to follow the Gadsden County Public Meetings Citizens Access Guidelines. Public comment for the meeting and public hearings should be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the day of the meeting in order to allow sufficient time for provision to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and public hearings. Any comments submitted after this time will be accepted and included as part of the official record of the meeting.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Parramore welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:00 p.m. He read the Citizens Requesting to be Heard statement. He continued with the Pledge of Allegiance of the U.S. Flag.

2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS – Roll Call

Chair Parramore asked Mr. Moore to introduce himself. Mark Moore is a new member and he introduced himself as a District 3 Commissioner with Commissioner Nesmith.

He is a pastor at Calvary Baptist church. He appreciates the opportunity to serve. The rest of the members also introduced themselves to Mr. Moore.

Roll call was completed:

Dr. Joe Parramore	PRESENT
Lori Bouie	PRESENT
William Chukes	ABSENT
Eugene Sherman	PRESENT
John Youmans	PRESENT
Tracey Stallworth	PRESENT
Mark Moore	PRESENT
Wayne Williams	ABSENT
Charles Hayes	ABSENT
Anthony Powell	ABSENT
Charles Roberts	PRESENT
Karema Dudley	ABSENT

3. MINUTES – April 14, 2022 ITEM 3

Chair Parramore said everyone should have received copies of the April 14th meeting. He asked if there were any comments or changes on the minutes? No one replied.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER YOUMANS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH. THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON VIA ROLL CALL VOTE AND PASSED 7 TO 0.

Dr. Joe Parramore	YES
Lori Bouie	YES
Eugene Sherman	YES
John Youmans	YES
Tracey Stallworth	YES
Mark Moore	YES
Charles Roberts	YES

Chair Parramore said before adopting the agenda, he would like to add one item between #5 and #6, which is the Commissioners remarks and/or comments.

A MOTION TO MODIFY AGENDA AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHAIR WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER SHERMAN AND SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR BOUIE. THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON VIA ROLL CALL VOTE AND PASSED 7 TO 0.

Dr. Joe Parramore	YES
Lori Bouie	YES
Eugene Sherman	YES

John Youmans	YES
Tracey Stallworth	YES
Mark Moore	YES
Charles Roberts	YES

Chair Parramore asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WAS MADE BY VICE-CHAIR BOUIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SHERMAN. THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON VIA ROLL CALL VOTE AND PASSED 7 TO 0.

Dr. Joe Parramore	YES
Lori Bouie	YES
Eugene Sherman	YES
John Youmans	YES
Tracey Stallworth	YES
Mark Moore	YES
Charles Roberts	YES

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. N/A

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE 2023 ITEM 5

Chair Parramore introduced the above item and said Mr. Stiell is available to discuss the dates. Chair Parramore asked if they are still following the Thursday, 6 p.m. schedule? Mr. Stiell said yes.

Commissioner Stallworth said it is the first time he sees the agenda. He asked Mr. Stiell if they got mailed out? Mr. Stiell said yes. He said he did not receive his but he asked if he could get it by e-mail in the future? Mr. Stiell said they should have been e-mailed but he will make sure they are e-mailed in the future.

A MOTION TO ADOPT THE CALENDAR WAS MADE BY VICE-CHAIR BOUIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER STALLWORTH. THE MOTION WAS VOTED ON VIA ROLL CALL VOTE AND PASSED 7 TO 0.

Dr. Joe Parramore	YES
Lori Bouie	YES
Eugene Sherman	YES
John Youmans	YES
Tracey Stallworth	YES

Mark Moore	YES
Charles Roberts	YES

5a. COMMISSIONERS REMARKS AND/OR COMMENTS

Chair Parramore said he had several things to bring up but wanted to give the other commissioners a chance to speak. Vice-Chair Bouie said she was still interested in having the training sessions. She said maybe an hour or two before the actual meeting. Mr. Stiell said they have been talking about setting up a schedule on it. They are looking at adopting new members sometime in February and they will start the schedule.

Commissioner Sherman said if a schedule could be presented with the induction of new members. Mr. Stiell said they will work on getting it to them.

Commissioner Bouie asked if there are state trainings that they could have access to as well. Mr. Stiell asked any particular type of trainings? Commissioner Bouie said planned professional's meetings to become familiar with the language. Mr. Stiell said if they want to e-mail them, then they can look at all that.

Commissioner Stallworth said when he started, it was beneficial to him to take the training and be able to articulate the language. He thinks workshops are good. They can serve their community much better.

Commissioner Sherman said he wanted to acknowledge Commissioner Hinson in District 1. He wants to know what the counties strategic plan is. He felt they were making decisions in a vacuum. He wants to know their decisions tie into the overall and not just individual decisions.

Commissioner Youmans asked if they did follow up on solar field that they talked about 8 months ago? He said they never had training on it. Chair Parramore said no, he is going to address it.

Chair Parramore said it has been 8 months since the last meeting and it concerns him on several different levels. It is hard for him to understand that Gadsden County has not had any application come before P&Z that is actionable. Another concern is that there was a narrative presented to the board of County Commissioners stating that the primary reason for the lack of meetings is because of the lack of quorum. He recalls that they have never cancelled a meeting due to lack of quorum. He does not know where that narrative came from. He asked Mr. Stiell if any applications have come in to their office in the past 8 months that was actionable, and if not, why not?

Mr. Stiell said there was miscommunication on his part regarding the timeframe of when they were not reaching a quorum and when they did not have any applications come in that

required them to come before Planning and Zoning. The items that come before Planning and Zoning is legislative and quasi-judicial. If something they can approve administratively, then they can move forward on it. The majority of the applications have been administrative which means there has not been any major development. That is why they have not scheduled a meeting since then.

Chair Parramore said if he can share where the narrative originated that they do not have a quorum with actionable items. It concerns him on different levels. If that was the case, their office never reached out to him to see if they can gain a quorum. There have been some communication issues. He said tonight's agenda package is normally e-mailed and mailed by US mail. He said nobody received an e-mailed package. There is a lack of communication and consistency. If they are not going to have a monthly meeting because the actions were administrative, it still needs to be communicated. They cannot afford for commissioners to lose interest on what they volunteered to do. When they go 8 months with lack of communication, they stand a strong chance on not meeting a quorum. He was not asking for an explanation; it was just some misinformation. He said during the past 8 months, Commissioner Bouie and others brought up training months before April 14th. He said could they have not taken advantage of their request, in these 8 months, to utilize that time for training that has already been requested. If all of the items were administrative during the past 8 months, it freed up the commissions schedule for training. He does not want to continue to request training, when they came in 8 months ago. They have squandered 8 months that could have added value to the commission.

Mr. Stiell said that was a missed opportunity. They did not find the appropriate training for them.

Commissioner Sherman said he got calls saying that the meeting was cancelled several months ago. He did not know there was one scheduled. Constructively, there are many sources available they can tap into.

Commissioner Stallworth asked if there is a budget allocated for them to go to training? He said sometimes they get broader ideals. Mr. Stiell said he has to check with finance on that.

Vice-Chair Bouie said if they found something they would present the idea. The opportunity to even know what the county is looking for, even just a review of what the state is looking for in the county. She said they are new employees and they just want an overview of what is expected for that.

Commissioner Youmans said if there is a budget, they can have the training, but if there is not a budget, what is the steps? They can get a budget form where they can have the training. Vice-Chair Bouie said Mr. Stiell can present it to the board for approval. Mr. Stiell said there is a budget, but does not know if for out of state.

Chair Parramore said there are countless training platforms that they can take advantage of. Staff just needs to research what they are looking for.

Commissioner Sherman said they did brainstorm potential topics before, if it can be retrieved from the minutes or go over it again. Mr. Stiell said he will go over the minutes to locate that.

Attorney Knowles said if they can bring some they found for next meeting. They can get with the association of counties locally or another state. Maybe they can agenda that for next meeting.

Chair Parramore said that was a great idea. Attorney Knowles said to avoid quorum problems, they should schedule them as workshops. They cannot take action, but can still talk about it.

Chair Parramore said if they could mirror the commissioners, with a workshop before regular meeting. It limits the amount of time they are here. They can kill two birds with one stone. Attorney Knowles said they are not required to meet on Thursdays. So, if they want a different day, they can choose another. All agreed that Thursdays did work the best for 2023.

Mr. Roberts said they need to train with a focus. They should be receiving training for a foreseeable target. Comprehensive plan, solar plan, infrastructure planning, etc.

6. PLANNING DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Stiell thanked them for being present. He said they have been working on and making updates to the land development code. He presented some new staff, Beau Scott, the principal planner, and Ellen Andrews, the senior planner. Chair Parramore asked Mr. Stiell when will he have the update of the land use maps for their review. Mr. Stiell said he is still working on it. Chair Parramore said its comprehensive and been on the radar a long time.

Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Stiell if he has a method of tracking change. Mr. Stiell said they will get a version of striker underlined format (audio unclear) to see the changes. Chair Parramore said if there is a reasonable timeline, perhaps workshop on how they worked on plans would be an excellent training.

Commissioner Stallworth asked Mr. Stiell when he anticipates it will be done. Mr. Stiell said changing the land use map is complicated because they have to be careful that they don't take anyone's rights away. He cannot say a timeframe. Commissioner Stallworth asked if it will impact their decision, once they have development rights, would have to come to compliance with whatever those current requirements are.

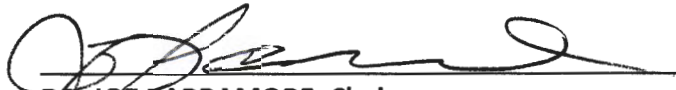
Gadsden County Planning Commission
December 15, 2022, Regular Meeting

7. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

A MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING WAS MADE BY VICE-CHAIR BOUIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER YOUNG. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:41 P.M.

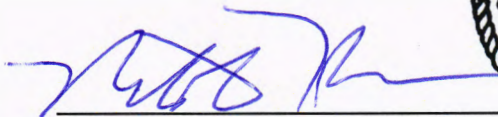
The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA



**DR. JOE PARRAMORE, Chair
GADSDEN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

ATTEST:



NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk